

Chelmsford City Council

LOSF - 002

Written Summary of Comments made during ISH2 (Environmental Matters) Hearing 29th September 2022

Longfield Solar Farm

Written summary of comments made by Ruth Mabbutt, Senior Planning Officer / Planning Lead for Chelmsford City Council (CCC).

Main discussion points

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Policy

1. RM agreed to provide the Inspector a copy of the Adopted Chelmsford Solar Farm Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
2. In relation to the temporary nature of the development. RM referred to paragraph 6.145 of the Chelmsford City Council Local Impact Report.
3. RM stated whilst the proposal was not for the permanent loss of Best and Most Versatile land, the forty-year timeframe would not be perceived by those who frequent the area as being temporary. i.e., the perception of the loss of agricultural land may not be considered temporary.

Battery technology/safety

1. In response to the Inspectors request for CCC's views on battery safety, RM referred to paragraph 6.289 of the Chelmsford City Council Local Impact Report.
2. RM stated that CCC raised no objections in principle to the proposed battery safety measures. However, she, nor the Local Planning Authority was not an expert in this matter. Therefore, RM will be guided by the views of other stakeholders such as the Health and Safety Executive on the on the acceptability of the safety measures.
3. RM noted that the submission of a Battery Safety Management Plan is listed as a 'requirement'. RM stated CCC will be guided by the relevant stakeholder regarding the acceptability of this plan in respect of battery safety and operation.

Other Matters

Field PDA1 & River Ter mitigation planting

1. Further to matters raised by Mr Sam Griffiths regarding the starting of pre planting works, RM asked whether an application for planning permission would be made in respect of the enabling/pre-planting works.
2. RM noted Mr Richard Griffiths response that planning permission was not required application for the pre planting.
3. RM asked whether there will be other enabling works/advance works as part of the proposal and asked if notice could be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.
4. RM noted Mr Griffiths response that no further enabling works were proposed.