

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Delivering clean growth



Technical Note

Warrington Local Plan 2021-2038 Position Statement

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Cadent Gas is in the process of developing proposals for the HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project (the “Project”). The Project will see the construction and operation of the UK’s first 100 percent hydrogen pipeline at scale. It will deliver hydrogen to multiple industrial users and power generators plus potential blending points to accommodate the potential use of a mix of hydrogen and natural gas into the existing gas network.
- 1.1.2 The Project is one part of the wider ‘HyNet North West’ programme that will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capture and store carbon from industry in the North West of England and North Wales.
- 1.1.3 The Project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of up to 125km of new pipeline together with a number of Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) which are required to control the flow and pressure of hydrogen. The project passes through six local planning authority areas.
- 1.1.4 The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has issued a Section 35 direction to confirm that the Project is of national significance and as such consent would be granted by the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order.
- 1.1.5 It was proposed to commence Statutory Consultation on 12 September 2022 and publicity was undertaken reflective of this. However, due to the Queen’s passing, the formal period of Statutory Consultation will now begin on 29 September and this will end on 10 November 2022. Plans issued at Statutory Consultation relate to the Preliminary Order Limits. It is acknowledged that consultation may give rise to matters that relate to the routeing of the Project that will need to be considered when defining the final order limits prior to the submission of the application. Cadent’s processes and timeframes allow for modifications where necessary and appropriate. The intention is that a DCO application will be submitted in Spring 2023 with construction commencing in 2025 should consent be granted. The Project has been identified by the Government as an accelerated project.

2. Project Evolution

- 2.1.1 Project design commenced with the identification of the Project users, i.e. suppliers of hydrogen and end customers. Following this process of identification, desk based environmental and technical information was used to identify strategic corridors. Once confirmed, these corridors were subjected to EIA scoping and also to a period of Non-Statutory Consultation. Comments received were then used to refine the approach to EIA and also to inform the refinement of the corridors into Preliminary Order Limits. It is these Preliminary Order Limits which are the subject of Statutory Consultation.

3. Cadent and Warrington Borough Council

- 3.1.1 Within Warrington BC’s previous representations which were submitted during the earlier stage of Non-Statutory Consultation on the Strategic Route Corridors, a

request was made to take into account emerging local plan policies. Cadent and Warrington Borough Council are committed to working together to review the Preliminary Order Limits as they apply to Warrington Borough Council's administrative boundary, having regard to the extent to which land may be identified for development, either as a result of a planning application/consent or as a result of its allocation in an adopted or emerging local plan. This will have particular regard to Warrington Waterfront and Fiddlers Ferry (Policies MD1 and MD3 respectively, Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan Policy MD3).

3.1.2 The final Order Limits are capable of being refined so as to minimise impact on land identified for development, such that Cadent and Warrington BC are confident that the Project can be routed and sited and/or the proposed allocated sites designed so that the implementation of sites allocated and proposed to be allocated for development are not compromised. Cadent is engaged in technical discussion with Warrington Borough Council and relevant landowners and is committed to continue these discussions in order to finalise the routing and siting of the Project ahead of application submission.