



Project name	Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation
File reference	WW010003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15/09/21
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update, EIA Scoping, EIA and Public Consultation Update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

The Applicant confirmed that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) had been published on the 9 of June 2021. The Applicant said it had launched consultation under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 on the 23 of June 2021 in line with the SoCC. The consultation leaflet was distributed to 9700 homes and businesses (Core Consultation Zone) and the engagement team pre-briefed stakeholders. This had been phase two of the community consultation, but the first statutory consultation and concluded on the 18 of August 2021. Consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 had not been undertaken at this stage.

The Applicant stated that the purpose of this consultation was to gain feedback from the local community regarding the proposals. It was an 8-week consultation period in which, the Applicant explained, it had used numerous methods to engage the local community. These included the use of leaflets, forms, online resources, webinars and hard copy materials. The consultation was publicised through the media, stakeholders and local information points. Overall, there was a lot of engagement from the local community with different kinds of feedback received.

The Applicant stated that the design freeze for the EIA Scoping and the DCO site boundary has been completed and the Approach of the digital EIA has been finalised.

The Applicant confirmed that the Local Plan and North East Cambridge Area Action Plan would be in draft form at the time of the DCO submission.

EIA Digital Workstream

The Applicant discussed their aspirations of making best use of digital engagement as part of the EIA Scoping Report and other environmental documents. The Applicant proposed to provide digital elements to complement the formal EIA scoping request documents. The formal request would remain an electronic document with links to supplementary material to assist the users of the report. The Inspectorate raised the concern of accessibility issues and that there may be issues over the definitive version if there is both a digital and electronic pdf version of the scoping report. The Inspectorate highlighted the importance of being clear as to what the formal request comprised (i.e., the electronic pdf document) plus the status and relationship of any supplementary "digital" information that may also be referred to but would not strictly form part of the formal EIA scoping request.

EIA Scoping Approach

The Applicant mentioned that the scoping would take place at a relatively advanced stage of the programme. It said Advice Note 7 has been used as reference throughout. It presented the plan of the EIA Scoping Boundary, showing the maximum amount of land and the temporary/permanent land required for the development (as a “worst case” approach to the assessment of environmental effects).

The Applicant stated that the project elements and overall approach to the assessment in the EIA had been split into in Zones 1-3, reflecting the nature of activities and likely effects associated with the key components of the development. The Applicant and the Inspectorate discussed the provision of the GIS shapefile to match the extent of the EIA scoping boundary. The Inspectorate also advised that, where possible, chapters of the scoping report should refer to any to consultation with key statutory bodies, so it was clear what (if any) views of these bodies had been considered to date in the proposed approaches to the assessment of environmental effects.

The Applicant stated that there will be amendments on the final design to reflect ongoing design work, feedback from statutory consultation and iterative design throughout the process. Changes may require amendments to the approach taken to the EIA, which will be discussed in advance with the relevant stakeholders. The Inspectorate noted the duty of the Applicant in preparing their ES to base it on the most recent scoping opinion adopted.

Consultation to date

The Applicant stated that there had been a good consultation response and summarised the key priorities from consultees, which were odour, visual impact and traffic. The Applicant stated that the Environment Agency was supportive and had confirmed its interests in water quality enhancements; Natural England has also been supportive of the project and its vision; however, it advised the Applicant to consider the impacts on Stow Cum Quay.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant and the Inspectorate to discuss EIA Digital Workstream.
- The Applicant to create a Relevant Consultees Thread for the Mitigation Zones.
- The Inspectorate to hold another Project Update Meeting with The Applicant in November.