



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jonathan Hill
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London, E1 8FA

Sent by email only:
Jonathan.Hill2@aeom.com

Please ask for: William Cole

Email: will.cole@levellingup.gov.uk

Your ref: R3.0138/21

Our ref: PCU/RTI/U3100/3326455

Date: 25th July 2023

Dear Mr Hill

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 77
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(England) Order 2015
Town and Country Planning (Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2000

Application by Oxford County Council c/o Jonathan Hill, AECOM (agent) for the dualling of the A4130 carriageway, construction of the Didcot Science Bridge, road bridge over the Appleford railway sidings and road bridge over the River Thames and associated works between the A34 Milton Interchange and the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire (Application no: R3.0138/21)

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the above named planning application.
2. In deciding whether to call in this application, the Secretary of State has considered his policy on calling in planning applications. This gives examples of the types of issues which may lead him to conclude, in his opinion, that the application should be called-in. In the light of his policy, the Secretary of State has decided to call-in this application. He accordingly directs, under his powers in section 77 of the 1990 Act, that the application shall be referred to him instead of being dealt with by the Local Planning Authority.
3. To consider all the relevant aspects of the proposed development, the Secretary of State has decided to hold a local inquiry. For the purposes of the 2000 Rules this letter is the “relevant notice” that an inquiry is to be held and the date of this letter is the “starting date”. All the

arrangements for holding the inquiry will be made by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

4. The Planning Inspectorate will write to you shortly about the procedure for determining the called-in application.
5. The original application, together with any plans and other documents accompanying it will need to be supplied to the Planning Inspectorate (including any related certificates and correspondence). The Inspectorate will contact you shortly to discuss this further.
6. Should you have any questions please contact the Planning Inspectorate (email Mark.Boulton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or telephone 0303 444 5239).
7. On the information so far available to the Secretary of State, the matters which he particularly wishes to be informed about for the purposes of his consideration of the application are:
 - a) The extent to which the proposed development is consistent with Government policies for delivering a sufficient supply of homes as set out in the NPPF (Chapter 5); and
 - b) The extent to which the proposed development is consistent with Government policies for building a strong, competitive economy as set out in the NPPF (Chapter 6); and
 - c) The extent to which the proposed development is consistent with the development plan for the area; and
 - d) any other matters the Inspector considers relevant.
8. This is to be taken as the Secretary of State's statement under rule 6(12) of the 2000 Rules.
9. In accordance with rule 6(1) and (2), the local planning authority shall ensure that two copies of a statement of case are received by the Secretary of State, and one copy has been received by any statutory party as defined in rule 2 within six weeks of the starting date (unless the Planning Inspectorate notifies you otherwise - you may wish to contact them). Your attention is drawn to rule 6(11). The Secretary of State will comply with rule 6(4).
10. Your attention is also drawn to the provisions in rule 14 of the 2000 Rules that the local planning authority and the applicant shall together prepare an agreed statement of common ground and ensure that a copy is received by the Secretary of State (at the Planning Inspectorate) and any statutory party receives a copy within 6 weeks of the starting date (unless the Planning Inspectorate notifies you otherwise as the bespoke arrangements will apply – you may wish to contact them).

11. If you are proposing to give, or call a person to give, evidence at the inquiry by reading a written statement (i.e. proof of evidence) your attention is drawn to rule 13.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Lynch

**Andrew Lynch – Decision Officer
Planning Casework Unit
Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**

This decision was made by the Minister of State for Housing on behalf of the Secretary of State and signed on his behalf.