

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Our ref: Sunnica Energy Farm
Contact: Julie Barrow

By email:
Sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

5 August 2022

Dear Mr Kean,

EN010106 – Sunnica Energy Farm – Procedural Deadline B

West Suffolk Council Unique Reference Number 20031311

This is the response of West Suffolk Council to the matters outlined in the Examining Authority's letter of 28 July 2022 as being required by Procedural Deadline B.

The Council agrees that it is not appropriate to start the Examination prior to the submission of the Applicants Change Request. The delay to proceedings has had resource implications for the authority, however, it is imperative that all relevant information is available prior to the Examination commencing.

The Council considers that sufficient time should be allowed between the submission of the CR and the ExA's assessment of the materiality of the changes and procedural decision whether to accept the CR and the deadline for the submission of the LIR. The four host authorities require sufficient time for technical officers to assess the changes and prepare the LIR accordingly. WSC considers that a period of at least 3 to 4 weeks should be allowed for all Statutory Parties and IPs to assess the changes should they be accepted.

Based upon the above the Council consider that the deadline for the submission of the LIR should be no earlier than the end of September should the ExA be minded to start the Examination in early September.

The Council would request that consideration is given to the representations made by the Statutory Parties and IPs at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 in connection with the democratic procedures to be followed to agree the content of the Written Representation. Whilst West Suffolk Council has delegated authority in this regard, our preference where time allows would be to seek approval of the

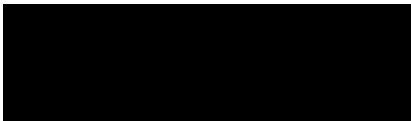
Written Representation by Cabinet. At present Cabinet is due to meet on 18 October and therefore a deadline for submission of the Written Representation is required beyond this date.

The Council wishes to highlight that the Case Officer and Lead Legal Officer for this matter are engaged in a public inquiry from 13 September to 28 September. The Council's legal advisers are also engaged in another hearing on 18 October. Could this please be taken into account when setting dates for the Preliminary Meeting and any Issue Specific Hearings and Open Floor Hearings.

The Council notes it is likely the Examination will be held over the Christmas period. This will present challenges in terms of resources and staff availability. It may also present similar issues for other interested parties. Whilst we will endeavour to meet deadlines over this period, we ask consideration is given to this when drafting a new timetable.

It should be noted that the Council will be in Purdah in from around 21 March 2023 until the elections in 2023. While Council business will continue in this period it may restrict the decisions that the Council may be able to take.

Yours sincerely



Julie Baird,
Director, Planning & Growth