



Meeting note

Project name	Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation
File reference	WW010003
Status	Draft
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	9 December 2021
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
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.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted (if requested by an Applicant for commercial reasons).

Project Update

The Applicant stated that since September's meeting, several design decisions have been established, which were based on the responses from statutory consultees and community responses from the Phase 2 consultation and Technical Working Groups. These were published alongside the Interim Consultation Report (see below). The Applicant has planned consultation in the new year. The Applicant noted that project work has begun, defining works packages and finalising the scheme order limits.

The Applicant explained the position of the strategic programme – they are on track and the one change that has occurred is the inclusion of an Interim Consultation Report to highlight how responses from the Phase 2 Consultation have either been addressed or would be addressed in the coming design freezes. This is an addition to the programme.

The Applicant noted that it had received agreement and positive feedback with technical stakeholders, as it consulted on mitigation topics. There had also been engagement with s42 consultees and other key technical stakeholders that has occurred since September, through Technical Working Groups, Bilaterals and the Community Working Group. The Applicant stated that there was regular engagement with councils and the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. The Applicant added that landowner engagement has moved on to the next stage, as the date of submission nears.

The Applicant stated that it was currently planning for Phase 3 Consultation, which will be in Spring 2022.

Phase Two Consultation Update

The Applicant explained that during this consultation, it asked for views on their upcoming proposals and other queries that stakeholders thought it would be important for them to raise/consider. Consultation responses included prioritising grassland over trees to further increase biodiversity net gain and architectural finishes on building exteriors and new facility.

The Applicant noted that they plan to focus on recreation and connectivity, and a discovery centre. The Applicant has considered improving engineering design and setting out an odour assessment methodology in response to feedback received. This will be in accordance with the institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance.

Stakeholder Engagement Update - Interim Consultation Report

The Applicant stated that during the week commencing the 6th of December, the Consultation Summary Report had been published. The Report includes the update of developing designs and key decisions which include landscape, screening, architectural finishes, Discovery Centre, connectivity, and traffic access. They were made available as hard copies at Community Access Points and post by request.

The Applicant explained how it chose Option 1 on the proposed junction diversion, despite of the local community's preference on Option 3 (new junction). The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be clear in why it had chosen a particular option.

The Inspectorate encouraged engagement with the local community and design council, with regards to polarised views on engineering designs.

The Applicant confirmed that they have taken onboard feedback received from the Design Council.

The Inspectorate asked about the metric calculation the Applicant has used for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), whether they have fallen into metric version 3 calculations. The Applicant confirmed that they have used version metric 3 calculations and all works on BNG will use align with the measurement.

The Applicant stated that the landscape design of the project is being developed, which will focus on including more natural elements, such as woodland, native hedgerow and hedgerow and grassland as stakeholders have requested grassland and trees around the site. With this development on landscape design, the Applicant has considered ecological mitigation – examples include the gateway softening the entrance by using a gabion system and green infrastructure, creating a natural screening.

EIA Scoping Opinion

The Applicant queried on clarifications with regards to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion that PINS have provided. The topics sections mentioned were:

- **Section 3.1.3, Glint and Glare** – The Applicant struggled to understand what factors the Inspectorate considered that were Glint and Glare sources. The Inspectorate stated that other things, such as water tanks could potentially create this and should clarify that it is not specific to just solar panels. It could also be other elements that could create it. The Applicant should take in consideration their approaches moving forward, to identify further Glint and Glare factors.
- **Section 2.1.2 and 3.12.3, Future Decommissioning** - The Applicant noted that the cumulative effects of the redevelopment of the existing WWTP would be assessed in the CEA. The Inspectorate stated that it is more so of decommissioning in EIA Regulation terms. The Applicant should acknowledge that it will be moved and decommissioned itself in the future. The Inspectorate signposted that the Environmental Statement (ES) should cover these points enough.
- **Section 3.11.1, Major Accidents and Disasters** - The Applicant asked if this section should be reported in the ES. The Inspectorate confirmed this and stated that the scoping report is already an assessment as it is. The Applicant should demonstrate that it is completed and there should be no issues in what has been scoped in that process.
- **Zoning** - The Inspectorate advised to set out the areas very clearly to see different impacts occurring in different areas.

The Applicant has responded to the feedback from the EIA Scoping Opinion by the Inspectorate, with regards to chapter sections on:

- **CHP v Gas to Grid**
- **Decommissioning (on future housing)**
- **Design Horizons**
- **Consents and Permits**
- **Existing Outfall**
- **Land Quality**
- **Water Resources**

The Inspectorate stated that the scoping report has some discrepancy to what was scoped, in terms of water resources and biodiversity assessment, which made it difficult to agree to certain things. The Applicant has acknowledged this and have given out recommendations to correspond to the discrepancy.

Presentation on the PEI Structure – Associated Papers

The Applicant presented the layout of the PEI.

The Applicant stated that the Community Information Papers will focus on the community near the Proposed Development and expected changes due to the construction and operation.

HRA Screening Findings

The Applicant stated that a draft of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been completed. The Applicant concluded that there is a potential for significant effects on all the sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The Applicant added that the HRA screening will be provided to Natural England (NE) and updated formal feedback. The Applicant explained their responses to the potential impacts will include air emissions risk assessment, the use of traffic modelling study data, hydrological studies and water quality studies.

The Inspectorate stated that it is useful while writing an HRA report, to include the discussion with NE and how it has benefitted the Applicant for feedback. The Inspectorate added to also include how the discussions, got up to a point of conclusions to feedback.

Preliminary EqIA Findings

The Applicant explained that the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) sets out the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, and the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on people with characteristics protected under this legislation. The Applicant added that their next steps are to consult on the preliminary EqIA as part of the third consultation through the working group and bilateral meetings, which includes continuing discussions with the Equalities Officer involved at site selection.

AOB

The Applicant asked if the wastewater National Policy Statement (NPS) will be reviewed. The Inspectorate advised that it is not aware of plans to review this NPS in the near future.

The Inspectorate asked about the timing of submission. The Applicant confirmed they intend to submit Q3 2022. The Applicant stated that they are aligning with the local plan, alongside fulfilling their contractual partnership with Homes England. However, due to COVID, this has created delays therefore the programme has been extended. The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to let them know of any changes to the proposed programme.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant to send draft document schedule to the Inspectorate to prepare for draft document review.
- The Applicant to send a copy of project update meeting presentation and remove any information that is not available to the public.

