

Our ref: 21/01334/ODC
Your ref: EN020002
Ask for: Mr Mathew Wilde
Dial: [REDACTED]
Ext: 2512
Date: 11th May 2022

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Mr Jake Stephens
National Infrastructure
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN
(By Email Only to BramfordtoTwinstead@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Stephens

RE: Adequacy of Consultation Request – Bramford to Twinstead Project

I write in response to your letter dated 27th April 2023 and am responding on behalf of Braintree District Council.

Having had regard to the following:

Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42
Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – section 47
Duty to publicise - PA2008 – section 48

I can confirm that Braintree District Council consider that Bramford to Twinstead Project have carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

The project was originally put forward in 2009 with several rounds of consultation exploring different route options until 2013. The project was however shelved until 2020 as some of the generation projects in the region were not going to come forward as quickly as previously envisaged.

Since the re-commencement of the project, National Grid have had early engagement with Braintree District Council (alongside Essex County Council, Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council) by meeting with the host Authorities from March 2021 onwards, well in advance of the commencement of the overall necessary statutory consultation process. Regular joint meetings were then held with Braintree District Council and the other three host Authorities throughout the majority of the pre-application process up until the date the DCO was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Non statutory consultation was formally carried out between 25th March 2021 and 6th May 2021. Braintree District Council provided a detailed response dated 6th May 2021 raising a number of points including undergrounding in the AONB project area boundary (The Stour Valley) and potential impacts of the proposed Grid Supply Point Substation. The Applicant subsequently sought to provide more detail and changes in respect of these matters. In addition Braintree District Council provided a full response (8th June 2021) to the Scoping

Opinion Consultation completed by the Planning Inspectorate which covered a number of the same matters. Again, it is noted that the Applicant subsequently sought to respond to the points/matters raised by Braintree District Council.

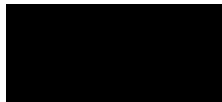
The Applicant produced a draft Statement of Community Consultation dated 2nd August 2021 which was reviewed by the host Authorities. Braintree District Council provided a response in August 2021 with comments which the Applicant sought to address in the final SOCC which was circulated for formal consultation between 9th November and 7th December 2021.

The Applicant completed their s42 statutory consultation between 25th January 2022 and 25th March 2022. Braintree District Council raised a number of detailed points for consideration in our response dated 21st March 2023. This included detailed specialist input from our Ecology, Heritage, Landscape, Archaeology and Environmental Health Consultants. Following the statutory consultation, the Bramford to Twinstead Project made a number of alterations and changes to the Order limits which required further targeted consultation from 8th September 2022 to 19th October 2022.

In addition to the above I have also read the Applicant's Consultation Report dated April 2023 which sets out the above and the Applicant's consultation programme in full detail and I am satisfied that they have undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation programme. From this report it is understood that further changes have been made to the scheme to address comments received at the targeted consultation stage, however the acceptability of these changes have yet to be addressed at the time of writing.

In any case, I can confirm that Braintree District Council consider that the Bramford to Twinstead Project have carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mathew Wilde MRTPI
Senior Planner
(BDC Bramford to Twinstead Lead)

For

Mr Christopher Paggi
Planning Development Manager