



The Planning Inspectorate

Planning Act 2008 – section 91

Application by North Somerset District Council for an Order granting Development Consent for the Portishead branch line – MetroWest Phase 1

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

Issue Specific Hearing 1:	Draft Development Consent Order
Date:	Monday 7 December 2020
Joining available from:	9:30am ¹
Meeting start time:	10:00am ²
Location:	Virtual event

Issue Specific Hearings

All Interested Parties are invited to attend issue specific hearings but as this is a virtual event it would assist the running of the hearing if you could let the Inspectorate's Case Team (Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) know by Monday 23 November 2020 of a wish to participate in the hearing so that the relevant instructions can be sent for you to join the event.

Each Interested Party is entitled to make oral representations at hearings. However, this is subject to the Examining Authority's (ExA) power to control hearings.

The virtual event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does

¹ Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate.

² If you are joining as an active participant, please follow the joining instructions for the virtual event carefully and connect to the Hearing in good time. In common with traditional Hearings, the event will start on time irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. Should the consideration of these issues take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the Hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to.

If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

Please Note:

In order to ensure timely publication of the agenda, this has been drafted before the receipt of submissions for Deadline 2 which includes the responses to the ExA's first written questions. As a consequence, the ExA may need to adjust the agenda at the meeting to allow for responses received at this deadline.

Agenda

The main purpose of the first Development Consent Order (DCO) hearing is to undertake an examination of the draft DCO Articles and Schedules.

In particular to:

- Clarify issues around how the draft DCO is intended to work – what would be consented, the extent of the powers and what requirements, provisions and agreements are proposed;
- Identify any possible issues of prevention, mitigation or compensation which are not covered by the DCO as currently drafted;
- Establish or confirm the views of other Interested Parties as to the appropriateness, proportionality or efficacy of the proposals.

Please note that Protective Provisions (Part 5 and Schedule 16) will be examined at the Compulsory Acquisition hearing on Friday 4 December 2020 at 10:00am.



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Agenda

Title of meeting	Portishead branch line – MetroWest Phase 1 Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO
Date	Monday 7 December 2020
Time	10.00 am
Venue	Online via Microsoft Teams invitation
Attendees	Invitees

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing

2. Articles and Schedules of the draft DCO (excluding Schedules 2, 16 and 17)

The Applicant will be asked to provide a very brief overview of each part of the draft DCO. The ExA will then ask questions in respect of DCO powers, seeking responses where appropriate from the Applicant, the local councils, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE), Highways England (HE) and other Interested Parties. Interested Parties will also be invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to DCO Articles and Schedules.

3. Schedule 2 of the DCO – Requirements

The Applicant will be asked to provide an overview of the Requirements with particular focus on Requirements 5 (Construction Environmental Management Plan); 14 (Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC); 25 (Permanent fencing outside the Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC); 26 (Permanent acoustic fencing); 27 (Portishead Station); and 38 (Applications made under requirements). The ExA will then ask questions, seeking responses where appropriate from the Applicant, the local councils, the EA, NE, HE and other Interested Parties. Interested Parties will also be invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to DCO requirements.

4. Schedule 17 of the DCO – Documents to be certified

To review the documents to be certified and seek views as to whether the list is complete and if not, what additional documents would need to be included.

5. Consents, licences and other agreements

The Applicant will be asked to provide an update of progress and timescales for completion. The ExA will then ask questions, including discussing whether any section 106 agreements are proposed and if they are indicative timescales for finalising them.

6. Action points arising from the Hearing

7. Any other business

8. Close of Hearing

Attendees:

All Interested Parties are welcome to attend the hearing. However, the ExA considers that representatives for the following parties should consider attending because the ExA believes that the material that they have submitted raises issues that may need to be explored at the hearing:

- The Applicant;
- North Somerset District Council in its role as the Local Planning Authority;
- North Somerset District Council in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority;
- North Somerset District Council in its role as the Highways Authority;
- Bristol City Council;
- The Environment Agency;
- Network Rail;
- Natural England; and
- Highways England.