

Meeting note

Project name	Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation
File reference	WW010003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	14 December 2022
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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.

Project Update

The Applicant advised that it is likely to submit a Development Consent Order application on 30 January 2023 as previously communicated.

Planning update

The Applicant explained that the emerging new Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan are both important in providing context for the needs case for the proposed development.

The Applicant explained that the DCO submission date had changed from September 2022 to January 2023 following a delay in the Local Plan preparation programme, specifically progression to a Regulation 18 public consultation.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant foresaw any potential factors that could cause a delay to the DCO submission date. The Applicant explained that there is a low risk of further delay and was confident of a January 2023 submission date.

Stakeholder Update

The Applicant explained that post phase 3 consultation engagement had been ongoing with dialogue continuing across all stakeholder categories including site visits to the existing Cambridge waste water treatment plant. The Applicant added that the site visit included demonstrating odour treatment and how this would be improved at the new facility through design, engineering and technological choices, if consented. The Applicant noted that it has had more recent engagement with Section 42 consultee working groups (TWGs), where it had shared some chapters from the Environmental Statement with a view to gathering feedback and aiding the formation of Statements of Common Ground.

The Applicant explained that it has conducted a final series of pre-application TWGs where final drafts of relevant ES chapters were shared.

The Applicant added engagement with landowners was ongoing and constructive. The Applicant explained that it is in discussion with other landowners across the route for the proposed pipelines and connected infrastructure.

There has been further meetings with Environment Agency and they have not expressed concerns with the final design or permit applications, in part based on conclusions drawn in the Environmental Statement. The Applicant has submitted its draft final effluent permit to the Environment Agency's national permitting team. The Applicant reported some difficulties with delays on permitting due to stakeholder resource constraints with statutory undertakers meaning applications are not as progressed as far as originally aiming for prior to DCO application submission.

The Applicant confirmed to the Inspectorate that along with the draft final effluent permit already submitted it is on track to submit its IED (Industrial Emissions Directive) permit before the end of Q1 2023. The DCO application will include a Consents and Other Permits Register explaining the consents and licences required and their statuses at the point of application.

The Applicant expanded on stakeholder availability matters when asked, explaining that attendance at technical working groups and response to its final stage of consultation were not affected, however it is awaiting feedback on draft HRA documents from Natural England.

The Applicant added that it is making good progress on draft Statements of Common Ground which will continue to be developed post submission.

Payment method

The Applicant explained that it will be using BACS to provide the Acceptance fee to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate noted that it would send a fees request letter to the Applicant approximately one month prior to the DCO submission date which includes payment related

Next steps – Submission

The Applicant explained that it would be using a dedicated SharePoint site to submit the application documents to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate advised that it can be helpful to get access to the SharePoint at least two weeks in advance of the proposed DCO submission date.

The Inspectorate confirmed that it would send a Pre-submission Letter alongside the Fees Letter to the Applicant. It advised that the Pre-submission Letter contains information around submission of a GIS shapefile of the proposed redline boundary, and a request for a list of contact details of host and neighbouring Local Authorities.

The Inspectorate advised that application documents and plans should be submitted as searchable PDFs. The Inspectorate also noted that it requires a clean Microsoft Word version of the DCO and a Validation Report for the DCO.

The Inspectorate explained that if an application is received after 17:00, it is viewed as being received on the next working day. The Applicant explained that it would be in contact with the Case Team regarding the timing of the DCO submission.

The Inspectorate explained that any whole documents which need to remain confidential (such as reports on protected species) should be submitted as a separate Annex and be provided alongside a cover letter which explains why the document cannot be published. The Applicant noted that there are two documents which would need to remain confidential.

The Inspectorate queried when it should publish the application documents. The Applicant explained that it would like the application documents to be published to the National Infrastructure webpage following the close of the 28-day Acceptance Period.

The Applicant explained that the GIS shapefile of the proposed red line boundary would be submitted to the Inspectorate on the week commencing 09 January 2023. The Inspectorate advised on the timings of the GIS shapefile submission.