

**Sections 93 and 94 Planning Act 2008
Rule 13(6) Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Notification Open Floor Hearing
The Portishead Branch Line (Metrowest Phase 1) Order
Application Reference: TR040011**

Notice is hereby given that the following hearings will be held by the Examining Authority for the examination of the application made by North Somerset Council (the Applicant) of Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ, for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under sections 14, 25 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Application). The Application was made on 15 November 2019 and accepted on 12 December 2019 (reference: TR040011). The open floor hearing will be held as indicated below.

Hearing: Open Floor Hearing

Date: Monday 19 October 2020

Time: Joining available from 6pm, hearing starts at 6.30pm

Venue: Remotely through digital device or telephone

A link to observe the live open floor hearing will be made available online via the National Infrastructure Planning website shortly before the meeting is due to start.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portisheadbranch-line-metrowest-phase-1/?ipcsection=overview>

A copy of the agenda for the meeting has been published on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portishead-branch-line-metrowestphase-1/?ipcsection=overview>

Interested parties are required to register their request to be heard orally at the open floor hearing in advance. Please check the National Infrastructure Planning Website for details:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/South%20West/Portishead-Branch-Line-MetroWest-Phase-1/>

The Application relates to the re-opening for passenger services of the railway branch line between Portishead and Pill, North Somerset, and for 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. The 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 in 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 which includes 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 Aston Vale Road Level Crossing.
14. The 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 of 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 acquisition 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 proposed works are 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.

In light of the current public health situation surrounding coronavirus, it is recommended that copies of the application documents are viewed online 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 by emailing: metrowest@westofengland.org or by calling 01174 286 210 for a charge of £500 (plus VAT) for the full suite of documents. USB device copies can be provided free of charge, on request. Electronic copies of the full suite of application documents can be viewed, free of charge, at the locations below.

Access to view the full suite of application documents is more restricted at the present time as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The current opening times for the locations are as listed below but these may be subject to change or additional limitations. We would recommend that you check with the relevant location before attending. You may need to bring identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

Library locations and opening times:

Portishead Library, Horatio House, 24 Harbour Road, Portishead BS20 7AL – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 4.30pm (times are by appointment only)

Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TL – Monday to Saturday 11am to 4pm (appointment only)

Weston-super-Mare Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ – Monday to Friday 11am - 3.30pm (appointment only)

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. These times may also be subject to local changes in an attempt to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its public health requirements. Please consider the need to visit the locations and check the current timings with the locations before you attend.

During the current COVID-19 period, in the interests of public health, the Planning Inspectorate should be contacted by written electronic form via the following email address: Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or via telephone on 0303 444 5000. Any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about the Project should be marked 'FAO MetroWest Phase 1 Case Team' with the application reference TR040011.