



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project
Reference: TR010062
Time and date: 10 am Tuesday 29 November 2022
Venue: The Witham, Barnard Castle

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard Allen welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) with Neil Humphrey, Marie-Louise Milliken, and Stephen Roscoe as members to examine the A66 Trans-Pennine application.

Richard Allen explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 20 July 2022.

Richard Allen explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by National Highways ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

Richard Allen explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Video recording

The full recording of this Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found in the [Advice Note 8.4](#)

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the Rule 6 letter of 17 October 2022 and asked for any observations on them.

Observations to Initial Assessment of Principle Issues:

National Rail (NR) stated they have no objection to the scheme but did have issues which are currently being resolved and are seeking assurances from the Applicant around protected provisions and compulsory acquisition of NR land. The Applicant responded explaining that discussions are ongoing, and they are fully informed of NR queries.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in Annex E of Rule 6 letter and welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The draft Examination Timetable can be found in the Rule 6 letter published on 17 October 2022.

7. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were noted and considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#)

8. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter.

9. Other matters raised

The Applicant stated they have submitted the response to Relevant Representations (RR) early, at the Procedural Deadline of 16 Nov 2022 to assist the ExA and Interested Parties

The Applicant added that some RR were unintentionally omitted from the submitted version of the Applicant's Response to the RR, The Applicant has rectified this issue by providing an addendum to the submitted document to be published on the National Infrastructure Planning project website. The Applicant have written to Interested Parties (IP) who are involved in the hearings from the 29 November to 2 December 2022 to make sure they have the Applicants response to RR prior to the proceedings.