



Department for Environment and Community Services

Date: 02 December 2019
Your Ref: TR040011
Enquiries to: Gillian Ellis-King
Section: Transport & Strategic Projects
Tel: 01454 86 3724
E-mail: Gillian.ellis-king@southglos.gov.uk

Mr Hefin Jones, Case Manager
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House
2 The Square,
Bristol BS1 6PM

Sent by email Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Jones

**Application by North Somerset Council for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 Project:
Adequacy of Consultation response**

We write in response to your letter of 18 November 2019 inviting South Gloucestershire Council to submit representations on the adequacy of consultation in relation to the pre-application phases for the above project. We would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this response.

Please note that this response relates to the Council's planning function as a neighbouring authority and is entirely separate to this Council's West of England role as project promoter. In accordance with the Council's Constitution in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, this is a delegated officer response following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment.

We have reviewed the Consultation Report and agree that as far as we are aware consultation on the above project has complied with relevant legislation and guidance. In particular:

- We can confirm that this Council was consulted on and responded to North Somerset Council as project promoter on Statements of Community Consultation (SoCC) in June 2015, April 2016 (consultation then Environment and Community Services, South Gloucestershire Council, PO Box 1954, Bristol BS37 0DD
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postponed), November 2016 and in August 2017. Information was subsequently provided by the project promoter to show how regard had been given to this Council's delegated officer comments. The points raised in these consultation responses and the project promoter's responses are included in the Consultation Report submitted to PINs.

- Although the project is not located in South Gloucestershire, an officer attended a formal consultation event and found it to accord with the methodology set out in the SoCC.
- This Council also responded to formal consultation on the project and can see in the Consultation Report how regard was given to points raised.

We therefore conclude that from this Council's perspective consultation on the above project has been compliant and adequate.

If you have any questions relating to this response, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Ellis-King
Strategic Projects Manager
Environment and Community Services