

## **Grimsby to Walpole (EN020036) – Review of Programme Document**

- Good demonstration of compliance with the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Guidance. The Applicant will be aware that one of the mandatory components of the new pre-application service (for all service tiers), as set out in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, is demonstrating regard to advice. As such this should be clearly reflected in the application documents.
- The Applicant must ensure that the Programme Document (PD) is hosted and maintained on the Applicant's website.
- Whilst the PD sets out that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be developed ahead of Statutory Consultation, it would be helpful if the dates were listed in the table setting out the submission timeframe.
- Whilst the Inspectorate acknowledges that key milestones are some time in the future ie statutory consultation in Quarter 1 2025, draft document review in Q3 2026, and submission in Q2 2027, it would be helpful if these timeframes could be narrowed, and the updated PD published, in due course.
- It is not clear from the PD whether the Applicant has allowed time for a further period of targeted/full consultation, after the statutory consultation has been undertaken. Given the linear nature of the project the Inspectorate advises the Applicant to consider whether a further consultation period prior to submission would be necessary and if so, add possible timescales to the PD.
- It would be helpful if the PD could provide approximate timescales for future project update meetings with the Inspectorate. It would also be helpful to list any meetings with key stakeholders to enable those parties to deploy resources effectively.