

Meeting note

Project name	A57 Link Roads
File reference	TR010034
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	20 April 2021
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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.

Project Update

The Applicant set out the proposed timetable for the scheme and confirmed it had shared the timetable with relevant local authorities. Based on the timetable currently proposed the Applicant expected to submit its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in early June 2021.

The Inspectorate requested an update on the local authority 'holding objections' described in the previous project update meeting held 26 February 2021¹. The Applicant confirmed that whilst the holding objections were currently still in place, the Applicant intended to share traffic modelling data with the local authorities soon which it hoped could influence their position prior to the submission of the application.

The Inspectorate asked about any updates from the on-going engagement with relevant statutory undertakers which would be affected by the scheme. The Applicant confirmed that it had engaged with all affected utilities, which included United Utilities; Cadent Gas; BT; National Grid; Electricity North West and Cornerstone (Vodafone). The Inspectorate queried how advanced the drafting of Protective Provisions was for the affected utilities. The Applicant confirmed that Protective Provisions had been drafted and agreed with all bar two affected statutory undertakers. For the two outstanding utilities Protective Provisions were unlikely to be agreed prior to the submission of the application and

¹ Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010034/TR010034-Advice-00008-1-262021-%20A57%20Link%20Road%20Project%20Update%20Meeting%20Note.pdf>

would need to be established through the Examination. The Applicant confirmed that none of the works required to utilities under the scheme would constitute an NSIP in its own right.

Submission logistics: Document transfer

The Applicant confirmed that it intended to use Business Collaborator to submit the application documents to the Inspectorate. The Applicant queried how it should order the documents in its Business Collaborator submission. The Inspectorate stated that whilst there was no prescribed approach it would be helpful for the Applicant to make the Business Collaborator submission in a structure which reflected the structure of the application ie on a volume-by-volume basis. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would formally confirm receipt of the application in a letter to the Applicant after all volumes had been received successfully.

Any Other Business

The Applicant queried whether the Inspectorate could share any information about whether examination events for this application were likely be fully virtual or blended. The Inspectorate explained that work was ongoing to establish how blended events would work and the variety of blended events which could become available, but it could not commit at this stage to confirming how events in the examination of this application would be held. Any confirmed details/decision in respect of blended events would be communicated to Highways England's A57 Link Roads project team promptly.