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Dear Sir

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Sections 88 and 89 The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13**

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc for an Order granting  
Development Consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Notice of  
appointment of Examining Authority, invitation to the Preliminary Meeting, notification  
of Hearings and Procedural Decisions**

I am writing on behalf of Braintree District Council in response to the Rule 6 Letter for the Bramford to Twinstead NSIP Project dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Thank you for inviting Braintree District Council to the Preliminary Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. I can confirm that I, Mathew Wilde, Senior Planning Officer, would like to attend the Preliminary Meeting on behalf of Braintree District Council, in person.

I would like to speak regarding item 3 on the agenda, titled “Initial Assessment of Principal Issues”.

In terms of specific comments on this item, these can be summarised as follows:

- Consideration should be given to the impact upon businesses during construction, not solely from the resultant land use once development is complete. It is therefore requested that this issue be included on the list of issues in Annexe C for completeness.
- Braintree District Council seeks to ensure that the impact of the development as proposed is sufficiently mitigated with a lasting legacy provided. This includes consideration about decommissioning and removing overhead line(s) which become redundant as a direct result of the project (both inside and outside of the Order Limits). While a large section of 132kV line is to be removed, there is one section of 132kV overhead line outside of the Order Limits which is not to be removed is between the proposed Grid Supply Point and the Twisted Tee. It is therefore requested that impacts of retaining redundant lines such as this to be included on the list of issues in Annexe C. This is in common with the views as will be expressed by Essex County Council.
- Consideration should be given to the likely effects the proposal would have on climate, and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. It is not apparent that climate is considered in the list of principle issues. It is requested that impacts on climate therefore be included on the list of issues in Annexe C for completeness.

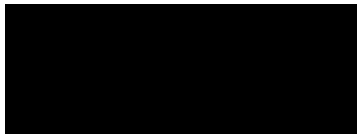
In terms of item 4, the Examination Timetable, it is noted that the timetable for responding to the ExA's written questions during the Hearing are very tight. In particular we note that the ExA's second written questions, which are proposed to be published 22 December 2023 comes within the holiday season when seasonal bank holidays are a factor, which together with the understandable wish of staff to take a break from heavy workloads, should be factored in to allow appropriate time to respond by, for example, giving an additional period of 7 days to respond.

I can confirm that Braintree District Council have no further comments at this time on the other items on the agenda for the Preliminary Hearing, but may wish to raise any further comments at the hearing should this change.

I would also like to attend the first Issue Specific Hearing on 14<sup>th</sup> September on behalf of Braintree District. I would also attend this event in person. At the time of writing no formal agenda has been published, however on the broad list of topics provided it is likely that I would also like to make comments from a Braintree District Council perspective.

As a general note, Braintree District Council support the blended approach being proposed for the examination hearings as it enables a variety of options for interested parties to attend the as proposed sessions and is an approach common with other DCO Hearings.

Yours Faithfully



Mathew Wilde MRTPI

On behalf of:

Emma Goodings, Head of Planning and Economic Growth