



Meeting note

Project name	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
File reference	TR010044
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 February 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.

Application submission and document publication

Highways England (the Applicant) confirmed its intention to submit the Development Consent Order (DCO) application on 26 February 2021. The Inspectorate queried the likelihood of this date being pushed back. The Applicant stated that it was very unlikely, but that it would notify the Inspectorate if any issues arose. The application would be subject to an internal quality check prior to submission; however, the Applicant did not anticipate that this would affect the submission timeline.

The Applicant and the Inspectorate discussed several logistical matters, including the presentation of the application form and the electronic index. It was established that the Applicant's geographic information system (GIS) shapefile had been successfully submitted and tested by the Inspectorate ahead of submission. The Applicant did not anticipate submitting any subsequent versions of this shapefile to the Inspectorate. The Applicant advised that it intended to submit its application via a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel. The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to test this platform in advance of the formal DCO application submission.

The Applicant intended for the DCO application documents to be published upon submission rather than following the Acceptance decision. Some local authorities (LA) were stated to be unfamiliar with the DCO process; as such, the Applicant wanted to accommodate requests from these LAs for additional time to review the application documents. The Inspectorate advised that it would not be able to make the documents available on the National Infrastructure Planning website immediately upon submission due to the need for redaction, however the documents would be published as soon as

practicable. The Inspectorate also advised that it had made the relevant LAs aware of the intended DCO application submission timeline and the deadline by which they would be invited to make an Adequacy of Consultation Representation.

The Applicant queried whether it should provide a redacted version of the Book of Reference (BoR) with the application. The Inspectorate confirmed that this would not be necessary; the Inspectorate would apply its own redaction policy to all of the application documents prior to publication. Notwithstanding this the Inspectorate stated that it would assist the process if the Applicant could signpost any areas of the application documentation that contained personal information at the point of submission.

Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) update

The Applicant advised that a standalone document would be included with its application that would detail its strategy consequent to the Department for Transport's Route Map for updating TAG. Importantly, the Applicant did not anticipate that the sensitivity testing it intended to carry out to account for the TAG updates would result in any substantive changes to the need case.