

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: MCa/21/45
FROM: Cabinet Member for Planning	DATE OF MEETING: 7th March 2022
OFFICER: Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB338

RESPONSE TO NATIONAL GRID STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD OVERHEAD LINE PROJECT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow Cabinet to debate the matter formally as the project is perceived as controversial, to seek comments on the proposed joint response of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and request delegation to the Assistant Director for Planning and Building control to send the response.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 To respond to the consultation with the response as set out in appendix a.
- 2.2 To respond to the consultation with proposed amendments to the responses set out in appendix a.
- 2.3 To not respond to the consultation.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 **To respond to the consultation.**

3.2 **That the Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control, in collaboration with the Cabinet Members for Planning, consider any proposed amendments to the suggested response and be authorised to make amendments before submitting a response to the Government.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure the comments of the councils are set out for consideration by National Grid in the further stages of the project.

4. KEY INFORMATION

The Bramford to Twinstead Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is a development scheme of overhead electricity lines proposed by National Grid.

The development is required to reinforce the electricity transmission network between the existing National Grid Substation at Bramford in Mid Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Braintree District, Essex.

The proposed reinforcement is around 29 km and includes:

- Around 19 km of new 400 kV overhead lines
- Around 10 km of new 400 kV underground cables (through AONB areas)
- Four cable sealing end compounds to connect overhead line and underground cable sections together
- Removal of around 25 km of existing 132 kV pylons between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee
- Removal of around 2.5 km of existing 400 kV pylons south of Twinstead Tee
- A new grid supply point substation at Butler's Wood, to connect the local distribution network into the National Grid

5. **LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Corporate Plan identifies strategic priorities, which include the environment, economy, housing, wellbeing, our customers and our communities. The project affects strategic priorities through its proposals.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications to responding to the consultation.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Planning Act 2008 sets out provisions for the NSIP pre-application process including a duty for the proposer to consult parties including the local authorities and local communities affected.

The comments submitted by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to the statutory consultation being carried out.

There is no legal requirement to respond to this consultation.

8. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

This report is linked with item 14 of the Councils' Significant Risks, The Councils may be perceived to be untrustworthy and have a poor reputation. This may prevent it from entering into positive partnerships, secure funding and ultimately may affect our ability to work with partners, businesses and key stakeholders in achieving our strategic priorities. The key risk is set out below: -

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness of impact	Mitigation measures
Failure to engage with communities and provide community leadership at a local level	Highly unlikely	Bad / serious	Ensure local representation is summarised within the consultation

9. **CONSULTATIONS**

As part of the handling of the statutory consultation Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have consulted technical advisers including:

- BMSDC Environmental Health Officer
- BMSDC Economic Development Officer
- BMSDC Planning Policy Officer
- Place Services – Heritage
- Place Services – Ecology
- Place Services – Landscape

10. **EQUALITY ANALYSIS**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required as this is a response to a consultation.

11. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Through responding to the consultation, the impact on the environment might be mitigated if the proposals responds to the issues highlighted by technical advisers as set out in the proposed joint response from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

12. **APPENDICES**

A. Draft joint response attached.

13. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Consultation documents available here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/bramford-twinstead/our-proposals>