



Norwich to Tilbury Grid Reinforcement Project

National Grid Development Consent Order Application EN020027

Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary

Joint Forces Oral Statement at Open Floor Hearing 1

I am Assistant Chief Constable [REDACTED] of Essex Police and I am making this statement as a joint representative of both Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary, who I will be referring to collectively as the Joint Forces.

The Joint Forces are 'Interested Parties' and serve as the relevant Police Authorities and Prescribed Consultees in the DCO process.

The Joint Forces are responsible for protecting and serving Essex and Suffolk, and our mission is to make them safer places to live, work, travel and invest. Policing is a complex activity which responds to and manages a wide variety of community safety risks that are often hidden from view. The Joint Forces have engaged with National Grid throughout all pre-application and pre-examination stages and continue to actively do so, including ongoing work to agree a Statement of Common Ground. From the outset, the Joint Forces have been consistent in highlighting the policing issues associated with the scheme, and the need for corresponding, appropriate mitigation.

The Joint Forces are taking this project and its implications extremely seriously. Whilst holding no view on its planning merits, we are concerned with ensuring all likely impacts on community safety, including those affecting the project workforce and existing communities, are fully identified, assessed, and adequately mitigated. Given the scale of the anticipated traffic and transport changes during construction in particular, policing would act as an important form of mitigation, but sufficient resourcing capacity needs to be in place to manage this effectively. It is well known that police forces across the country operate under severe capacity constraints. The Joint Forces are policing at capacity and do not carry the additional resources to adequately mitigate the impacts generated as a direct result of this project. If these impacts are not adequately mitigated and funded, this project will have a significant adverse effect on the safety, wellbeing and security of countless individuals and business across our counties running directly contrary to the responsibilities and mission of the Joint Forces and, simply, the Joint Forces will not be able to deliver the policing of this proposal.

As recently exhibited by Suffolk Constabulary's successful engagement through the planning process with Sizewell C, understanding all the impacts of a development is essential in order to protect limited

police resources and ensure continuity of service to the communities that police forces serve. The mitigation secured with Sizewell C has facilitated the delivery of the project whilst ensuring no adverse impact to the service delivered to the communities impacted by the development.

In respect of this project, the Joint Forces are particularly concerned by the operational impact of the need to provide escorting services to facilitate the movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs). Where it is a legal requirement for police escorts to accompany AIL movements, this will only stretch further the constrained resourcing of the Joint Forces. Where sustained demand is identified a bespoke solution - such as a dedicated AIL team - would be necessary but is subject to appropriate lead-in time and developer funding.

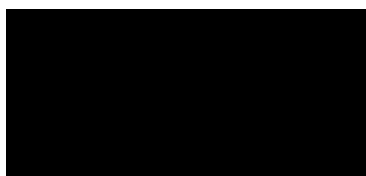
The Joint Forces are similarly concerned by the potential impact of the construction and operation of the project on traffic in both Essex and Suffolk regarding the impact of the construction phase on incident response, as well as more broadly as regards obstruction to the highway and road traffic collisions, both of which already pose a key challenge to the Joint Forces.

Accordingly, it is expected that the Examination will need to dedicate time to address related mitigation and monitoring matters through a section 106 agreement and Requirements as part of its draft Development Consent Order, in respect of which the Joint Forces anticipate the need to be significantly involved..

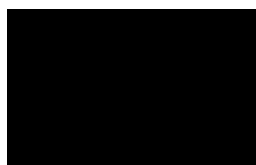
We would similarly expect that an Issue Specific Hearing as part of the Traffic and Transport Principal Issue should be held to address issues associated with the traffic and transport issues we have identified previously.

There also remain concerns with the assessment and acceptability of likely impacts, and the need for adequate mitigation in respect of both community and roads policing, which we consider require examination through further Issue Specific Hearings. Matters which could usefully be addressed through a hearing as part of the Socio-Economic Principal Issue in relation to these considerations include the range of impacts on the workforce and local communities and the role of the emergency services in addressing these impacts.

In conclusion, the Joint Forces stress the need for appropriate mitigation without which they would not be able to deliver the policing of this proposal. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this Examination and look forward to working with all parties to secure the requisite mitigation.



**Assistant Chief Constable
Essex Police**



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Suffolk Constabulary**