



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: Portishead Branch Line - MetroWest Phase 1

Reference: TR040011

Time and date: 10:00 am on Tuesday 6 October 2020

Venue: Virtual meeting online

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

Jo Dowling (JD) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member and Susan Hunt (SH) as the member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA) who will examine the Portishead Branch Line - MetroWest Phase 1 application.

JD explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Transport on 30 June 2020.

JD explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by North Somerset District Council ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the SoS who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

JD 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. Digital recording

The full digital recording of the Preliminary Meeting (Part1) 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 7 September 2020 and asked for any observations on them.

The applicant stated they support the suggestions made by Bristol Port Company and Mrs Freestone at Procedural Deadline A.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing , to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter and also 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 Examination Timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 26 October 2020.

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 duly 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 G](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

The applicant confirmed the updated application documents are almost ready to be submitted. The ExA stated they were happy for them to come in at Deadline 1 but would be beneficial if they could be submitted sooner.

The applicant suggested that they would update the ExA on the 19 October on the progress of submission in the event that they hadn't already been submitted by this date.

The applicant confirmed they are happy to respond to Mrs Freestone/Mr Bullocks submission.

9. Any other Matters

No other matters were raised by any party.

10. Preliminary Meeting Part 1 Adjourned

JD thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement and adjourned the Preliminary Meeting at 11:01 hours.



Note of the resumed Preliminary Meeting

Application: Portishead Branch Line - MetroWest Phase 1

Reference: TR040011

Time and date: 2:00 pm on Monday 19 October 2020

Venue: Virtual meeting online

1. Resumption of the Preliminary Meeting and Welcome

Jo Dowling (JD) welcomed those present and the members of the Examining Authority (ExA) reintroduced themselves.

JD gave a very brief summary of the previous introductory remarks.

JD explained the appointment of the ExA was made under delegation from the Secretary of State for the Department of Transport on 30 June 2020 and that the ExA would examine the application made by the Applicant before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project should be made.

JD explained the purpose of the resumed Preliminary Meeting and noted that the Examination will commence after it closes.

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

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](#).]

2. Digital recording

The full Digital recording of the Preliminary Meeting (Part2) is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. The Examining Authority's remarks about written submissions about the procedures and conduct of the Examination received by Procedural



The Planning Inspectorate

Deadline B

Susan Hunt summarised responses received at Procedural Deadline B.

No comments made by any of the parties in attendance.

4. Any procedural representations on matters that could not be raised at the previous sitting of the Preliminary Meeting

No comments made by any of the parties in attendance.

5. Any other matters

No comments made by any of the parties in attendance.

6. Close of the Preliminary Meeting Part 2

JD thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the Preliminary Meeting at 14:12 hours.