

**SUBMISSION OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 8 OF PLANNING
PERMISSION REFERENCE S/0461/14/CW: LAND ADJACENT TO ROYSTON
SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, A505, MELBOURN, ROYSTON SG8 5JT**

APPLICANT: WINTERS HAULAGE LIMITED

LPA REF: S/0461/14/CW/C1

To: **Planning Committee**

Date: **26 March 2015**

From: **Head of Growth & Economy**

Electoral division(s): **Melbourn / Bassingbourn**

Purpose: **To consider the details submitted pursuant to condition 8
of the planning permission**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the details be approved.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In March 2014, Winters Haulage Limited applied for planning permission (under reference S/0461/14/CW) to construct and operate a waste recycling facility for inert construction and demolition waste on land adjacent to the Royston Sewage Treatment Works (STW), which is located off the A505 Royston Bypass to the north of Royston. The boundary between Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire runs along the northern side of the A505, so that the access to the application site falls within Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The site is presently served by the existing STW access road, which consists of a 5m wide tarmacked road connecting to the eastbound carriageway of the A505 between its junctions with the A1198 Old North Road and the A10. The junction of the access road and the A505 has a short deceleration lane, allowing vehicles leaving the A505 to slow down before turning into the site access. Vehicles leaving the access road and joining the A505 have to do so by turning sharp left, as this junction has no acceleration lane.
- 1.3 At the Planning Committee meeting on 17th July 2014, Members resolved to grant planning permission subject to 18 conditions, which included a requirement to submit details of the proposed site access improvements at the junction of the site access road and the A505 Royston Bypass for approval to the County Council as waste planning authority, acting in consultation with Hertfordshire County Council as highway authority. Members requested that such details be reported to the planning committee for approval, rather than being approved under officer delegation.

2.0 THE SUBMITTED DETAILS

- 2.1 Condition 8 of planning permission S/0461/14/CW states:

The development hereby permitted shall not commence until details of the proposed access improvements at the junction with the A505 have been submitted for approval by the Waste Planning Authority acting in consultation with Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority. The submitted scheme shall consider the need for an improved deceleration lane and provision of an acceleration lane at the junction.

- 2.2 The details of the site access design submitted with the planning application proposed the deceleration lane to be lengthened to 70m and the kerb radii in the turn to be improved, thereby widening the site access and allowing more space for vehicles to turn into and out of the site access road. The transport statement which accompanied the application contained preliminary drawings showing the principle of the proposed improvements.

- 2.3 In the information submitted pursuant to condition 8, the applicant advises that the design of the proposed junction improvements had been the subject of a Stage 1 road safety audit (RSA) by Hertfordshire Highways as the highway authority responsible for the A505. The audit report found the proposed improvements acceptable subject to the deceleration lane being extended and other details being incorporated, but did not raise a specific need for an acceleration lane onto the A505.
- 2.4 The applicant's initial design proposal for the site access was submitted to Hertfordshire County Council as highway authority by the applicant's highways consultants. Hertfordshire County Council then carried out a Stage 1 RSA. In order to address the RSA's recommendations, the applicant submitted an amended scheme which included changes to the site access design along with supporting speed surveys and a Technical Note.
- 2.5 The main focus of the RSA was the design of the deceleration lane. The construction of an acceleration lane was also considered during negotiations, but this was deemed to have a higher risk profile than the current practice of allowing vehicles egressing from the site and joining the A505 to wait for a suitable gap in traffic. The applicant states that in essence, the provision of a slip road onto a busy road, and without the ability to make it long enough, would run the risk of traffic stranded on the on-slip due to an inability to get up to matching speed to safely join traffic on the main road. The current arrangement was deemed to be a safer arrangement than a slip road where vehicles would be moving too slowly to safely join the traffic flow and could be stranded in the slip road or merge lane.
- 2.6 An additional reason for not providing an acceleration lane is the topography of the surrounding area. The land immediately to the north of the main eastbound carriageway of the A505 is about 3 metres below the level of the carriageway. Consequently there is insufficient space available to widen the carriageway and incorporate a slip road.
- 2.7 Officers of Hertfordshire County Council as the highway authority confirm the result of discussions which have taken place with the applicant's highways consultants, being that providing an 'on-slip' or acceleration lane for HGV leaving the site may inadvertently result in conflict between emerging HGVs and traffic in lane 1 of the A505, and that this option was therefore discounted. Furthermore, the RSA discusses proposed egress amendments which include geometry alteration. Hertfordshire County Council as the highway authority is satisfied that the concept of a give-way only egress is acceptable, and that the site would also be subject to additional Safety Audit processes once the applicant has entered into an agreement under S.278 of the Highways Act 1980 for modifications to the highway network to construct the deceleration lane.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the information submitted by the applicant pursuant to condition 8 is noted and the proposed site access improvements are approved.

Source Documents	Location
Planning application file S/0461/14/CW/C1 Planning permission file S/0461/14/CW	http://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display