

From: Stephen Blyth [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2018 08:25
To: Northampton Gateway
Subject: Meetings 9/10 October

Dear Ms Mignano,

As indicated, I intend to attend the meetings about Northampton Gateway on 9th October. I also plan to attend the open session on the 10th.

You asked to be informed if attendees wish to speak at either session and I confirm that I do in my personal capacity.

I would like to ask why this application is being considered at all when it contravenes the provisions of the NSPNN in a number of major aspects, viz:

- 1) The proximity of DIRFT and a number of other SRFIs neutralises its potential for any strategic role. It would add to a regional cluster of SRFIs rather than forming part of a national network as envisaged by the NSPNN.
- 2) The site, located midway between major urban centres would maximise the carbon footprints of goods, contrary to the policy stated in the NSPNN
- 3) The site is rural, not brownfield as envisaged in the NSPNN.
- 4) There is full employment in the area, so no locally-available workforce.
- 5) In-depth investigation of other potential sites does not appear to have been carried out.
- 6) Siting another SRFI in this region would increase economic imbalances between it and other regions poor in SRFIs.
- 7) The site has a history of failed or abandoned applications for various uses and the present one only differs from its predecessors by including a cosmetic rail facility to comply with the NSPNN. Tenants would be under no obligation to use it.
- 8) For the above and other reasons it would be unlikely to contribute to a modal shift of goods from road to rail as intended in the NSPNN.

The application seems so at odds with the provisions of the NSPNN as to amount to an abuse of process.

As the first session deals with procedural matters, it seems appropriate to raise it there, but if you feel it would be better covered in the open session on the 10th, I would be happy to comply.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours sincerely, SM Blyth

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