

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 78

Response to Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project

The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EE

Planning Inspectorate Ref: WW010003
Planning Authority Ref: CWWTPRP
Date: November 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement is in response to letter dated 24th October 2023 from National Infrastructure Planning, outlining details of the Examination Procedure and invite to submit written responses from interested parties. East Cambridgeshire District Council is an adjoining local authority.
- 1.2 The proposed site is located nearest to Lode and Bottisham , which are settlements in East Cambridgeshire. Lode is the nearest settlement sitting approximately 3km northeast of the site, with Bottisham 4km to the east.

2. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council has undertaken assessment of the proposal and consider the main considerations to be;
- Noise
 - Odour
 - Vibration
 - Highway impacts
 - Visual impacts
 - Green Belt
- 2.2 In consultation with the Council's Environmental Health Officer the following comments are made "I have reviewed the documents relevant to potential odour impacts from the development. A negligible residual odour impact was concluded to all known receptors, chosen due to their proximity to the site. I am comfortable with the information that has been provided and consider that receptors within the District of East Cambridgeshire would be of such a distance, to be outside the area of interest for environmental odour impacts.
- 2.3 I have reviewed the documents relevant to construction and decommissioning noise impacts from the development. Noise measurement locations were selected

to be representative of the nearest receptor locations surrounding the proposed development areas. I am comfortable with the information that has been provided and consider that receptors within the District of East Cambridgeshire would be of such a distance, to be outside the area of interest for such environmental noise impacts.

- 2.4 I have reviewed the documents relevant to operational noise impacts. Noise measurement locations were selected to be representative of the nearest receptor locations surrounding the proposed development areas. I am comfortable with the information that has been provided, and consider that receptors within the District of East Cambridgeshire would be of such a distance as to be outside the area of interest for such environmental noise impacts.”
- 3.5 On this basis, East Cambridgeshire District Council is satisfied with the information submitted that the nearest receptors within the district would not be significantly harmed by noise, vibration and odour.
- 3.6 With respect to the local highways and transport routes, the local authority relies on the comments from the Local Highways Authority and Highways England. However, the Local Planning Authority does recognise that there are some issues which may need to be addressed.
- 3.7 The improvement to the junction of the A14/Horningsea will be a positive improvement, however this only addresses the traffic heading east and not the traffic heading west. There is an unknown with regard to traffic heading west and would need to be addressed.
- 3.8 The Travel Plans are welcomed, however, what will be the mechanism to monitor the time constraints and the methods of transport? Whilst they are a positive contribution, they need to be monitored and the most important time will be during construction.
- 3.9 There will be limited visual impact of the development on the district of East Cambridgeshire. There may be times during the early years whilst the landscaping is

being established that there will be views of the site. However, these views are over 1km, so are going to be limited. Within the views is Anglesey Abbey and consideration of its setting is needed. However, Anglesey Abbey is well screened from the road, with a limited visual connection beyond its own boundaries. However, this needs to be assessed and discussed with the Heritage Team. It would appear that the distance between the heritage asset and the proposed site is significant enough to be considered acceptable, when weighed against the public benefits of the scheme.

- 3.10 The viewpoint from Ely Cathedral, shows that it is possible to see Cambridge in the distance, but not possible to identify any features. Whilst there is a significant distance between the sites, Ely Cathedral's setting as a Grade I Listed Building is an important consideration. This will need to be weighed against the public benefits.
- 3.11 The site is in the Green Belt and the scheme will need to accord with Green Belt Policy. This is an important infrastructure project and the conclusion of the Green Belt Report is that the proposal would lead to moderate harm to the Green Belt. It needs to be taken into account that in allowing the proposal, this should not be taken as the area no longer being in the Green Belt. It would release land within the Green Belt, but as a constraint the land would still be designated Green Belt.
- 3.12 The big question is will this be able to support the growing population of the area for a significant time, and can it have some flexibility to enable more waste to be treated, without relying on other sites coming forward in the future? It is important to ensure that the scheme can deliver and be sustainable for the future.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The scheme obviously delivers a long term public benefit and there is minimal impact on the residents within East Cambridgeshire. The mitigation and the monitoring is an important part of making the scheme acceptable.

