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INTRODUCTION

- 9.1 Annex B to TAN 21 requires a description of the consultation undertaken by the applicant.
- 9.2 Consultation has been carried out by the applicant on several levels:
- pre-application consultation with the Local Planning Authority and stakeholders;
 - scoping of the EIA;
 - community engagement; and
 - stakeholder briefings.
- 9.3 Appended to this chapter (Appendix 9/1) is a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) prepared by Camargue.

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

- 9.4 The applicant, together with SLR, has had several meetings with an officer from the North Wales Minerals and Waste Planning Service (NWM&WPS).
- 9.5 Initial meetings were held to informally scope the nature of the planning application required for the delivery of Parc Adfer. The purpose of the meetings has been to introduce the project, including details of the design for the ERF, and to begin to scope out the content of the future planning application and EIA, and in particular, flag up any potential risks. The meetings also served to identify key issues and to discuss the favoured approaches to adopt in respect of consultation with stakeholders.
- 9.6 The meetings were held on 3 October 2012, 19 February 2013 and 17 May 2013.
- 9.7 Based on the advice of the officer, the applicant met with the NWM&WPS and key consultees/stakeholders on 6 March 2014. Represented at the meeting were:
- NRW (Planning Liaison, Ecology, Pollution Control)
 - FCC Highways
 - FCC Design
 - FCC Pollution Control
 - FCC Ecology
 - FCC Contaminated Land
- 9.8 Again, the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project, including details of the design for the ERF, and to informally scope out the content of the future planning application and EIA prior to submission of a formal scoping request (see below). The meeting also served to open up lines of communication to enable technical specialists from SLR to discuss assessment methodology with the relevant regulator/stakeholder.

SCOPING

- 9.9 A formal scoping exercise has been undertaken to focus the EIA. A request for a scoping opinion was submitted to Flintshire County Council on 14 April 2014; this request was accompanied by an appraisal of the likely significant environmental effects.
- 9.10 As part of the scoping process, Flintshire County Council consulted with the following organisations:
- *Flintshire County Council Internal Consultees:-*
 - County Ecologist;
 - Head of Assets and Transportation
 - Environmental Protection;
 - Conservation and Design
 - Regional Emergency Planning Manager
 - *External Consultees*
 - Network Rail – Asset Protection Team
 - Aerodrome Safeguarding; Airbus
 - National Grid UK Transmission
 - SP Energy Networks
 - British Pipelines Agency
 - Connah's Quay Town Council
 - Natural Resources Wales
 - Clwyd and Powys Archeological Trust
 - Flintshire County Council Drainage
 - Cadw; Plas Carew
 - Dŵr Cymru
 - North East Wales Wildlife Trust
 - Dee Wildflower and Wetlands Management club
 - Design Commission for Wales
 - Wales and West Utilities
 - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- 9.11 Flintshire County Council issued its formal scoping opinion on 30 May 2014. A copy of the scoping opinion is included in Appendix 1/1 to Volume 2, whilst Table 1-1 in Chapter 1 of Volume 2 provides a summary of the scoping opinion along with commentary on any points arising and where in the ES the matters are addressed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 9.12 A programme of community engagement was prepared by the applicant with the assistance of Camargue.
- 9.13 Community engagement was discussed with NWM&WPS's planning officer at the meeting held on 6 March 2014. From this it was ascertained that the Council does not have any particular protocols or guidance on community engagement.

- 9.14 A Statement of Community Involvement was prepared by Camargue and discussed with the officer from NWM&WPS.
- 9.15 From May 19 to July 11, the applicant conducted a programme of pre-application community consultation. This consultation was built around six public exhibitions held at a range of locations across Deeside / Connah's Quay. The applicant also held an event in Burton to gather views and answer questions from people living on the Cheshire side of the border.
- 9.16 The consultation was publicised by sending a community newsletter to 13,000 addresses across Deeside and West Cheshire. In addition, the applicant placed advertisements in the Flintshire Chronicle and Flintshire Leader newspapers; backed up with a press release and media interviews across the whole North Wales region. Letters were sent directly to community group representatives and councillors across the Deeside area and a 'reminder' postcard was issued in the days before the first event. The applicant also created A4 posters, which were displayed in the vicinity of the exhibition venues.
- 9.17 The turnout varied over the six events with a total of 182 registered attendees, split as follows:
- Day 1 – Deeside College – 11 to stakeholder preview, 32 to afternoon session – 43
 - Day 2 – Connah's Quay Civic Hall – 13
 - Day 3 – Connah's Quay Town Council – 29
 - Day 4 – Gladstone Village Hall – 52
 - Day 5 – Days Hotel – 30
 - Day 6 – Deeside Leisure Centre – 15
- 9.18 The questions received throughout the six events were largely as expected from previous experiences gained from similar proposed ERF developments. Air quality and traffic management were consistently raised by most visitors, while in Burton, there was also focus on noise, visual impact and the effect any facility may have on property prices. The 'why put it here?' question was also raised by many but again, was particularly prevalent from those in Burton.

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

- 9.19 The applicant has held a number of briefings involving the following parties:
- Local MPs
 - Assembly Members
 - Council Members
 - Local business
- 9.20 Details are set out in the SCI (Appendix 9/1).
- 9.21 A morning exhibition and presentation to members at Flintshire County Council, ahead of their Full Council meeting was held in June.

- 9.22 In addition to the applicant's liaison with community groups, councils and the public the applicant has also been engaging with the business community, attending meetings/events organised by CBI Wales and presenting to members of the DIP Business Forum. The applicant continues to engage with this important audience group as it starts to consider its "*Meet the Buyer events*" scheduled for the autumn.