Responses to ExQ2

Medway Council

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference: TR010032 Unique Interested Party Reference: LTC-SP097

Introduction

Purpose, content and layout

This Deadline 6 submission sets out Medway Council's responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) second written questions and requests for information (ExQ2).

The content and layout of this submission is consistent with the table in ExQ2, dated 10 October 2023. Medway Council's responses have been inserted below each relevant question.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
Q8.1.4	Applicant, Local Authorities and Environment Agency	Excavated materials
		With regard to the Outline Materials Handling Plan [REP5-051], the Excavated Materials Assessment [APP-435] and the Code of Construction Practice [REP5-049]:
		 Could greater certainty be provided that the quantities of excavated materials would not exceed the estimates?
		 In the event that quantities did exceed the estimates, what remediation/mitigation could be secured?
		 Should/could the controls in the Code of Construction Practice be updated to dea with a situation where the quantities were exceeded?
	Medway Council's response	Paragraph 1.2.3 of the Outline Materials Handling Plan (oMHP) [REP5-051] identifies mitigation (design of the scheme) reducing the amount of excavated material requiring offsite management as 663,500m³. Table 7.1 of the oMHP [REP5-051] identifies 500,000m³ inert/non-hazardous waste plus 163,500m³ hazardous waste requiring off-site management.
		Demonstration and confirmation that estimates of excavated material arising and requiring off-site/beyond the Order Limits management represents the 'worst case' (and hence likely that amounts actually generated will be lower) would be welcome.
		MW011 of the Register of Environment Actions and Commitments (REAC) [REP5-049 requires a minimum of 95% of inert excavation and 95% inert construction and demolition waste destined for off-site to be diverted from landfill. MW013 of the REAC [REP5-049 specifies a minimum 70% diversion of all non-hazardous construction and demolition waste destined for off-site management to final disposal in landfill, with a 'target' of 90%.
		Clarification should be provided on whether the 90% or 70% target will apply to contractors 90% is clearly preferable and more consistent with the waste hierarchy.
		The REAC could increase the amount and proportion re-used on-site where the capacity for receiving material is known and over which the Applicant would have more control.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		The oMHP [REP5-051] and the REAC [REP5-049] could identify options (sites) for achieving the target recovery rate for materials requiring off-site management.
		MW014 of the REAC [REP5-049] provides for monitoring which should trigger a review of the Environmental Management Plan and presumably a review of assumptions used in the Environmental Statement and associated documents.
Q8.1.5	Applicant, Local Authorities and Environment Agency	Waste hierarchy
		Could/should the wording in MW007 of the Code of Construction Practice [REP5-049] be strengthened to provide greater certainty that the waste hierarchy will be followed appropriately? Would the use of individual targets for different materials be an appropriate approach?
	Medway Council's response	The waste hierarchy is also reflected in the targets in MW011 and MW013 of the the REAC [REP5-049].
		Potentially MW007 could be broken down into targets (and amounts) separately to reflect the priorities of the Waste Hierarchy for re-use (on-site), recycling, and recovery (on- and off-site).
		This could also help ensure consistency between the REAC [REP5-049] and the assumptions and calculations in the EMA Table 2.1 (and to an extent the oMHP Table 7.1 [REP5-051]). This might provide greater clarity of what is required of contractors in terms of maximising on-site re-use and off-site recovery.
		The EMA (para 3.1.35) assumes that 'excavated materials are segregated by type at point of origin to allow separate dispatch on inert, non-hazardous and hazardous materials'. Therefore, it would appear to be helpful and consistent if targets for re-use, recycling and recovery separately could be set for types (inert, non-hazardous, hazardous) of excavation, construction and demolition wastes, which would also provide greater clarity.
9.1.3	Local Planning Authorities	Construction
		Do you consider that the package of commitments is sufficient to monitor and, if necessary, mitigate noise and vibration impacts during the construction phase? If not, please provide

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		details and any suggested additional wording/commitments that you consider to be necessary.
	Medway Council's response	Paragraph 5.4.2 of Medway Council's Local Impact Report [REP1-258] noted that there would be significant noise impacts in Year 4 at receptors in Cuxton and Halling ward. This would be due to the potential rerouting of non-construction related traffic. Medway Council accepts that this could be mitigated through robust traffic management. The Applicant is relying on the outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction [REP1-175].