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By email only
Date 16th May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by Anglian Water Services Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation

Adequacy of Consultation Response

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd May requesting views on the adequacy of the pre-application consultation in respect to the Application by Anglian Water (hereafter “the Applicant”) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has invited the South Cambridgeshire District Council (hereafter “the Council”) to advise whether the Applicant has complied, in relation to the application, with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008):

Duty to consult - PA2008 – section 42

Section 42 requires consultation with certain persons specified in the Act and prescribed in regulations.

Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – section 47

Section 47 requires applicants to prepare a “Statement of Community Consultation” (SoCC) in consultation with relevant Local Authorities which sets out how the Applicant intends to consult the local community on its proposals. The Applicant must then publish the SoCC and undertake statutory consultation in accordance with it.

Duty to publicise - PA2008 – section 48

Section 48 requires that details of the statutory consultation be publicised via a series of notices in the local and national press.

The Council in providing this response confirms it has read and applied the Secretary of State’s “Guidance on the Pre-application Process” which at para 19 confirms that *“[w]ithout adequate consultation, the subsequent [DCO] application will not be accepted when it is submitted”*.

The Council is aware that the Applicant has undertaken a non-statutory consultation in July 2020 as well as statutory consultations in accordance with section 42 in June 2021, and February 2022. There has also been a Section 44 Targeted Consultation on Order Limit changes in July 2022 and the Environmental Scoping Consultation conducted by PINS in October 2021.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The Council was consulted by the Applicant in February 2021 as part of the preparation of the SoCC and had the opportunity to make comments and suggestions for the Applicant to consider. The Council suggested targeted engagement with identified hard to reach groups, parish councils in the area, mitigation measures for the digitally disadvantaged stakeholders unable to participate in virtual consultation modes and the need for Technical Working Groups.

Following the publication of the SoCC, the Applicant undertook the June 2021 and February 2022 Statutory Consultations. The Consultation report confirms that the Applicant consulted elected representatives, including parish councillors, county councillors, local authority elected members and MPs. In addition to statutory consultees such as Natural England, National Highways and the Environment Agency, other bodies such as the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards were consulted. Local interest groups were identified, and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established to facilitate this.

The Council is satisfied with the process adopted by the applicant for the public consultations and publicity requirements and that it accords with the SoCC and sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Whilst it has not been asked by PINS to address consultation with Local Authorities in accordance with section 43, the Council can also confirm that it has been duly consulted by the Applicant.

The Consultation Report submitted to PINS highlights amendments that have been made to the scheme in response to feedback from various stakeholders. It is understood that these amendments will be reflected in the application itself, but the Council has not as yet had the opportunity to review them.

Once the decision to accept the application has been made by PINs, the Council will take the opportunity to review the DCO application, once it is available, including the revisions mentioned above. Representations will then subsequently be made through the Local Impact Report and Statement of Common Ground and the Council's formal representations to the examination.

The Council will continue to work proactively with Anglian Water Services Limited during the pre-Examination stage and through the Statement of Common Ground process.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Kelly
Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development
On behalf of
South Cambridgeshire District Council