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Our Ref: 20026012
Date: 14 January 2021
Please ask for: Bryn Griffiths
Email: [REDACTED]@suffolk.gov.uk

Wendy McKay
Lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors for Sizewell C
National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate

Sent via email to: sizewellc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms McKay

Sizewell C DCO Examination – scheduling of deadlines

I am writing on behalf of Suffolk County Council to bring to your attention our organisation's constraints as a result of the County Council elections and the current resource pressures due to COVID-19 activities. These issues have the potential to compromise the County Council's ability to participate fully in the examination at certain times.

As you will be aware, the County Council elections, alongside PCC Commissioner elections, partial elections to some of the District and Borough Councils and by-elections, are due to take place on 6 May 2021. For Suffolk County Council, this means that the pre-election period will commence on 25 March 2021 and continue until polling day. Following the election, and until the Annual General Meeting of the County Council on 27 May 2021, only the (current) Leader remains in position and available to be consulted should he be re-elected as a Councillor (the Chairman also remains but he has no Executive role).

This means that, whilst Council officers can and will continue to participate in any hearings and submit representations to the Planning Inspectorate, the period between 25 March and 27 May 2021 will be a difficult time for officers to respond to any new or changed proposals put forward by the applicant. Put simply, officers would be unable to depart from the formally agreed position of the County Council in its Relevant Representation on any specific matter until late May at the earliest. I would ask the Examining Authority to bear this in mind when preparing examination deadlines.

I would also like the Examining Authority to consider current resource constraints in the County Council's public health, social care and community safety teams due to managing the impacts of the high rates of COVID-19 infections and the resulting lockdown, whilst also coordinating the mass vaccination. We can expect that these pressures will continue for much of this winter and spring. These issues will also apply to several of our partner organisations such as the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

To ensure an informed and inclusive discussion on matters related to these services, it would be helpful if deadlines concerning health, social care, community safety and community cohesion, and associated requirements and obligations, were scheduled later in the examination period.

We are happy to discuss this further and be involved in timetable setting if that would help.

Kind regards



Mark Ash

Executive Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure