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Norwich to Tilbury

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Changes Version

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)

nationalgrid

Para	Guidance	Comment
	longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the PA 2008.	
41	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the SoCC which the Applicant feels unable to address, the Applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the SoS when they submit their application.	National Grid entered informal consultation on the draft SoCC with the 13 host authorities on the 2 December 2023, ahead of formal consultation that started on the 2 March 2024. National Grid were able to address all issues and concerns that were raised from both informal and formal consultations on the draft SoCC. Chapter 7 of this report provides details about how the SoCC was developed. Amendments to the draft SoCC further to informal and formal consultations are recorded in documents titled 'Regard had to informal/formal comments on proposed SoCC' (both provided at Appendix E of this report).
42	Where a local authority decides that it does not wish to respond to a consultation request on the SoCC, the Applicant should make reasonable efforts to ensure that all affected communities are consulted.	All 13 host authorities were consulted and 11 responded with comments. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitted a joint response. 'Regard had to SoCC Responses' in Appendix E of this report provides a summary of the comments received from LPAs on the formal SoCC. South Norfolk and Broadland District Council and Suffolk County Council did not respond to the formal SoCC consultation however did provide feedback to the informal SoCC consultation. Further details can be found in Section 7.3.3 of this report. A variety of techniques were used to ensure a reasonable approach to consultation on the Project. These are as follows: Materials produced: Project Background Document, Community Newsletter 2024, PEIR, 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Interactive Project Map, Consultation notices, Statement of

- Mid Suffolk District Council;
- Norfolk County Council;
- South Norfolk ~~and Broadland District~~ Council;
- Suffolk County Council;
- Tendring District Council; and
- Thurrock Council.

Informal Consultation

- 7.3.3 Prior to formal consultation under Section 42(2), substantial engagement was held with the LPAs to ensure a productive and collaborative approach was taken to planning the statutory consultation.
- 7.3.4 The host LPAs were given a presentation on the draft SoCC on 23 November 2023, to give officers early sight of the consultation strategy.
- 7.3.5 An early draft SoCC (December 2023) was shared with host LPAs on 1 December 2023. Officers were invited to review and comment on the draft SoCC during an 'informal' 35 day consultation period, between 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024.
- 7.3.6 Eight host authorities responded with comments (with Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils submitting a joint response). The host authorities that responded were:
- Babergh District Council;
 - Brentwood Borough Council;
 - Chelmsford City Council;
 - Colchester City Council;
 - Mid Suffolk District Council;
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - South Norfolk ~~and Broadland District~~ Council; and
 - Suffolk County Council.
- 7.3.7 Amongst the comments received, there was feedback from Brentwood Borough Council about the timing of the consultation and concerns about coinciding with the local elections in Spring/Summer 2024. Other comments related to the availability of the consultation materials and the need to make them available in libraries to increase capacity and reach a wider public audience. There were also additional requests for information events to run in Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk.
- 7.3.8 All comments were considered and changes to the initial draft of the SoCC were made. These amendments were recorded in a document titled 'Regard had to informal comments on proposed SoCC' (provided at **Appendix E4** of this report).

Formal Consultation

- 7.3.9 Following the informal engagement and consultation on the early draft SoCC (December 2023), the LPAs were sent a formal consultation notification on the 1 March 2024.
- 7.3.10 In accordance with Section 47(2) of the PA 2008, formal consultation on an updated draft SoCC (March 2024) took place between 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024. Officers were invited to review and comment on the draft SoCC during the 'formal' 32 day consultation period.
- 7.3.11 The draft SoCC (March 2024) reflected the changes incorporated following informal consultation on the early draft SoCC (December 2023).
- 7.3.12 11 host LPAs responded with comments on the draft SoCC (with Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils submitting a joint response). The host LPAs that responded were:
- Babergh District Council;
 - Basildon Borough Council;
 - Braintree District Council;
 - Brentwood Borough Council;
 - Chelmsford City Council;
 - Colchester City Council;
 - Essex County Council;
 - Mid Suffolk District Council;
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - Tendring District Council; and
 - Thurrock Council.
- 7.3.13 South Norfolk ~~and Broadland District~~ Council and Suffolk County Council did not respond to the formal SoCC consultation however did provide feedback to the informal SoCC consultation. Further details can be found in **Section 7.3.3** of this report.
- 7.3.14 Amongst the comments received, there was feedback to:
- Ensure that the interactive mapping system is user-friendly, allowing postcode input for relevant information and provide detailed clear maps;
 - Provide opportunities for meaningful interaction with National Grid online or via telephone, allowing residents to submit queries and receive responses; and
 - Include where to find documents online, and clearly state locations and timings of community events with ample notice as well as a printable format of the questionnaire for public to send feedback by post.
- 7.3.15 All comments were considered, and several changes were made to the draft SoCC (such as providing additional information about National Grid and National Policy

Type	Local Authority	
	Broadland District Council	Uttlesford District Council
	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Dartford Borough Council
“B” Section 43 consultees (a lower-tier district council or a Unitary Council who is a host authority for the development and any associated development)	South Norfolk and Broadland District Council	Chelmsford City Council
	Mid Suffolk District Council	Thurrock Council
	Babergh District Council	Brentwood Borough Council
	Colchester City Council	Basildon Borough Council
	Tendring District Council	Braintree District Council
“C” Section 43 consultees (an upper-tier County Council who is a host authority)	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council
	Norfolk County Council	
“D” Section 43 consultees (an authority which is not a lower-tier district council - e.g – a National park authority of a London borough – and which shared a boundary with a “C” authority)	Cambridgeshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council
	Lincolnshire County Council	Kent County Council

- 10.2.3 The targeted consultations had the following aims:
- Provide an overview of the updated proposals to local communities and stakeholders in locations where changes were being considered to the Project;
 - Explain why changes were being suggested to the Project since the 2024 statutory consultation;
 - Outline the environmental implications of the proposed changes (EIC);
 - Ensure local stakeholders and consultees had the opportunity to provide feedback on the work to date; and
 - Outline the next steps and the programme and how the proposals will be further developed and how feedback has been taken into account.

10.3 ‘Targeted Consultation Strategy’ document

- 10.3.1 The approach to the Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory community consultations was set out in the draft Targeted Consultation Strategy document. This outlined why further targeted consultations were taking place, who and how National Grid were consulting and how feedback could be shared.
- 10.3.2 Local Planning Authorities within areas in which National Grid was to hold targeted consultations were invited to briefing sessions on the strategy for the targeted community consultations. These briefing sessions took place on [18](#), [19](#), ~~20~~ and 27 November 2024. Further to these briefings, LPAs were provided with the draft Targeted Consultation Strategy document via email on 4 December 2024 and were asked to provide feedback on the proposed approach. All feedback was considered and where practicable taken on board by National Grid. A copy of the feedback received and actions taken can be found in **Appendix K** of this report.
- 10.3.3 A final version of the Targeted Consultation Strategy document, including maps of the consultation zones in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock was published on the Project website on 30 January 2024 and can be found in **Appendix K** of this report.
- 10.3.4 The non-statutory targeted consultations in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock were undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the Targeted Consultation Strategy document. This is detailed in a compliance table included in **Appendix K** of this report.

10.4 ‘Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy’ document

- 10.4.1 The approach to the targeted statutory consultation for Thurrock 3 was set out in the Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document. This outlined why targeted statutory consultation was taking place, with whom and how National Grid was consulting and how to provide feedback. It included a map of the targeted statutory consultation zone, as well as a copy of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and the consultation zone for the 2024 statutory consultation.
- 10.4.2 On 6 March 2025 the draft Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document was provided to Thurrock Council for their feedback and the council confirmed that they had no comments.

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