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Our Ref: EN010141/DR/8.65

04 August 2026

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Application Reference: EN010141

Applicant response to the Examining Authority's request for further information

I write on behalf of BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd (the 'Applicant') in response the request for further information dated 16 July 2026 and made by the Examining Authority (ExA) under rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Rule 17 Letter).

The Applicant has reviewed the questions raised and has set out its response below.

1. <u>Additional questions/ clarifications</u>

The Rule 17 Letter raises two requests for additional clarification. The first relates to the submission made at deadline 4 on behalf of Bushmead Estate **[REP4-046]** and the second relates to the Applicant's **Funding Statement [EN010141/DR/4.2]**.

Deadline 4 submission made on behalf of Bushmead Estates

The Rule 17 Letter raises the following question in respect of the submission made at deadline 4 on behalf of Bushmead Estate:

> *As a result of the submission made at deadline 4 on behalf of Bushmeads Estates Ltd [REP4-046] in relation to land ownership, can the applicant set out how this*

> *omission has arisen and what plans are in place to negotiate and address the concerns raised in their letter dated 14 June 2026.*

The Applicant has provided a full response to the representation submitted on behalf of Bushmead Estate at Deadline 4 **[REP4-046]** in the document titled **Applicant Response to Bushmead Estate [EN010141/DR/8.66]** which has been submitted alongside this submission.

Funding Statement

The Rule 17 Letter raises the following question in respect of the Applicant's Funding Statement:

> *In your covering letter [AS-001] in response to the S51 advice at pre-examination stage, you indicated that a further iteration of the Funding Statement would be submitted during examination which would provide a breakdown of the assumptions that have gone into the calculated costs in Section 3 of the Funding Statement. Noting the amendments made in the latest Funding Statement [PDA-009], can the applicant confirm that the costs are still relevant. In addition, the S51 advice also suggested the submission of a high level extract of company accounts to reinforce the applicant's position in relation to the affordability of the scheme.*

The Applicant carefully considered the matters raised in the section 51 advice provided at pre-examination stage **[PD-003]** when preparing the Applicant's response to that advice **[AS-001]** and has continued to bear it in mind throughout the course of Examination. The Applicant has submitted a number of revisions to the Funding Statement at Procedural Deadline A **[PDA-009]**, Deadline 3 **[REP3-015]**, Deadline 5 **[REP5-011]** as well as Revision P05 submitted alongside this letter.

In respect of the first point raised, regarding the breakdown of the assumptions underpinning the calculated costs in Section 3 of the Funding Statement, the Funding Statement was updated at Procedural Deadline A **[PDA-009]** to incorporate further details on the cost estimate provided. The Funding Statement explains that these costs include construction costs for cable routes, costs associated with exercising easement and land agreements, 3-years of inflation between the capex estimate date and the start of construction and assumed EPC prices for the solar and BESS elements. The Applicant has also considered the cost factors likely to affect the overall funding requirements and the total cost estimates include provisions for contingency and inflation.

Noting the above, the Applicant confirms that the costs set out in the latest **Funding Statement (Revision P05)** remain relevant.

In respect of the point raised, regarding the submission of a high level extract of company accounts, the Applicant has updated the **Funding Statement (Revision P05)** to include a copy of the latest directors' report and consolidated financial statements for Lantern HoldCo Limited up to 31 March 2025, together with the Applicant's corporate structure chart, to provide further evidence of the financial standing of the Applicant's wider corporate group and to reinforce the Applicant's position in relation to the affordability of the Scheme.

In addition, while the inclusion of decommissioning costs in a funding statement is not a statutory requirement under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 the Applicant recognises that such decommissioning costs have been a point of interest based on feedback during the Examination process. The Applicant has therefore updated the **Funding Statement (Revision P05)** to include the estimated cost of decommissioning the Scheme based on estimates from qualified specialists and European comparison studies, in order to provide comfort that this has been considered and that the Applicant is confident that funding will be available.

2. <u>Report on the implications for European sites (RIES)</u>

The Rule 17 letter raised the following point in relation to the Report on the implications for European sites (RIES):

> *Taking account of the applicant's submissions and those from statutory bodies we are satisfied that it is unlikely there will be any implications for any designated European sites. As a consequence, we will not be issuing a RIES.*

The Applicant has no comment on this matter and is in agreement with the ExA. The Applicant notes this is also the position of:

- **Natural England**, as set out at item 1 of Table 2 in the **Statement of Common Ground with Natural England [REP2-040]**;
- **Bedford Borough Council,** as set out at item 41 of Table 2 in the **Statement of Common Ground with Bedford Borough Council [REP5-019]**;
- **Huntingdonshire District Council**, as set out at item 34 of Table 2 in the **Statement of Common Ground with Huntingdonshire District Council [REP5-020]**; and
- **Cambridgeshire County Council**, as set out at item 32 of Table 2 in the **Statement of Common Ground with Cambridgeshire County Council [REP5-021]**.

Conclusion

We trust that the responses contained in this letter and the associated documents cited in the letter assist the Planning Inspectorate and the Examining Authority in their consideration of these issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or the undersigned representative of the Applicant if you have any questions or require further information regarding these issues. We would be happy to assist the Planning Inspectorate in any way necessary.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

DCO Project Manager on behalf of BSSL Cambsbed 1 Limited

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