

PLANNING COMMITTEE

(REMOTELY VIA TEAMS)

Members Present:

27 July 2021

Chairperson: Councillor S.Paddison

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.Pursey

Councillors: D.Keogh, R.Mizen, S.Bamsey, R.Davies,
S.K.Hunt, A.N.Woolcock and S.Renkes

UDP/LDP Member: Councillor A.Wingrave

Local Members: Councillor D.Cawsey

Officers In Attendance: S.Ball, M.Shaw, R.MacGregor, J.Griffiths,
S.Evans, D.Thomas, G.White and T.Davies

Representing ARUP (Agent): D.Brown

Representing Welsh Government (Applicant): S.Jones

1. **TO REQUEST SITE VISIT(S) FROM THE APPLICATIONS PRESENTED**

RESOLVED: That no site visits be held on the applications before committee today.

2. **APPLICATION NO. P2021/0327 - GLOBAL CENTRE OF RAIL EXCELLENCE**

Officers made a presentation to the Planning Committee on this Application (Development of a Global Centre of Rail Excellence, comprising of two test tracks of loop configuration being an electrified high speed rolling stock test track of 6.9km in length and an electrified

low speed infrastructure test track of 4.5km, with overhead line equipment (OLE) and dual platform station test environment; together with operations and control offices (including staff accommodation and welfare), shunter cabins (2 no.), research and development, education and training, rolling stock storage sidings and maintenance/cleaning/decommissioning facilities; and associated, drainage, internal vehicular accesses, branch line rail connection, staff and visitor car parking, lighting, electrical infrastructure (including substations and lineside shore supplies and transformers), fencing (perimeter security, acoustic and stock proof), land reformation and hard and soft landscaping, together with demolition of existing buildings/structures (cross-boundary application affecting land within Neath Port Talbot and Powys County Council administrative boundaries) - see Powys CC Application ref. 21/0559/OUT) at Land at and surrounding the Nant Helen Open Cast Coal Site, Powys, and Onllwyn Distribution Centre, Neath Port Talbot.) as detailed in the circulated report.

The Agent and Applicant both spoke on the application. The Local Ward Member was supportive of the application.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Officers' recommendations, and the conditions detailed in the circulated report, Application No. P2021/0327 be approved.

CHAIRPERSON