



# Preliminary Meeting Note

## Summary of key points discussed and advice given

**Application:** Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing

**Reference:** TR010043

**Time and date:** 10:00, 24 September 2019

**Venue:** Great Yarmouth Racecourse, Jellicoe Rd, Great Yarmouth NR30 4AU

*This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed and responses given. An audio recording of the event is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website.*

### ***Welcome and Introductions***

The Examining Authority (ExA) introduced himself and explained that he had been appointed as the ExA for the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing. He explained how the Preliminary Meeting (PM) focused exclusively on procedural aspects of the examination. Other parties who wished to speak at the PM introduced themselves.

### ***Remarks about the Examination Process***

The ExA outlined the key features of the Examination process. Highlighting how the Planning Act 2008 established a distinct planning regime and the role of the ExA within this regime. He then set out the key principles that he intended to have regard to when examining the application. These were:

- i) Independence and Impartiality;
- ii) Rigour;
- iii) A focus on evidence and justification;
- iv) Openness;
- v) Fairness; and
- vi) Timeliness.

While setting out how he would apply these principles to the Examination the ExA explained aspects of the Examination process such as the primacy of written representations, the role of hearings, the publication of all documents and the importance of adherence to the timetable.

### ***Initial Assessment of Principal Issues***

The ExA explained how section 88 of the PA2008 required him to make an initial assessment of the principal issues arising from the application. These were circulated

in Annex B of the [Rule 6 Letter](#) of 29 August 2019. He asked all parties if any of them wished to make submissions in relation the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues. No one in attendance had any comments to make.

### ***Deadlines for Submission***

The ExA set out the draft examination timetable as published in Annex C of the [Rule 6 Letter](#), noting that under section 99 of the PA2008 he could decide that the examination was complete at any point after the last event or deadline and before the end of the statutory six month period. The ExA asked for comments on this draft timetable.

The Applicant asked that Deadline 3 be moved to Friday 29 November 2019 to give parties who attend the hearings the previous week, a full week to prepare post-hearing submissions. It also asked for Deadline 6 to be moved to 7 February 2020 following the same reasoning. No other parties had comments on this suggested change.

The Applicant also suggested the addition of updated versions of the Book of Reference at either Deadline 2 or 4 and the addition of updated Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) or addendums at either Deadline 6 or 7. However it felt a multi-lateral SoCG would be difficult to draft and agree and unlikely to add much value beyond that provided by bilateral SoCGs. The Applicant's full suggested timetable changes can be found in its [Response to the Rule 6](#).

The Great Yarmouth Port Authority welcomed the opportunity to submit updated Statements of Common Ground.

### ***Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)***

The ExA talked through the dates reserved for Hearings and ASIs as set out in the draft examination timetable. The Applicant suggested an issue specific hearing on the draft DCO towards the end of the examination. No other parties had any comments on the dates reserved for Hearings and ASIs.

### ***Procedural Decisions***

The ExA explained the procedural decisions under section 89(3) of the PA2008 which had been set out in full in Annex F of the [Rule 6 Letter](#) and asked for any comments on these.

This included a list of parties which the ExA would like the Applicant to prepare SoCG with. The Applicant noted that in addition to those asked for it was also preparing a SoCG with the Royal Yachting Society. Goodchild Marine suggested that a SoCG with the Broads Authority would be beneficial. Norfolk County Council said the Applicant had also been working with Anglian Water and Waveney and Lower Yare Drainage Board and SoCG with them may be prepared.