



Department for Transport

Great Minster House
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Telephone:
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Web: www.gov.uk/dft

To: North Somerset District
Council

Date: 9 November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Application by North Somerset District Council (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent to construct a new railway on the trackbed of the former branch line from Bristol to Portishead including associated works (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT

Following my letter of 21 September 2021, in considering the Report and Recommendation submitted by the Examining Authority on 19 July 2021, in respect of its findings and conclusions of the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”), I am writing in relation to further matters on which updated information is requested before determining the application.

Carbon Budget Assessment

The Secretary of State notes the [amendments to chapter 7 of the Environmental Statement](#) references the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth carbon budgets. However, the Secretary of State notes that it only includes an assessment against the sixth carbon budget.

Please could the **Applicant** provide an assessment of the impact of the scheme against the third, fourth and fifth carbon budgets, or explain why it does not think this is appropriate.

The deadline for any response is 23 November 2021

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. Given the coronavirus (COVID19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate is currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses.

Your response will be published on the project page for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadline for response at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portisheadbranch-line-metrowest-phase-1/>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Kevin O'Hanlon