



Meeting note

File reference	TR020001
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 October 2019
Meeting with	London Luton Airport Limited
Venue	Planning Inspectorate offices, Bristol
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.

Statutory Consultation update

The Applicant confirmed that its Statutory Consultation stage would commence on 16 October 2019 and run until 16 December 2019. The Inspectorate acknowledged it had received the electronic copy of the Applicant's notification under s46 of the PA2008 and was awaiting the USB stick which provided the suite of consultation documents to formally acknowledge it.

The Applicant displayed a short video explaining the Proposed Development, alongside other developments in the vicinity of the existing airport, and explained that the video would be displayed on a loop at each of the Statutory Consultation events scheduled.

In respect of the on-going uncertainty regarding future general elections, the Inspectorate noted that applicants can extend consultation exercises if they consider it expedient. It was also noted that additional / targeted consultations had been carried out by other applicants after their Statutory Consultation exercise had closed. The Inspectorate noted that additional rounds of statutory and targeted consultation need to be explained within the Consultation Report.

DCO application programme update

The Applicant stated that it had begun drafting some of the application documents and that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) would form the basis of

its Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had started to draft the Development Consent Order (DCO), to which the Applicant responded that it had not. The Inspectorate outlined the type of documents it is able to review in draft form and explained the process and the outcomes of such an exercise.

The Inspectorate asked the level of engagement with the relevant local authorities, utility providers and Statutory Undertakers. The Applicant explained that it had set up a group engagement panel to engage with the four host local authorities as well as the neighbouring local authorities. The Applicant confirmed ongoing progress with Thames Water and other relevant parties. There was brief discussion on the Direct Air Rail Transit (DART) with regards to its interrelationship with the scheme.

The Inspectorate enquired as to whether the Applicant had been able to obtain access to all land necessary to inform their application and whether any application(s) for access to private land under s53 of PA2008 would be sought. The Applicant advised that the vast majority of the site was already within its ownership and that it did not believe any s53 applications would be necessary.

The Examination stage

The Applicant queried the level of workload expected from applicants during the Examination stage. The Inspectorate noted that although PA2008 applications are front-loaded, due to the statutory duration of six months for examinations, they do often require considerable input from all parties during the Examination stage; for an Applicant these would include written responses to timetabled deadlines, other parties' deadline submissions and the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions, in addition to attending and participating at public hearings.

The Inspectorate explained that it published a suite of best practice documents on its website for applicants to review¹. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant should also review ExA questions for previous NSIPs to get an idea of the types of questions that are asked during examinations.

Future meetings

The Inspectorate explained that regularity of meetings during the Pre-application stage is mostly driven by the Applicant, however the Inspectorate found meetings shortly after the close of Statutory Consultation and following draft documents feedback helpful. The Applicant agreed to look into arranging the next meeting in January 2020.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/example-documents/>