



Norwich to Tilbury Grid Reinforcement Project

National Grid Development Consent Order Application EN020027

Essex Police Statement of Common Ground

I write in support of the submission of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Essex Police and National Grid relating to the Norwich to Tilbury Project. This document is supplementary to the SoCG and serves to invite the Examining Authority (ExA) to note that irrespective of progress, important matters relating to operational resilience, operational independence and long-term funding arrangements remain subject to ongoing discussion that will likely continue post-examination.

The SoCG reflects significant engagement that has taken place throughout the Examination process, recording numerous areas of agreement between the parties. Essex Police remain committed to working collaboratively to resolve the outstanding issues. We also welcome National Grid's recognition that the project will not result in **any** publicly funded costs associated with non-core policing activities – including in relation to escorts of Abnormal Indivisible Loads. This is a well-established principle whenever special policing services are required and is clearly captured in the NPCC Guidance.

As a summary, Essex Police note that the following critical issues remain subject to further negotiation and agreement, and Essex Police shall apply the following core principles in its post-examination cooperation with National Grid:

- The Chief Constable of Essex Police retains direction and control of Essex Police officers and staff with operational independence to determine how to deploy resources and respond to incidents – including with regard to managing the safety of AIL escort activity (and other project-related policing requirements).
- The provision of police services for the project (to include but not limited to escorting AILs) amount to special police services (s25 Police Act 1996) and the NPCC guidance on police charges will be the benchmark for determining the costing of police resources to escort AILs, as well as the relevant Essex Police/Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex rules and requirements, including the costs of establishing, maintaining and ultimately disbanding any dedicated capability required to support the Project. The AIL Funding Sum shall be index linked on an annual basis by the greater of CPI or the blended annual increase in the NPCC charging rates.

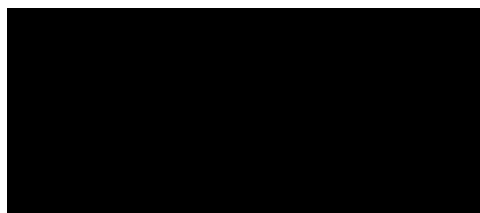
Having regard to the above principles, the following matters require clear resolution:

- The entering into of a side agreement that secures funding arrangements which are capable of being reviewed and adjusted where there are changes to project duration, programme delivery, route selection, operational assumptions, construction methodologies or the volume of AIL movements.

- A formal change-control process capable of managing evolving operational requirements throughout the life of the Project.
- Explicit recognition that **any** increase in policing demand resulting from operational planning, protest activity, public safety considerations, incident management, route amendments or other project-related impacts should be recoverable from National Grid.

These matters are not raised as objections to the Project itself but rather as prudent safeguards necessary to ensure that policing services for the communities of Essex are not adversely affected by the implementation of a nationally significant infrastructure project. We are encouraged by the progress made during the Examination and believe there remains a clear pathway towards agreement.

Thank you for considering the Force's position.



Assistant Chief Constable
Essex Police