



Meeting note

File reference	TR050006
Status	Final
Author	Tom Carpen
Date	23 March 2017
Meeting with	Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Morag Thomson - Eversheds Sutherland Ben Holmes - Oxalis Planning
Meeting objectives	The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Tom Carpen – Infrastructure Planning Lead Emre Williams – Case Manager Louise Evans – Case Officer For the developer to provide PINS with an update to the programme for their project
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Programme

The applicant advised that its programme is driven by the completion of highway modelling work, which is due to be completed by mid-summer 2017.

The applicant completed non-statutory consultation in January and will undertake statutory consultation in summer 2017 after completion of the modelling work.

The applicant and PINS discussed submission of draft documents to be submitted at the same time as consultation.

The application is due to be submitted Q4 2017.

Issues

The applicant updated PINS on matters arising from its non-statutory consultation, including (but not necessarily limited) to open space, transport impacts, air quality and visual impacts. The applicant stated that virtual and physical models based on the Illustrative Master Plan were shown at the public exhibitions and were received positively, as they helped attendees understand the size of the project, and how the scheme would work from a landscape perspective.

The applicant advised that its proposal is completely separate to the neighboring Rail Central proposed National Significant Infrastructure Project and that there is no prospect of the two being developed as one application. The Inspectorate advised that if submitted, each application would be examined separately and on its own merits. The applicant advised that the relative merits of the two schemes would be relevant.

The applicant confirmed that it is assessing the cumulative impacts of the Rail Central project based on information publically available, within its Environmental Impact Assessment.

The applicant and Inspectorate both noted that how the two potential applications are handled will be of interest to other parties.

Section 51 advice

The applicant has requested advice regarding the National Policy Statement policy to consider modal alternatives. The Inspectorate agreed to give further consideration and provide advice if possible in due course.