



Meeting note

File reference

Status	Final
Author	Callan Burchell
Date	31.05.16
Meeting with	Four Ashes Ltd
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	Morag Thomson – Eversheds Sue Wilcox – Quod The Planning Inspectorate Susannah Guest – Infrastructure Planning Lead Richard Hunt – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Emma Cottam – EIA and Land Rights Advisor Callan Burchell – Assistant Case Officer
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting for the proposed West Midlands Interchange scheme (previously Four Ashes Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI))
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the Infrastructure Planning website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which developer (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone present, and individual roles were explained.

Project Update

The developer provided a general project update on the scheme since the previous meeting. In summary, the developer noted that they have published a website for the proposed scheme and have undertaken non-statutory engagement with the County and District Council.

The developer explained the engagement they have had with the relevant local and county councils noting that they had provided a brief outline of the scheme, stated the current progress, and highlighted the aims and objectives of the proposal. The developer indicated that the general nature of questions raised related to potential

employment and highways impacts, in particular those traffic movements related to employees of the site. The developer informed the Inspectorate that there have been requests for the developer to return and discuss the scheme in more detail.

The developer proceeded to inform the Inspectorate that they have sent letters to local residents to inform them of the developer's proposals. As well as correspondence via letter, the developer noted that are conducting some 1:1 meetings with residents.

The developer informed the Inspectorate that they are preparing for stage one non-statutory consultation commencing on 13 June 2016 and that information would be available on their website. The developer noted that they had discussed the consultation strategy with South Staffordshire District Council.

The developer explained that they had met with Highways England, the County highway authority, Wolverhampton, West Midlands Local Economic Partnership to discuss traffic issues arising from motorway junctions in proximity to the site. The developer also drew attention to the creation of the Combined Authority with effect from 10 June 2016.

The developer provided a high level overview of the key features of the site and noted the wider planning context of the location. The developer highlighted that there are currently two masterplan options. The masterplans are currently evolving but at the moment one option involves the intermodal terminal being located to the west of the West Coast Main Line and the second option involves it being located to the east of the West Coast Main Line. The developer indicated that they would be consulting on both options in the Stage 1 consultation in June/July and hope to have selected the final option by October 2016.

The developer provided an update on the progress of environmental matters since the previous meeting, including survey works, landscape proposals, mineral extraction, groundwater issues and archeological investigations. The developer noted that the water table is high within parts of the site and that monitoring stations are set up within the site.

The developer informed the Inspectorate that they would like to arrange a meeting with their consultants Ramboll to discuss the Environmental Statement (ES) and what is required from the developer prior to a formal Scoping Request.

The developer confirmed that a revised Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 6 notification would be submitted with a Scoping Request later in the year.

The developer indicated their intention for the Preliminary Environmental Information, forming part of the Stage 2 statutory consultation, to effectively be a draft ES.

The developer noted that there have been no changes to the indicative timetable as discussed in the previous meeting:

- September 2016 – likely scoping
- October 2016 – likely single option selection
- Q1 2017 – statutory consultation (satisfying s42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008)
- Q3 2017 - submission

The developer discussed the options with regard to the possible inclusion of B8 within the scheme in relation to whether or not it could be considered part of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or be progressed through a commercial NSIP.

The Inspectorate undertook to give the matter some consideration.

Follow up / specific decisions

- Arrangements for next project meetings
- Developer to confirm contact details for the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website