

Written Submission for Bramford to Twinstead (EN020002) - Procedural Deadline A

This is the joint submission of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in response to the Examining Authority's Rule 6 letter, dated 7 August 2023.

It sets out the Councils' comments on the procedure of the Examination, requests to be present at the initial hearings, comments on the Draft Examination Timetable and suggested locations for further site inspections.

1. Comments on the Procedure for Examination

- 1.1. Although they remain two separate sovereign councils, since 2013 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been working together to deliver services and they share a Chief Executive, management team and joint officer teams who work across both authorities. The comments below and those submitted to the Examination are made on behalf of both councils except where they are specifically attributed to a single council.
- 1.2. The Councils welcome the Examining Authority's intention for most hearings for the Examination to be held as blended sessions. Given the geographical scope of the project, the rural nature of the communities affected and having regard to the availability of those wishing to take part, the option to participate virtually is critical.
- 1.3. The Councils will consider whether it is appropriate to attend hearings physically or virtually depending on location, the availability, and timetables of relevant staff. The Council will indicate which mode of attendance will be used when making a request to be heard.

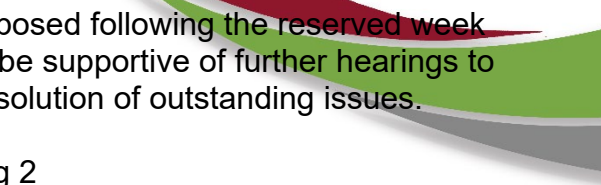
2 Request to observe the Preliminary Meeting

- 2.1. The Councils requests to observe the Preliminary Meeting.
- 2.2. The Councils will attend virtually and will be represented by Bron Curtis, Principal Planning Officer.

3 Comments on the Draft Examination Timetable

- 3.1. The Councils note that Annex D of the Rule 6 letter outlines the draft Examination Timetable.
- 3.2. The Councils are largely content with the proposed timetable of the deadlines, however, are concerned that deadlines will place extraordinary pressures on officers and other interested parties, especially as the Examination will continue over the Christmas period.



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- 3.3. The Councils notes that no hearings are proposed following the reserved week commencing 11 December 2023 and would be supportive of further hearings to support scheme evolution and enable the resolution of outstanding issues.
 - 4 Request to Participate in Open Floor Hearing 2
 - 4.1. The Councils request to participate in Open Floor Hearing 2, on the evening of Wednesday 13 September 2023.
 - 4.2. The Councils will attend virtually and will be represented by Bron Curtis.
 - 5 Request to Participate in Issue Specific Hearing 1
 - 5.1. The Councils request to participate in ISH1 on the scope and details of the Proposed Development, including construction activities, and the principles of the Applicant's draft Development Consent Order (dDCO).
 - 5.2. The Council will attend virtually and will be represented by Bron Curtis
 - 6 Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections
 - 6.1. The councils look forward to commenting on the applicant's proposed itinerary for site inspections. Viewpoints should include the proposed sealing end compound locations as well as Layham quarry alternative location, viewpoints to consider the impact of the development between the AONB sections, Bramford substation and Hintlesham Hall. We reserve the right to suggest / request additional viewpoints.

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Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils - Working Together



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