

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Ref: tba
Elmbridge Borough Council Ref: 2017/2110
Runnymede Borough Council Ref: RU.17/0991
Spelthorne Borough Council Ref: 17/01064/EIAS
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Ref: tba
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Ref: tba
[Surrey CC EIA Case: 017-033]



County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DN

Ms Kerry Quinton
Principal Environmental Scientist
GBV JV Ltd
60 High Street
Redhill
Surrey RH1 1SH

6 July 2017

Dear Ms Quinton,

Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Request for an extension of time for the preparation & adoption of a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15

PROPOSAL: River Thames Scheme Capacity Improvements & Flood Channel Project – involving:

- 1) **Construction of three main flood relief channels & associated works, to be located in:**
 - a) **The area for which the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead is the planning authority (Channel 1)**
 - b) **The area for which Runnymede Borough Council is the planning authority (Channel 2)**
 - c) **The area for which Spelthorne Borough Council is the planning authority (Channel 3)**
- 2) **Widening of the Desborough Cut & improvements to Sunbury Weir in the area for which Elmbridge Borough Council is the planning authority; &**
- 3) **Improvements to Molesey Weir & Teddington Weir, & the creation of a flood storage area at Ham Lands in the area for which the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames is the planning authority.**

PROPONENT: Environment Agency

1. I am writing in connection with your letter dated 16 June 2017, submitted on behalf of the Environment Agency and requesting an EIA scoping opinion under Regulation 15 of the above regulations in respect of the proposed construction of a flood alleviation scheme on land situated in Berkshire, Surrey and Greater London. It is our understanding that the Environment Agency is seeking a single EIA scoping opinion that covers the whole of the scheme, although planning permission for the scheme would be sought by means of the parallel submission of multiple planning applications to up to seven separate planning authorities.

2. In order to facilitate the preparation of a single EIA scoping opinion for the whole of the scheme it will be necessary to achieve agreement on the content of that opinion from all of the seven separate planning authorities to whom applications may be submitted. For that to be achieved the planning authorities are in agreement that a greater period of time than that allowed by the EIA Regulations (5 weeks) will be required. A longer period of time is also considered to be necessary to give those bodies and individuals who may wish to comment on the proposed scope of the EIA work to do so.
3. We are seeking a period of time of 16 weeks for the preparation and adoption of the EIA scoping opinion for the proposed scheme, commencing on the date on which your request was originally received (19 June 2017). That would give a deadline for adoption of the scoping opinion by all seven planning authorities of 2 October 2017. We appreciate that this is a substantially longer period of time than is allowed under the regulations, but given the complexity of the scheme and the number of planning authorities involved, consider such a period to be necessary.
4. We would be grateful if you could put our request to your client, and advise us of their response in due course. We would also draw your attention to the provisions of regulation 15(7), which allows for requests to be made to the Secretary of State for an EIA scoping direction (under regulation 16(1)), in those circumstances where the planning authority has not been able to adopt an EIA scoping opinion within the specified period of 5 weeks.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jessica Salder

Principal Environmental Assessment Officer – Surrey County Council

By e-mail only