



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	A358 Taunton to Southfields
<b>File reference</b>	TR010061
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	13 July 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Highways
<b>Venue</b>	Teams Meeting
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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 since the last meeting

The Applicant explained that as part of a national level policy review, by the Department for Transport (DfT) and HM Treasury, the submission of the application was postponed in 2022. The Applicant mentioned that in the [Written Ministerial Statement of 09 March 2023](#), from the Secretary of State Mark Harper, it advised that Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) schemes will continue to progress. The A358 is one of the RIS2 schemes currently in its planning phase.

The delayed DCO application will have an impact on the current project schedule. The Applicant is now looking at submitting the DCO application later in 2023.

The Applicant explained that it will continue to work closely with HM Treasury officials and Ministers to fulfil the necessary governance arrangements. It expects to have a clearer indication on the DCO application submission date as it progresses through the governance process. Once approval is received to submit the DCO application, the Applicant will then be able to review the revised project schedule.

The Applicant explained that on 1 June 2023, a '[Supplementary consultation - summary of your feedback](#)' booklet was published, and it was sent to wider community groups, key stakeholders and parish councils. This booklet explained how the Applicant delivered the Supplementary Consultation which ran from 24 May to 26 June 2022. It provides a summary of the feedback received by the Applicant. The full consultation report will be available at the submission of the DCO application.



## The Planning Inspectorate

The Inspectorate questioned how much notice they would be given before the application is submitted. The Applicant responded that it won't know the exact timescale, but that the Applicant would advise the Inspectorate as soon as they are able.

The Inspectorate queried whether there will be more planned consultations. The Applicant confirmed there will be no further public consultation but there will be some targeted consultation with impacted landowners, following ongoing engagement and minor changes to the redline boundary, with this mainly decreasing in size. Where there are increases or decreases, impacted landowners will be contacted.

The Applicant explained that it has continued to engage with different stakeholders including circulation of newsletters, and a community forum in March 2023 and will continue to do so before the submission of the application. The Applicant had a briefing with the local MPs and issued the summary of the consultation booklet.

The Applicant mentioned that it continues to have good level of engagement with the councils including the new Somerset Council which came into effect from 1 April 2023. The applicant has written to the newly formed Taunton Town Council which also came into effect from 1 April 2023 to offer a meeting. The Applicant is having regular engagement with various landowners.

### **Next steps**

The Applicant plans to submit draft documents in July 2023, date to be confirmed by the Applicant by email. The Inspectorate stated that it would need 6-8 weeks for the review of documents depending on what is being submitted.

The Inspectorate requested a summary of the environmental mitigation changes in the Environmental Statement made since the last [draft documents](#) were received in August 2022.

The Applicant proposed a follow up meeting to review the draft documents to which Inspectorate suggested the end of September 2023.