

NORWICH TO TILBURY

EN020027

Rule 6 Letter Response

Suffolk County Council [REDACTED]

Babergh District Council [REDACTED]

Mid Suffolk District Council [REDACTED]

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Glossary of Acronyms

<i>DCO</i>	<i>Development Consent Order</i>
<i>ES</i>	<i>Environmental Statement</i>
<i>ExA</i>	<i>Examining Authority</i>
<i>ExQ1</i>	<i>Examining Authority First Written Questions</i>
<i>ExQ2</i>	<i>Examining Authority Second Written Questions</i>
<i>NSIP</i>	<i>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project</i>
<i>PPA</i>	<i>Planning Performance Agreement</i>

“BDC” refers to Babergh District Council; “MSDC” refers to Mid Suffolk District Council; “BMSDC” refers to BDC and MSDC jointly; “SCC” refers to Suffolk County Council; and “the Councils” refers to BDC, MSDC, and SCC jointly.

Purpose of this Submission

The document has been prepared by Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, and Suffolk County Council to provide a response to the Rule 6 Letter, including the draft Examination timetable. Examination library references are used throughout to assist readers.

1 Comments on the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

- 1.1 The Councils have reviewed the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (Annex C of the Rule 6 Letter) [**PD-009**] and considers this to be a full account of the issues, enabling sufficient breadth of discussion throughout the Examination.

2 Comments on the draft Examination timetable

- 2.1 The Councils have reviewed the draft Examination timetable (Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter) [**PD-009**] and raise the following matter.
- 2.2 The Councils have noted that Deadline 3 (7 April 2026) and Deadline 5 (9 June 2026) include responses to Examining Authority's First Written Questions ("**ExQ1**") and Examining Authority Second Written Questions ("**ExQ2**") respectively. These period between the publication of ExQ1 (20 March 2026) and ExQ2 (22 May 2026) include bank holidays which will restrict the response time offered to the Local Authorities to answer questions. The Councils further note that the publication dates for ExQ1 and ExQ2 are Fridays. In the event that publication occurs in the afternoon, this further limits the time for consideration.
- 2.3 In the case of the period between the publication of ExQ1 and Deadline 3, there are two bank holidays (Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April 2026) and if excluding the date of publication, this only allows 11 working days to respond with the day following the bank holidays to submit. In the case of ExQ2, the Monday following the publication is a bank holiday (Monday 25 May 2026) and only allows 8 working days to respond.
- 2.4 To enable the Councils to submit a full and considered answers to ExQ1 and ExQ2, the Councils request that Deadline 3 and Deadline 5 are moved to the Friday of their respective weeks, thereby providing 3 additional working days. This would entail moving Deadline 3 from Tuesday 7 April to Friday 10 April 2026 and Deadline 5 from Tuesday 9 June to Friday 12 June 2026.