

6. North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP)

Highlights

- The examination process for the Authority's application for a Development Consent Order for the North London Heat and Power Project took place from February to August 2016.
- The Examining Authority submitted its report on the application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in November 2016, and the Secretary of State made the decision to grant development consent to the project in February 2017.
- The Authority is now considering the appropriate contracting structure and procurement strategy for delivering the project, while finalising property negotiations and compulsory acquisition of interests, as set out in the DCO itself.

Overview

- 6.1** The North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) (the Project) comprises the construction and operation of an energy recovery facility (ERF) and associated development to replace the existing energy from waste (EfW) facility at the Edmonton EcoPark. The EfW facility is expected to reach the end of its operational life around 2025.
- 6.2** Associated development for the Project includes:
- a resource recovery centre, including a reuse and recycling centre, transfer hall, and bulky waste/fuel preparation facility;
 - EcoPark House, an administrative building and visitor's centre that will also house the Edmonton Sea Cadets;
 - new internal weighbridges, roads, and parking areas;
 - hard and soft landscaping;
 - new site access points from Lee Park Way to the east of the site and Deephams Farm Road to the north of the site; and decommissioning and demolition of the existing EfW facility.
- 6.3** The ERF will have a capacity of 700,000 tonnes of waste each year and will generate 70 megawatts of energy. This energy could be directed into the national grid to provide electricity and produce an income, as happens with the existing EfW facility.
- 6.4** Some of the heat generated by the ERF could be delivered as heat through pipes to a local heat network for the area. This would require a local scheme to be put in place, such as the Lee Valley Heat Network being promoted by LB Enfield.
- 6.5** Works on the application site are scheduled to begin in 2019, with construction of the ERF to take place between 2022 and 2024. During 2025 there will then be a transition period between the existing EfW facility and the ERF. The existing EfW facility will be decommissioned and demolished between 2026 and 2028.

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Development Consent Order – background

- 6.6** As the new ERF will produce more than 50 megawatts of energy it is a nationally significant infrastructure project in planning terms. The Authority therefore applied to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO) rather than applying to the local council for planning permission.
- 6.7** Prior to submitting its application for a DCO, the Authority undertook two phases of public consultation to gain feedback on its proposals. A project website (northlondonheatandpower.london) was set up to act as a hub for information on the Project, and to host the consultation questionnaires. The consultation responses received were taken into account when finalising the DCO application, which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in October 2015.
- 6.8** PINS then appointed an Examining Authority to inspect the application and sought representations from statutory consultees, who consisted of relevant public authorities and local residents and businesses. The representations submitted set out some of the issues that were addressed during the examination process.
- 6.9** Examination began in February 2016. It was mostly a written process, and involved the Examining Authority circulating sets of questions for the Authority and other interested parties to respond to. The Examining Authority also participated in two visits to the application site and held five public hearings. The hearings comprised two issue specific hearings on the drafting of the DCO, a hearing on compulsory acquisition powers, and two open floor hearings where any interested party could raise an issue. All written representations and recordings of all hearings are available on the Project's section of the National Infrastructure Planning website (infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk).
- 6.10** The examination concluded in August 2016, after which the Examining Authority submitted a report on the application to the Secretary of State in November of that year. The Secretary of State published his decision to grant the DCO in February 2017.

Next steps

- 6.11** The Authority and its advisers have conducted a detailed review of the changes made to the DCO as granted. During the course of 2017 it will consider the appropriate contracting structure and procurement strategy for delivering the Project. This will involve developing the cost and risk work previously undertaken, and developing a detailed programme based on the timeline set out in the DCO application.
- 6.12** In the meantime the Authority is finalising the property negotiations and compulsory acquisition of interests required for delivery of the Project, and beginning early technical delivery work, including site investigations.
- 6.13** In 2018 the Authority will make a decision on the procurement strategy for the ERF itself. In order to make this decision it will conduct a consultation exercise on how it executes its statutory waste disposal functions, including whether it is best to maintain public sector delivery or move to private sector delivery.