

**Notice of Acceptance of Application for a Development Consent Order by the Planning Inspectorate Under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008**  
**The Portishead Branch Line (Metrowest Phase 1) Order**  
**Application Reference: TR040011**  
**Regulation 9 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended)**  
**Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport) has accepted the application made by North Somerset District Council (**the Applicant**) of Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ for a Development Consent Order (**DCO**) under the Planning Act 2008 (**the Application**). The Application was made on 15 November 2019 and accepted for examination on 12 December 2019 (Reference: TR040011).

**Summary of the Project**

The Application relates to the re-opening for passenger services of the railway branch line between Portishead and Pill, North Somerset, and to works to improve the existing railway line between Pill and Ashton Junction, Bristol (**the Project**). The Project is part of the MetroWest programme to enhance the West of England's local rail network. The Applicant is the promoter of the Project on behalf of itself and the West of England Combined Authority.

The proposed DCO would, amongst other things, authorise the following:

1. Construction of a 5.4km railway line from Portishead to Pill.
2. A new railway station at Portishead, including a car park, pedestrian and cycle access, and associated highways works.
3. A pedestrian bridge over the Portishead branch line near Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School, Portishead.
4. A permanent compound and rail access point at Sheepway, on the northern side of the Portishead branch line and western side of Sheepway.
5. A temporary compound and haul road south of the Portishead branch line and north of the Portbury Hundred highway.
6. Works to the existing bridleway forming part of the National Cycle Network Route 26 between Portishead and Pill.
7. Temporary compounds and haul roads north of the Portishead branch line on the north side of and beneath the M5 Motorway.
8. A temporary compound and haul road between the Portishead branch line and Lodway Close, Pill.
9. Re-opening the railway station at Pill, including a car park, pedestrian and cycle access, and associated highways works.
10. Works to the existing Portbury Freight Line between Royal Portbury Dock and Ashton Junction, Bristol, including repairs and/or modifications to bridges, tunnels, culverts and retaining walls, as well as replacement of track, sleepers and ballast.
11. A permanent compound at Chapel Pill Lane, Ham Green, Pill.
12. A new compound and permanent railway access at Clanage Road, Bower Ashton.

13. A new pedestrian ramp next to the existing railway in the vicinity of the existing Ashton Vale Road level crossing.
14. Closure of the footpath crossing over the existing railway at Barons Close in Bristol.
15. The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights for the Project.
16. Powers for permanent traffic regulation orders on highways and streets.
17. Powers for both permanent and temporary stopping up of streets, and temporary stopping up of public rights of way'.
18. Overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land for the Project.
19. Extinguishment of accommodation crossings.
20. The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including legislation relating to compulsory purchase and North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board Byelaws 2004.
21. Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and accordingly an Environmental Statement accompanied the Application.

A hard copy of the full suite of Application documents, including plans, maps and other documents may be inspected free of charge from 14 January 2020 until at least 26 February 2020 at the following locations, open during the hours set out below:

Portishead Library, Horatio House, 24 Harbour Road, Portishead BS20 7AL  
Tue-Fri: 9.30am-5pm (the second Thursday of every month: 10am-5pm)  
Sat: 9:30am-1pm  
Sun-Mon: Closed

The Pill Resource Centre, 4 Baltic Place, Pill BS20 0EJ  
Mon, Wed-Thu: 9.30am-3.30pm  
Tue: 9.30am-5pm  
Fri: 10am-12.30pm  
Sat: 10am-12pm  
Sun: Closed

Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TL  
Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30am-5pm  
Tue, Thu: 9.30am-7pm  
Sat: 10am-5pm  
Sun: 1pm-5pm

The opening times of the locations listed are at the discretion of those in control of the building and could vary to the times set out in this notice. The organisations and locations providing access to documentation are not in any way affiliated with the Project or the Applicant and are an independent and neutral party to the application process.

Copies of the documents are also available online to view through the Planning Inspectorate's website at:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portishead-branch-line-metrowest-phase-1/>.

Paper copies can be provided on request from the Applicant at the address above for a charge of £500 plus VAT for the full suite of documents. USB device copies can be provided free of charge and are available on request from the Applicant by emailing [metrowest@westofengland.org](mailto:metrowest@westofengland.org) or calling 01174 286 210.

Any responses to, or other representations in respect of, the Project must be made on a Registration and Relevant Representation Form which can be completed online at:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portishead-branch-line-metrowest-phase-1/>.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to fill in a hard copy paper form you can contact the Planning Inspectorate to request one by calling 0303 444 5000. Completed forms should be returned to The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. The Planning Inspectorate reference for the Application (TR040011) should be quoted in any correspondence.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notice 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination provides further guidance on how to register and make a relevant representation and can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>.

If your interests in land are not affected or your organisation is not on a list of prescribed bodies, please note that if you want to remain informed of the examination process and entitled to make representations you must fill in a Registration and Relevant Representation Form to register as an interested party even if you do not wish to make a substantive representation at this point. Any representation or response must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 11:59pm on 26th February 2020.

Please be aware that the Planning Inspectorate is required by law to make the information that you provide in any representation publicly available.

James Willcock  
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North Somerset District Council