

Cooke, Alison(City Development)

From: Cooke, Alison(City Development) <Alison.Cooke2@york.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 July 2020 15:16
To: 'Carole Crookes'
Subject: RE: DIO letter
Attachments: RE: DIO - QEB

Dear Carole,

Many thanks for forwarding this query from the Inspectors.

I wish to reassure the Inspectors that we do intend to work with both Natural England and the DIO in the examination process and are committed to producing a Statement of Common Ground for submission with respect to the Council's HRA and its consideration of ST35 'Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall'.

Since the December hearing sessions, and the Inspectors' agreement to the production of a revised HRA, it has been the Council's intention to fully consider all of the available evidence to inform the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment. The DIO's evidence base to support their site was submitted in full as part of their hearing statement in December 2019 [EX HS M1 LR 4], which as you are aware contained a new shadow HRA, new visitor survey and the mitigation strategy. This was predominantly new evidence to the Council and therefore needed to be considered in full in the preparation of the updated HRA. As part of this, it has been appropriate for the Council to seek advice from our Visitor Survey consultants (Footprint Ecology) and Natural England on this evidence and discuss its implications for the conclusions of the updated HRA report.

The DIO's letter principally responds to Natural England's published letter regarding the DIO's submitted evidence and the Council's early draft HRA report. It had been verbally agreed by the parties that the most constructive approach would be to meet after the Council had considered the position it would take in the updated HRA, having regard to the position of Natural England and its full consideration of the evidence base. It is appropriate, of course, that the Council should have this independent assessment in the light of the DIO evidence before engaging with the DIO (and any other interested parties) and seeking to reach agreement. In correspondence in March (see attached) the Council confirmed that it had considered their evidence in full and was seeking to finalise the report prior to sharing this with them and working with them on a Statement of Common Ground. Unfortunately, the recent pandemic led to changes in the Council's processes and raised issues with consultant availability. Additionally, there have also been changes in the team following the loss of our team leader. All this has led to an unfortunate delay in progressing and finalising this work as quickly as we had intended. However the HRA is currently being finalised.

We intend to share the final version of the HRA with Natural England to give it the opportunity to express its final position and we will circulate the report to the DIO prior to submission. We will then facilitate dialogue between CYC, the DIO and Natural England with the intention of forming a three-way Statement of Common Ground, to be submitted as soon as possible. We envisage that this Statement will set out the extent to which issues have been resolved or remain in dispute, by reference to relevant aspects of the submitted final HRA.

Kind regards,
Alison

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Coronavirus update

There are a number of changes in the way the CYC Forward Planning team are working during the current Coronavirus crisis. The Forward Planning team are now working remotely away from the office. We ask that you assist in this process and communicate with us by email, and not by telephoning or posting items to the office address. If your enquiry is urgent please start the subject of your email with the word 'urgent' and where possible tick the urgent marker in options. Thank you

From: Carole Crookes <york@iposolutions.online>

Sent: 22 June 2020 15:28

To: Cooke, Alison(City Development) <Alison.Cooke2@york.gov.uk>

Subject: DIO letter

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Alison

I have received an email from the Inspectors:

“As Simon and I recall, at the Phase 1 Hearings back in December we did raise the issue of the Council needing to properly engage with Natural England and the DIO Estates on matters relating to the QE Barracks site to try to resolve issues or, at least, progress things constructively.

Having seen the recent letter from the DIO, it would seem that this has not happened. It would be helpful to us if you could please ask the Council - informally at this stage - to provide us with an indication as to why this is the case. We acknowledge that there are a number of extenuating circumstances which the Council faces at the moment. Nonetheless, this is something we would have ordinarily anticipated the Council would have done in relation to its further work ('homework') on this matter since the Phase 1 Hearings.”

Kind regards

Carole

Carole Crookes

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