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Development Management

Development and Environment

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**DX 744900** Clevedon

Mr Hefin Jones  
National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Hefin Jones

**Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 Project: Adequacy of consultation under Section 55 of the 2008 Planning Act (as amended)**

I am responding on behalf of North Somerset Council to your letter dated 18 November regarding the above in its role as Local Planning Authority.

Having had regard to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act, I am of the view that the applicant North Somerset District Council (on behalf of itself and the West of England Combined Authority as joint promoters of the scheme) has carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

Section 7 of the Consultation Report sets out how the applicant has complied with section 42 of the act and lists the prescribed bodies that have been consulted, the local authorities and the persons identified under section 44 of the act. The applicant allowed a consultation period of 43 days, thus exceeding the minimum 28-day period required. The applicant also consulted a number of additional non-statutory consultees.

Section 8 of the Consultation Report sets out how the applicant has complied with section 47 of the act. The applicant published two Statements of Community Consultation, stage 1 on 18 June 2015 and stage 2 on 14 September 2017 (which accounted for the changes to the DCO scheme since stage 1's publication). Since 14 September 2017 the applicant carried out all consultation in accordance with the stage 2 Statement of Community Consultation. The applicant consulted the relevant local authorities about what should be in the Statement of Community Consultation and took their comments into account. The applicant published a notice in local newspapers stating where the Statement of Community Consultation could be inspected and held a number of public exhibitions as well as carrying out a number of other forms of public engagement. The applicant allowed 43 days for consultation on Stage 2. Section 8 of the Consultation Report also sets how the applicant has complied with the EIA Regulations in respect of the Statement of Community Consultation.

Section 9 of the Consultation Report sets out how the applicant has complied with section 48 of the act (duty to publicise). The applicant prepared and published a section 48 notice in

the manner prescribed under the Instructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The notice was published in national and local newspapers in October 2017 and included a deadline of 4 December 2017.

I am satisfied that the applicant has undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation programme. In this respect, North Somerset Council (in its role as planning authority) considers the applicants consultation to be adequate and in line with Section 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Planning Act.

Yours sincerely



Roger Willmot  
Service Manager Strategic Developments  
North Somerset Council