



**Norwich to Tilbury Grid Reinforcement Project
National Grid Development Consent Order Application EN020027
("the Application")**

**Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary ("the Joint Forces")
Joint Forces Closing Submission for Deadline 8**

This document sets out a final statement from the Joint Forces on the status of its representations as at close of examination. The Joint Forces have proactively engaged with the Applicant since before examination begun and expects this to continue beyond the examination process.

This document does not revoke, amend or supersede previous representations made by the Joint Forces. Rather, this document to supplement to the following documents, all of which collectively record the Joint Forces' position and how this has evolved throughout the examination:

- Joint representations: **[REP1-232]**, **[REP3-109]**, **[REP4-341]** and **[REP5-244]**;
- Final, signed statements of common ground: **[REP7-381]** and **[REP7-382]**; and
- In respect of Essex Police only: **[REP7-554]**.

As recorded in the respective final statements of common ground (**[REP7-381]** and **[REP7-382]**) ("**the SoCGs**"), numerous matters remain subject to ongoing discussion. Nonetheless, a comparison of the SoCGs against the opening position statement **[REP1-232]** reveals positive movements. Nonetheless, it is clear from the SoCGs that these matters are not fully resolved. The Applicant will therefore need to ensure that it continues to engage with the Joint Forces until all matters are satisfactorily addressed.

The Joint Forces wish to close its examination representations with a high-level summary of the outstanding critical issues between the Joint Forces and the Applicant:

1. **AIL funding Agreement and Dedicated Police Resources:** The Joint Forces and the Applicant are negotiating a side agreement which relates to the entering into of an AIL funding agreement. The agreement itself does not secure the AIL funding but rather requiring the Applicant enters into the AIL funding agreement at least 18 months prior to the first AIL movements for which a police escort team is required. The Joint Forces reiterate that, absent a binding AIL Funding Agreement, they would be unable to support the anticipated scale and duration of AIL movements associated with the Project.

The Joint Forces' evidence throughout the examination has been that the forecast AIL requirements cannot be supported through existing resources and that a dedicated, funded capability is required to avoid adverse impacts on operational policing and community safety. Given the anticipated volume of AIL movements, it would be impossible for the Applicant to achieve the proposed project timeline without police funding. In those circumstances, delivery of the Applicant's proposed AIL programme, and therefore the associated Project timetable, would remain at the Applicant's risk.

The Joint Forces welcome that the Applicant has accepted that it alone must carry the cost of the Project's AIL requirements and that there will be no costs to the public purse associated with AIL movements from the Project.

2. **AIL Services:** The Joint Forces prepared a 'Scalable Model' which was sent to the Applicant on 10 July 2026. This was developed to support discussions regarding an appropriate mitigation package and to provide an indicative framework for assessing potential policing requirements and associated costs.

The Joint Forces have requested that the Applicant uses all reasonable endeavours to confirm in writing to the respective police forces by 1 October 2026 (or such later date as may be agreed) its AIL requirements in accordance with the options indicated within the Scalable Model.

3. **Transport, Community Safety and Cohesion Working Group ("TWG"), Security Partnership Working Group ("SPWG") and Incident Management Plan ("IMP"):** The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP7-338] provides for the establishment of the TWG and SPWG. Additionally, the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP7-322] imposes a consultation right for TWG in relation to the IMP.

The Applicant has agreed to further amend these documents to include an express requirement that any such consultation responses are given due consideration and that the Applicant keeps written records of how it has considered these responses. Subject to this being reflected in the Deadline 8 documents, the Joint Forces consider that our in principle agreement from the SoCG is satisfied. Because these are 'outline' documents, the Joint Forces require that the final version of these documents incorporates the revised Deadline 8 wording if they are to be viewed as demonstrating 'substantial compliance' with the outline versions.

The Joint Forces look forward to continuing to work constructively with National Grid. The Joint Forces reiterate that our position regarding AIL movements remains unchanged: the anticipated policing requirement cannot be met from existing resources and the proposed AIL programme cannot be delivered without a fully funded AIL agreement being in place. Subject to the Applicant continuing to engage with the Joint Forces and securing the necessary funding arrangements, the outstanding matters identified in the SoCG remain capable of resolution.