

Agenda Item 4 (Draft Examination Timetable) - As referenced in the Council's Relevant Representation, LCC is currently involved and having discussions with promoters regarding several other NSIP scale projects within the County. Of the 17 NSIPs that the Council is currently aware of, 9 of these (which includes this proposal) relate to large-scale solar development. In addition to Mallard Pass, 4 of these other solar proposals have already been submitted and accepted by PINs for Examination (i.e. Gate Burton (EN0110131); West Burton (EN010132); Cottam (EN010133); Heckington (EN010123)) with others still at pre-application stage but with ambitious timetables working towards submission over the next 6-12 months. The sheer number, scale and similar timing of these projects has placed significant pressure on the Council's resources. Some Officers are involved with all projects and may be required to participate in the Examinations for each of these projects. Whilst the dates for specific Hearing sessions and submissions in relation to this proposal are generally accepted and noted (with the exception of that for Deadline 1 as referenced below) LCC wish that the ExA (and PINS more widely) note the impact and resource issues and as such take this into account when timetabling dates for other NSIP projects currently being considered so as to avoid overlap. This will help to ensure the County Council's case is not prejudiced as a consequence of the number of Examinations taking place over such a short period of time.

With regard to the specific timetable for this proposal, LCC requests that the ExA agree to extending the deadline for submission of the Council's Local Impact Report (LIR) until after 30 May 2023 (Deadline 1) as set out in the draft timetable. The LIR requires endorsement by the Council's Planning & Regulation Committee and its next meeting is not until after Deadline 1. Considering the time required to prepare the papers/LIR this is a tight deadline to meet and so LCC request that the deadline for submission of the LIR be extended.