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Sent via email:

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TDC IP Reference Number: F76FF046A

Tendring District Council (TDC) – Procedural Deadline 7 Response including:

- **TDC/National Grid signed Statement of Common Ground (included as a separate document)**
- **Other Responses and Comments on documents submitted by applicant at recent deadlines**

Dear Ms Hunt

Introduction

Tendring District Council ("TDC") has reviewed the Applicant's updated Construction Traffic Management Plan (Rev E) [REP6-082] and the Applicant's submissions concerning landscape compensation and the illustrative masterplans [REP6-118].

At the outset, TDC wishes to make clear that, in respect of all matters relating to:

- Highways and transportation;
- Construction traffic management;
- Public access routes and highway impacts;

- Archaeology and the historic environment;
- Ecology, biodiversity and nature recovery;
- Development Consent Order drafting and Requirements; and
- All associated technical working groups, Statements of Common Ground and ongoing technical discussions,

TDC formally defers to, and fully relies upon, the expert technical advice, evidence and representations submitted by Essex County Council ("ECC"), including ECC's Deadline 7 submissions, Statement(s) of Common Ground, Closing Statement and associated technical appendices.

TDC considers ECC to be the appropriate statutory and technical authority on these matters and supports the positions advanced by ECC where they relate to the project's impacts within the Tendring District.

For the avoidance of doubt, where this response references matters raised by ECC, TDC endorses those concerns and requests that the Examining Authority and Secretary of State give substantial weight to ECC's technical evidence and recommendations.

Masterplans and Landscape Compensation

TDC notes the Examining Authority's question regarding the Applicant's proposed funding mechanism for landscape compensation.

TDC continues to have significant concerns regarding the substantial and long-term landscape effects arising from the project within Tendring District.

Whilst TDC acknowledges that the illustrative masterplans have been prepared through engagement with local authorities, TDC agrees that they remain illustrative in nature and do not provide certainty regarding delivery.

The masterplans should therefore not be relied upon as evidence that adequate compensation will necessarily be achieved.

Funding Mechanism

TDC agrees that, in principle, the funding mechanism proposed within Annex A of REP6-118 has greater potential to deliver meaningful and

measurable landscape compensation than reliance upon illustrative masterplans alone.

TDC considers that any mechanism should:

- Be secured through enforceable DCO provisions;
- Be fully funded by the Applicant;
- Be administered transparently;
- Be subject to monitoring and reporting;
- Deliver measurable environmental outcomes;
- Prioritise projects within affected communities;
- Support long-term stewardship and maintenance; and
- Be capable of adapting to changing local priorities over time.

TDC considers that any compensation funding should be additional to, and not offset against, mitigation already required elsewhere through the DCO

Strategic Environmental Delivery

TDC agrees that landscape compensation, enhancement and offsetting measures should be informed by strategic environmental priorities and opportunities to strengthen landscape character, ecological connectivity, green infrastructure networks and long-term environmental resilience.

TDC considers that compensation measures should be targeted to deliver tangible benefits within the communities most affected by the project and should contribute towards wider environmental enhancement objectives across Tendring.

Need for Stronger Commitments

TDC recognises that the Applicant has now acknowledged the principle of landscape compensation. However, TDC remains concerned that the commitments proposed remain insufficiently certain and have emerged only following sustained requests from local authorities throughout the Examination.

TDC considers that the significant landscape impacts associated with the project justify a robust and enforceable landscape compensation package.

In TDC's view, any landscape compensation mechanism should be secured through binding DCO requirements and should not be dependent upon future discretionary decisions or uncertain delivery arrangements.

TDC therefore supports securing a strengthened landscape compensation framework that provides clear obligations regarding funding, governance, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Conclusion

Tendring District Council maintains significant concerns regarding the outstanding matters identified within the CTMP and considers that stronger and more prescriptive controls are required before adequate confidence can be provided that construction impacts will be effectively managed.

TDC formally endorses and defers to the technical evidence and representations submitted by Essex County Council on matters relating to highways, traffic, archaeology, ecology, DCO drafting, technical working groups and associated statutory functions.

In relation to landscape and visual impacts, TDC considers that the Applicant's proposed compensation approach represents a positive step; however, considerably stronger commitments, greater certainty of delivery and robust DCO-secured mechanisms remain necessary.

TDC respectfully requests that the Examining Authority and Secretary of State give substantial weight to the concerns set out above, together with ECC's detailed technical submissions at Deadline 7 and throughout the Examination.

END