

Longfield Solar Farm

Braintree District Council Statement

Unique Reference: LOSF- 0003

Deadline 4 Submission – BDC Comment in Relation to Submission made by the Applicant at Deadline 3.

This statement relates to the Oral Hearing of the 29th September 2022 (ref). The written summary of comments submitted by Braintree District Council records that for **Agenda Item 4: Other Matters**

“JO stated that she wished to make a comment on an earlier issue, the 2015 Ministerial Statement, to highlight that BDC do see this as relevant and to our knowledge it has not been withdrawn”.

The applicant responded orally to this statement and in their Written Summary of Longfield Solar Energy Farm Limited’s Oral Submissions at the Environmental Matters Hearing on 29 September 2022 - Revision 1.0 (Examination Library Reference REP3-039)

At 3.1.2 the applicant’s representative states that its position is that the 2015 Ministerial Statement is not a “relevant and important matter” and should not be taken into account under section 105 of the Planning Act 2008. That if it is considered it should be given no weight as its applicability is to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and not the Planning Act 2008.

The 2015 Ministerial Statement is contemporary with the Braintree Local Plan 2033 which was submitted for Examination in 2017 and adopted by in July 2022 following public consultation. It was one of the material considerations which shaped the formation of the Plan whose policies are referred to in the Local Impact Report. It is accepted that the 2015 Ministerial Statement relates to planning applications submitted under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. However it is for the Secretary of State to determine the relevance and any weight to attach to this document under Section 105 of the 2008 Planning Act.