



The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
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13.10.2023

Electronic by email only

Application by Anglian Water for an Order Granting Development Consent (DCO) for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plan Relocation (WW010003) Joint Response to the notification of Preliminary Meeting (Rule 6) letter.

This letter is a joint response from Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to the Preliminary (Rule 6) Letter issued by the Examining Authority's ("ExA"), on 19 September 2023.

I would like to use this opportunity to confirm that all three Councils will be attending the Preliminary Meeting ('the PM') (17th October 2023) as well as Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) and 2 (ISH 2) (18th October 2023).

There are a number of matters we thought it would be helpful to raise with f the ExA in advance of the meeting and hearings:

Agenda Item 2 – Procedural Requests

Submission of Local Impact Reports (LIR)

Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council wrote to the ExA on 22nd August highlighting the need for each Council's respective committees to approve the relevant LIR and requesting that be reflected in the Examination timetable.

All the Councils can confirm that each intends to submit a LIR and that each can meet deadline of 20 November 2023 (Deadline 1) subject to the issues raised below (at item 4) in respect of taking into account the further information requested of Applicant published in the online Examination Library (on 11th October 2023).

Agenda item 3 – Principal Issues.

The Councils can confirm they have nothing to raise with the ExA in respect of the initial assessment of the Principal Issues.

Agenda item 4 - Procedural Decisions taken by the ExA

The Councils note the ExA's requests for Statements of Common Ground at least in initial form by Deadline 1 and is in discussion with the Applicant. The Councils also note the ExA's request for LIRs and confirm as noted above.

The Councils noted the ExA's procedural decision of 10 August 2023 requesting further information from the Applicant by 29 September 2023. The Councils understand that this was received by the ExA on 29 September but was only published recently on 11th October 2023. The Councils ask that the ExA sets out when they anticipate having responses to any matters raised therein and that it reflects the time the material has been available.

The Councils at this stage can say they do not anticipate these materials leading to any delay to the LIRs but wish to reserve their position until they have had time properly to consider them.

Agenda item 5 Draft Timetable

The Councils wish to raise the following points in relation to timetabling:

Deadline 2 and 3

- We note that the timetable as currently proposed leaves only 7 working days between Deadline 2 (Wednesday 6 December 2023) and Deadline 3 (Monday 18 December 2023). Whilst the Council recognises that DCO examination timetables are often necessarily tight given the evidence and materials required by each deadline the Councils will find meeting one deadline so shortly after another extremely challenging, due, in particular to internal governance procedures required.
- It is therefore requested that the ExA reconsider the date of Deadline 3 to give the Councils and other Interested Parties sufficient time to address what is required. The Councils appreciate that timetabling around the Christmas period may well be difficult however would respectfully suggest that extra time to ensure robust and helpful evidence can be submitted and in the interests of fairness is justified. The Councils is of course happy to assist the ExA in identifying an alternative date or dates should they require it.

Agenda item 6 - Hearings and Site Inspections

ISH 2 – 18 October 2023

The Councils have now seen the ExA's Agenda for ISH2 (published on 10 October 2023) and the issues identified for discussion and oral submission by the ExA at Annex A to the Agenda.

The Councils wish to assist as best they are able however given that the ISH follows directly after the PM on 17 October there has been no opportunity to prepare any written submissions prior to the hearing.

It is understood that none was expected from the ExA and obviously any submissions can be made orally. However given the importance of the subject matter and that many of the issues raised relate to the evidence base or flowing from the local plan and the progress of the new joint development plan the Councils wish to state at this stage that the oral submissions (including legal submissions) will necessarily be in summary form and that a comprehensive response will be provided after the hearing in writing. We trust that is an acceptable approach to the ExA.

Agenda Item 7 – Any other Matters

Attendance at PM

The Councils has the ExA to note that the PM and Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) have been scheduled for the same day as County Council's Full Council meeting. The County Council therefore respectfully asks it to be noted that the County Council will not have any Councillors in attendance at the either the PM or OFH.

Written Representations

We note that each Council is required to submit any Written Representations it wishes to rely upon at Deadline 1. We can confirm that each Council will be providing a Written Representation. It is firmly understood that these will not raise brand new issues beyond those set out in each of the Council's Relevant Representations however it is anticipated that the Written Representations will supplement matters raised therein which will be clearly identified.

Lastly, we ask the ExA and all Interested Parties to please note that anything received by the Councils after 5pm is considered to have been received the following working day.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

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