



Meeting note

File reference	TR010032
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	31 March 2021
Meeting with	Highways England (the Applicant)
Venue	Teams meeting
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Construction Traffic Update

The Applicant provided an overview of how it was continuing to address the Inspectorate's feedback in respect of construction traffic, with the discussion noting comments made on this topic by relevant local authorities in their previous Adequacy of Consultation Representations. The Applicant outlined its engagement programme with the local authorities and provided a flavour of the type of data that was being shared.

The Applicant outlined its proposed additional documentation relating to transport matters, such as the updated Transport Assessment and the Outline Traffic Management Plan for Construction and set out what those documents will cover. The Applicant briefly set out its proposed approach to highways permitting.

The Applicant stated that it no longer intended to use a dedicated jetty for movement of materials but anticipated use of port facilities instead. This led to discussion as to whether the provision of a Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) is required if the Applicant no longer intends to seek powers to be an operator or move materials in or out of the Port of Tilbury (PoT). The Applicant explained that the PoT had advised that any movements during construction would be covered by the PoT's own navigational risk assessment but noted ongoing engagement with the Port of London Authority and PoT on other aspects of the NRA.

The Inspectorate highlighted that the Ports National Policy Statement (NPS) is relevant to port Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) but also includes other NSIPs that may affect the operation of ports, either positively or negatively. The National Networks NPS also states that other NPSs may be relevant. The Applicant confirmed it had reviewed the Ports NPS. The Inspectorate suggested it was a matter for further discussion at a future meeting.

Programme update

The Applicant explained that its ongoing work to address the feedback from the local authorities and the Inspectorate and the timing of the May local government elections meant that its planned consultation exercise was now anticipated to run from July 2021. The Applicant noted it would be scheduling a session with the local authorities to request feedback on how it presents what the scheme will look like for the local communities within the consultation material.

In considering its consultation material, the Applicant outlined work it was undertaking to investigate whether it could prepare information at a more local (or ward based) level to help inform local communities of the likely impacts of the scheme during the construction and operational phases. The Inspectorate queried whether the consultation will solely be a presentation of the scheme or whether there are some new or revised aspects that it will consult on. The Applicant explained that it will be focussing on construction, mitigation, a "you said, we did" component, and project refinements.

The Applicant confirmed that it now anticipates resubmission to be late Autumn 2021. The Inspectorate emphasised the value of early programme updates going forward.

After the agenda items had been completed, in light of some staff changes at the Inspectorate, the Applicant provided an Introduction to the Scheme session using presentation materials that have been previously used with a wide range of stakeholders.