

Please contact: Andrew Bull  
Our ref: Programming Meeting Representation  
Your ref: TR010032  
Date: 4 May 2023



The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Planning Service  
Culture and Community  
Regeneration, Culture and Environment  
Medway Council  
Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham  
Kent ME4 4TR  
Telephone: 01634 306000

**By Email only**

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Representation in relation to the Programming Meeting**

Please accept this letter as a representation from Medway Council in relation to the Programming Meeting. This letter sets out Medway Council's arrangements to participate in the Examination and to prepare a Local Impact Report, along with resourcing and timing considerations.

#### Arrangements to participate in the Examination

On 10 January 2023, Medway Council's Cabinet approved an update to the scheme of delegations. The updated delegations ensure appropriate internal governance processes are in place, allowing for the Planning Service to represent Medway Council in the Examination.

The Planning Service will provide evidence-based representations, which are unlikely to allow for detailed consideration by members through Cabinet and/or committees. The Planning Service will liaise with other Medway Council officers and a contractor before consulting key members in making representations.

The use of Microsoft Teams throughout the Examination in blended/hybrid events is welcome. It is understood that the Examination will largely be conducted through written representations. This format will help to ensure effective participation in the Examination.

#### Preparation of a Local Impact Report

The draft Examination timetable is set out in Annex D of the Rule 6 letter. Deadline 1 on 18 July requires a Local Impact Report (LIR) to be submitted.

Medway Council officers have reviewed 'Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports' and examples of LIRs published on the Planning Inspectorate's website. This has informed the scope of a LIR.

Medway Council officers and the project team held a productive meeting on 25 April to discuss issues relating to materials handling and waste in the current Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).



FS77901

**This information is available in other formats and languages from Beverly Dingsdale on 01634 331410.**

Further meetings concerning the remaining matters under discussion are anticipated in the coming weeks.

Medway Council commissioned traffic modelling in 2022 to inform a LIR. The contractor's report was shared with the project team on 9 March. Medway Council is seeking a meeting with the project team as soon as possible to discuss the results and the recommendations. This meeting could help to avoid traffic modelling being contested during the Examination.

#### Resourcing and timing considerations

Medway Council and National Highways have agreed a post-submission Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). The reimbursement of officer time at hourly rates under a PPA is welcome, however participating in the Examination could be challenging whilst preparing a new local plan.

Medway Council's Local Development Scheme sets out milestones for preparing a new local plan, with a public consultation and work towards a draft local plan required during the Examination.

Aside from traffic modelling, Medway Council has not commissioned any additional assessments; an updated SoCG and a LIR will be based on a review of the application documents. There may be insufficient time for additional assessments to be commissioned by Medway Council and completed by Deadline 1 on 18 July. A revised PPA may be required for any additional assessments.

I look forward to the Programming Meeting on 16 May.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

Andrew Bull MRTPI  
Strategic Infrastructure Planner



FS77901

**This information is available in other formats and languages from Beverly Dingsdale on 01634 331410.**