

Ms Susan Hunt
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Planning and Development Management
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Your ref: EN020027
My ref: 24/00001/NSIP
Telephone: 01245 606826
Date: 26 January 2026

Dear Ms Hunt

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (Application Reference: EN020027)

Norwich to Tilbury Project - Procedural Deadline A Response from Chelmsford City Council (CCC)

Following the receipt of the Rule 6 Letter for the Norwich to Tilbury project dated 13 January 2026, CCC wishes to provide the following responses to matters raised at Procedural Deadline A.

Responses to the Rule 6 letter including any written submissions on the examination procedure and about this draft examination timetable

Annex D – Draft examination timetable

Dates have been reserved for hearings in the week commencing 27 April 2026 and 22 June 2026. So that the relevant specialisms can attend as necessary, it would be helpful to understand what matters will be considered during these hearings as soon as reasonably possible.

Some of the response times to the Examining Authority Written Questions are affected by the timing of bank holidays. It would be helpful if additional time is given to the timetable to account for bank holidays.

Annex E- Notification of initial hearings, Open Floor Hearings

CCC welcome the proposal to hold three separate Open Floor Hearings within each affected County. The Rule 6 letter states that “Whilst your preferred slot [for an Open Floor Hearing] cannot be guaranteed we will do our best to take this into account when producing the agendas. Once the slots for each session are full no more IPs can be admitted”. Please clarify whether it is proposed to allocate slots on a “first come, first serve” basis or if there is another method proposed. All those wishing to speak must be offered fair opportunity to put forward their points and CCC is concerned that residents may not be able to travel to a different County if they are not offered a slot in their home County.

It is noted that many Open Floor Hearings will take place during the daytime. Will there be an opportunity for residents/Interested parties to attend a hearing during the evening at an alternative stage? It is important that hearings are accessible to everyone.

It is noted that Orsett Hall is not easily accessible by public transport. The nearest railway stations are at Grays, Stanford-Le-Hope and West Horndon, which are beyond a reasonable walking distance from Orsett Hall. The nearest bus route is at Orsett Hospital, about a 22 minute walk away. CCC questions whether the Applicant could consider how they could increase accessibility and sustainability of the location. Could a shuttle bus be provided?

Requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting on Tuesday 10 February 2026, including the agenda items you wish to speak on and the matters you will address (and why these points need to be made orally rather than in writing)

It is expected that there will be one representative from CCC attending the Preliminary Meeting in person at the Ipswich Town Football Club. Although CCC intends to observe matters only, speaking rights are requested so that CCC, as a Host Authority, can respond to any comments that may be raised by the ExA or other parties during the hearing.

Requests to participate in any of the open floor hearings from Tuesday 10 February to Thursday 12 February 2026 (annex E of this letter)

It is expected that there will be one representative from CCC attending the Open Floor Hearings. Although CCC intends to observe matters only, speaking rights are requested at certain hearings, so that CCC, as a Host Authority, can respond to any comments that may be raised by the ExA or other parties during the hearing(s).

Requests to participate in issue specific hearing 1 on Friday 13 February (annex E)

It is expected that there will be one representative from CCC attending the Issue Specific Hearing. Although CCC intends to observe matters only, speaking rights are requested so that CCC, as a Host Authority, can respond to any comments that may be raised by the ExA or other parties during the hearing.

CCC thanks the Examining Authority for opportunity to provide commentary at this Procedural Deadline A.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]
Senior Planning Officer
Chelmsford City Council NSIP Lead