

Luton Borough Council comments re agenda items for the Luton DCO Preliminary Meeting

Item 3 - principal issues:

There are ten principal issues set out in the table on pages C1 and C2 of Annex C, though there is a further issue identified in the paragraph above that table which relates to the socio-economic and other benefits that would arise from the development. It is not clear if 'need' is included within the ten/eleven principal issues listed.

It would be useful if the ExA indicated which of the principal issues were the priority for consideration at Issue Specific Hearing sessions (this feeds into Item 5).

Item 5 - the examination timetable

The timetable in Annex D identifies three Issue Specific Hearing sessions on environmental matters on 27, 28 and 29 September. Given that the table on pages C1 and C2 includes seven 'environmental matters' and there is also the mitigation/control mechanisms in Green Controlled Growth, could the ExA indicate how the topics might be covered in these sessions (it is noted that there is a date reserved, if required, for any issue specific hearing in the week commencing 27 November)

Item 4 - procedural decisions

We are somewhat concerned that the Preliminary Meeting has been timed in the middle of the school holidays (Luton summer holidays started on 24 July and last until 31 August) and due to the statutory requirements associated with the DCO process this then sets tight timelines for the ExA to follow. Due to staff leave, it may be difficult for the Council to meet Deadline 1, requiring the provision of the Council's Local Impact Report by 22 August.