

# Meeting: EWR/Bedford Borough Council – DCO Process Presentation

**Held on:** Monday 9 March (10:00 – 11:00)

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**Location:** Microsoft Teams

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**Attendees:**

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- Joanne Branson-Budd (JBB)
- Antigua Riley-Corion (ARC)
- Sarah Combes (SC)

Representatives also from EWR Co

**Meeting objectives:** To provide Bedford Borough Council (BBC) with a presentation on the DCO process, following from recent changes to legislation, due to the Planning and Infrastructure Act (2025)

## Meeting minutes:

Item	Text	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting started with EWR Co welcoming BBC and introducing the new EWR Programme Development Manager for the Bedford area.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Pre-Application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EWR Co presented detail on the DCO pre-application stage</li> <li>• JBB asked if the slides can be shared to be published on the BBC’s website as per their commitment</li> <li>• JBB flagged the anticipated August 2027 submission date for the DCO was not previously cascaded to BBC</li> <li>• JBB asked if this will be a single DCO submission or by section, to which EWR Co confirmed it will be a single submission</li> <li>• EWR Co presented the roles and responsibilities for both applicant and Local Planning Authority (LPA)</li> <li>• <b>Action: EWR Co to check internally if the DCO presentation slides can be shared with BBC</b></li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Consultation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JBB raised concern if the safeguarding zone will change again at the next consultation and if there are any bad news stories, with BBC wanting to know beforehand</li> </ul>	

Item	Text	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARC raised that they want to get more detail on the landowner impacts as they were not told about properties owned by BBC (such as Rayleigh Centre) prior to raising an FOI</li> <li><b>Action: EWR Co to confirm whether the safeguarding zone will change again in the lead up to consultation</b></li> <li><b>Action: EWR Co to look into arranging a consultation pre-briefing for BBC to allow time for BBC to review materials and alleviate local concerns about the consultation being a token exercise</b></li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Post-Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARC asked if there could be another follow up session on the post-application process once guidance has been published by the government.</li> <li><b>Action: EWR Co to look into arranging a follow up once more guidance has been published on the DCO application</b></li> <li><b>Action: EWR Co to recirculate the LA Forum slides for DCO submission date</b></li> </ul>	

## Action log:

Action	Action Owner
1. EWR Co to check internally if the DCO presentation slides can be shared with BBC	<b>EWR Co</b>
2. EWR Co to confirm whether the safeguarding zone will change again in the lead up to consultation	<b>EWR Co</b>
3. EWR Co to look into arranging a consultation pre-briefing for BBC to allow time for BBC to review materials and alleviate local concerns about the consultation being a token exercise	<b>EWR Co</b>
4. EWR Co to look into arranging a follow up once more guidance has been published on the DCO application	<b>EWR Co</b>
5. EWR Co to recirculate the LA Forum slides for DCO submission date	<b>EWR Co</b>