

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS REGULATORY

COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE HEYSHAM/M6 LINK ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMISSION ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

12th December 2011

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Policy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To authorise a response to the Infrastructure Planning Commission on the acceptability of the applicant's consultation process by 19th December 2011

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the Infrastructure Planning Commission be advised that the City Council considers that the duty to consult has been complied with.**

1.0 Introduction.

- 1.1 The revisions to the Heysham M6 Link Road which are required to reduce the costs of the scheme following the Comprehensive Spending Review have to be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission following the coming into force of the Planning Act 2008. The Commission consider the revised planning application, the side road orders and the proposals for the Compulsory Purchase Order.
- 1.2 This Council is a statutory consultee and once the application has been formally accepted will be invited to prepare and submit a Local Impact Report giving their formal views on the scheme. The Local Impact Report will be submitted to the Committee for approval prior to being sent to the Commission.
- 1.3 Before the application is formally accepted, however, the local authorities are asked to examine the developer's (in this case the County Council's) statement of community consultation. The Commission will not accept the application for examination unless it is satisfied that consultations specified in Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act have been properly carried out. This report seeks authority to respond to a consultation from the Commission on whether in the Council's view the duty to consult has been complied with. It has to be dealt with as an urgent matter because the Commission has set a deadline for a response by 19th December 2011.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 The County Council has carried out a wide range of consultation on the revised scheme since March 2011. The consultation has been with the relevant local authorities, landowners, statutory consultees, and through public consultation events. They have presented a Statement of Community Consultation which sets out the whole range of consultations which have been carried out, the responses received and the County Council's response to the issues raised.
- 2.2 Your officers have been involved in the pre application consultation and have highlighted issues with the County Council about the changes to the Shefferlands roundabout and the impact of increased traffic movements on Church Brow in Halton. These will be referred to in more detail when the Local Impact Report is placed before the Planning Committee.
- 2.3 For the purposes of this part of the process however the City Council is simply asked to confirm whether it agrees that the developer has properly undertaken consultation with the appropriate persons and it is your officers' clear view that they have.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to authorise the Head of Regeneration and Policy to inform the Infrastructure Planning Commission that the City Council agrees that the developer has complied with the duty to consult.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The report concludes that the community has been adequately consulted on the scheme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The published documentation on the revised Heysham/M6 Link scheme.

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