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South East Anglia Link

To: The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero,

c/o: Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team, DESNZ

Dear Secretary of State,

Sea Link (EN020026) – Request for Information

Great Glemham Parish Council has previously submitted a Relevant Representation on Sea Link. Recent information concerning the substantially increased projected cost of the scheme, together with the National Audit Office report on electricity transmission investment, reinforces concerns we have already raised about proportionality, cumulative impacts and strategic coordination.

The Parish Council is not in a position to assess the detailed economic case for Sea Link. However, the scale of the increase in projected cost raises a legitimate question as to whether the proposed scheme remains the most proportionate means of meeting the identified network need, and whether potentially cheaper or less damaging alternatives have been adequately assessed.

We would ask that this new information should be assessed and in context of our existing planning concern remains the true cumulative impact of the succession of major infrastructure projects affecting East Suffolk, including Sizewell C, Sea Link, ScottishPower Renewables projects, LionLink and other grid and renewable-energy development.

For Great Glemham and neighbouring communities these cumulative impacts include:

- construction traffic on the A12, B1078 and surrounding rural roads, including displaced traffic and rat-running;
- prolonged and overlapping construction disturbance;
- impacts on landscape character, the historic environment and rural amenity;
- pressure on local communities, access, recreation and movement around the area; and
- the risk that mitigation and construction management are considered project by project rather than strategically across all schemes.

We therefore ask the Secretary of State to consider whether, in light of the revised project costs and current infrastructure programme:

- Sea Link remains a proportionate response to the identified need;
- reasonable alternatives, including better use of existing infrastructure and more coordinated solutions, have been adequately examined; and
- the cumulative impacts of Sea Link alongside other major projects have been fully assessed and appropriately mitigated.

Great Glemham Parish Council supports the need for national energy infrastructure, but believes that the exceptional concentration of development in East Suffolk requires particularly careful scrutiny of both proportionality and cumulative impact.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair
Great Glemham Parish Council