



Meeting Note

File reference	WS010003
Status	FINAL
Author	Michael Baker

Meeting with	Whitemoss Landfill Ltd
Meeting date	1 March 2013
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Jeffrey Penfold (Case Officer) Michael Baker (Assistant Case Officer) Alan Ridley (EIA and Land Rights Advisor)
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate)	John Harrison (West Lancashire Borough Council) Dominic Carr (West Lancashire Borough Council) Jonathan Haine (Lancashire County Council)
Location	West Lancashire Borough Council Offices

Meeting purpose	Meeting to discuss the progress of the project.
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised all parties on its openness policy and legal obligation to publish any advice under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), which is published on The Inspectorate's website.</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate gave a presentation to the Local Authorities (LA) on the 2008 Act consenting regime for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and advised on key milestones for local authorities within the process.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>The LAs raised concerns regarding whether the project was a NSIP under s30 of the 2008 Act. Specifically, the LAs were concerned that the site did not have sufficient physical capacity to process the proposed amount of waste. Linked to this, concerns were raised about the resources that are required of the LAs during the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate advised the LAs to engage at the earliest possible stage with the applicant and set out their concerns regarding whether the scheme fell within the thresholds in s30.</p> <p>The LAs were also advised to engage with the applicant during its statutory consultation exercises as prescribed</p>
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	<p>under s42 of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>It was advised that one of the key tests for deciding whether or not to accept an application, as set out in s55 of the 2008 Act, is whether or not the project qualifies as an NSIP. It was also advised that it is for the applicant to determine whether they needed to apply for a Development Consent Order considering, amongst other matters, the capacity of the facility. The Planning Inspectorate advised that Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) between the applicant and LAs may be used to aid resourcing pressures.</p> <p>The LAs informed the Planning Inspectorate of a local pressure group (A.R.R.O.W) that may question the need for the proposal in the context of the waste hierarchy and raise concerns over how the proposal relates to the Local Plan.</p> <p>It was advised that the Planning Inspectorate would encourage the group to submit one representation representing the views of its members and emphasised that the group should engage with the applicant at the earliest possible stage.</p>
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Circulation List	All attendees