



**Kate Mignano**  
The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure  
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Bristol  
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**Our Ref:** N/2017/1312

**Your Ref:** TR050006

**Officer:** Nicky Toon

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**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Ms Mignano

**Application by Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange**

**Adequacy of Consultation request**

I refer to your letter dated 21 May 2018 requesting the Council's comments on the adequacy of consultation in relation to the above application for a Development Consent Order.

**Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42**

In relation to consultation with the Local Authority, Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited has actively engaged with Northampton Borough Council since September 2016, initially by email in relation to the preparation of a Scoping Report, and, in November 2016, with a meeting to provide an introduction to the development proposals, discuss the scoping report and committed sites, and the provision of a Consultation Strategy outlining the intended consultation process for an initial public consultation carried out in December 2016.

Since that time, the Council has met with representatives of Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited for project update meetings as considered necessary, and has been in contact via email and telephone.

The Council was consulted on, and agreed to the contents of and extent of consultation outlined in the Statement of Community Consultation in September 2017.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Council were formally consulted on the development proposals as part of the Stage 2 of the consultation process. During this time the applicant actively engaged with the lead Planning Officer and the Council's Environmental Health Officer. The Council's response to the Stage 2 consultation was sent to the Roxhill (Junction 15 Ltd) on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Council is currently engaged with the applicant in the preparation of the Statement of Common Ground.

The Council considers that the extent of consultation at the pre-application stage complies with the requirements of Section 42.

#### **Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – section 47**

Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited consulted the Council on their draft Consultation Strategy, November 2016, which outlined details of how the applicant intended to carry out a non-statutory consultation. The extent of consultation included a project website, awareness raising leaflet (the extent of the geographical distribution area of which was agreed with the Council), and public exhibitions, the dates and location of which were provided.

As referred to above, the Council was consulted on, and agreed to the contents of and extent of consultation outlined in the Statement of Community Consultation in September 2017.

As part of the pre-application process, the applicant has provided to the Council statements which have clearly set out how and whom the applicant proposes to consult on the development proposals, provided clear deadlines in respect of the consultation period and dates by which responses/ comments should be received, and provided details of the nature and content of leaflets to be sent out as part of the consultation process.

Although some verbal feedback from local residents received by the Council has commented on the large amount of and technical nature of documents forming part of the Stage 2 Consultation process in particular, and the difficulty for some members of the public to digest such contents, the Council considers that, to the best of its knowledge, the applicant has satisfied the requirements of Section 47.

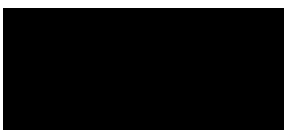
#### **Duty to publicise - PA2008 – section 48**

The applicant published a notice in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo for two consecutive weeks (starting 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017), and adverts were also placed in two national papers, the Guardian and the London Gazette, copies of which have been submitted as part of this application.

The Council considers that the applicant has suitably advertised the broad nature of the development proposal, clearly setting out where further details can be viewed, how comments can be made, and with a clear deadline for receipt of comments.

As such, the Council considers that the applicant has satisfied the requirements of Section 48.

Yours sincerely



Peter Baguley  
Head of Planning