



Report to Planning Committee 6 June 2024

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Lisa Hughes, Business Manager – Planning Development, 5565

Report Summary	
Report Title	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Development Consent Orders
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to set out a proposal for managing the Council’s involvement in two Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and provide a summary of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.
Recommendations	<p>a) That Members of Planning Committee be provided with quarterly updates on the projects (or earlier if required in the opinion of the Director for Planning & Growth) and the Council’s input where there are substantive updates to be reported.</p> <p>b) With the exception of Local Impact Reports, all the Council’s representations (to the developers and Secretary of State) will be delegated to the Director for Planning & Growth (who may delegate to authorised officers), in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee.</p> <p>c) That the protocol as enclosed as an Appendix to this report be adopted and that it forms part of the agreed delegation for NSIP projects going forward.</p>

1.0 Background

1.1 This report relates to the two Solar Farm Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) known as One Earth Solar Farm (OESF) and Great North Road (GNR) Solar Park. It also seeks to set out a protocol that will be used for any subsequent NSIP projects that are proposed in the district.

1.2 NSIPs are projects of certain types, over a certain size, which are considered by the Government to be so big and nationally important that permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the responsible Government minister (i.e., the ‘Secretary of State’). Instead of applying to the Local Authority for planning permission, the developer must apply to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a different permission

called a Development Consent Order (DCO). The process for applying for a DCO is set out in the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). A DCO enables the ability to consolidate separate consents, including planning permission, and is designed to improve efficiencies by avoiding the need to make separate consent applications such as Permits from the Environment Agency, drainage consents from the Lead Local Flood Authority etc.

- 1.3 PINS is the Government Agency responsible for administering NSIP applications and (with the agreement of the relevant Secretary of State) appoints the Examining Authority (ExA) to consider the scheme who make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy. Under the Act, the Application will be determined by the Secretary of State or his successor. If the Application is successful, the Secretary of State will grant the DCO in respect of the Application. The relevant Local Authority (or Authorities where the application is cross-boundary) then becomes responsible for discharging and monitoring any *requirements*¹ of the DCO and associated legal agreements.
- 1.4 Newark and Sherwood District Council is a statutory consultee for these projects which means we can make comments but do not make the final decision on whether they are approved or not.
- 1.5 Although the OESF and GNR Solar Park NSIPs are similar (in that they are both large-scale solar farm proposals with battery energy storage systems), there are some notable differences that will influence the nature of the Council's engagement. For the OESF, the Council is one of five "host authorities" which fall across two county boundaries (Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire) and three local authorities (Newark and Sherwood District Council, West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council). Whereas the GNR Solar Park falls entirely within the District of Newark and Sherwood, which means the Council is one of only two "host authorities" alongside Nottinghamshire County Council. A host authority is defined within the Act as a 'local authority where the application land is in, or part of, the area of that authority'².
- 1.6 In addition, the two projects are sited in different parts of the district and are proposed to be progressed within slightly different timescales albeit in-line with the same 6 stages of the development consent regime as illustrated below.

¹ Which are similar to conditions attached to planning permissions.

² Section 55(5)(a) of the Planning Act 2008.

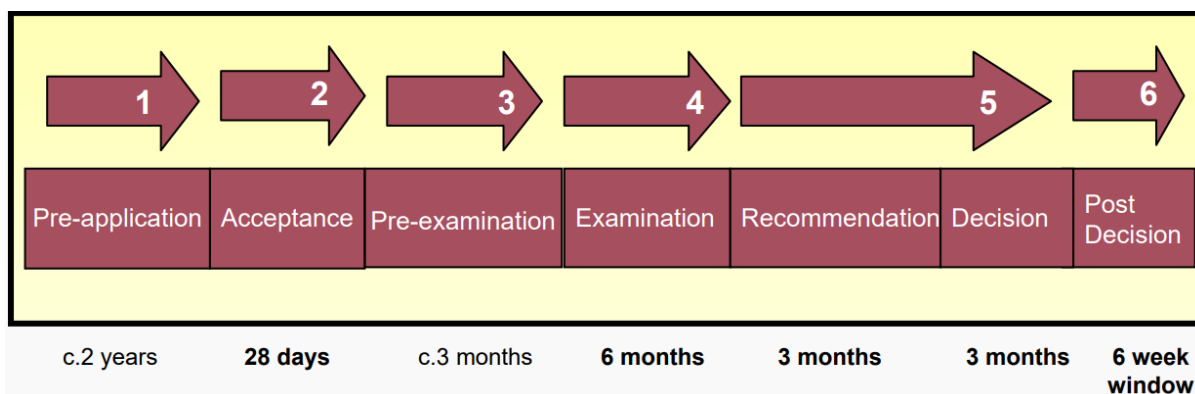


Figure 1 DCO Consent Regime Stages (Source: Planning Inspectorate)

- 1.7 While the Council does not have the power to determine DCO Applications, it has a statutory obligation to undertake specific functions in relation to them and is encouraged to work collaboratively with Developers and other host authorities to facilitate their efficient determination. This will initially be through Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) with the Promoters and will follow on to the formal pre-application stage before the submission and examination of the Application by the Secretary of State (in line with the 6 stages listed above).
- 1.8 The Council is expected to provide an important local perspective during the pre-application, examination and determination stages of the Applications and will produce documents not limited to: Relevant Representations, Written Representations and Local Impact Reports, in addition to contributing to Statements of Common Ground, responding to Written Questions from the Secretary of State, and making representations on the content of the DCOs and other material that forms part of the application submissions.
- 1.9 The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about the DCO process. Advice Note Two³ covers the role of local authorities in the development consent process and has been used to inform the preparation of this report.
- 1.10 Members will also be aware that the Council is currently dealing with another NSIP, the A46 Newark Bypass, which is categorised as a 'Transport' NSIP (as opposed to an 'Energy' NSIP). This NSIP is at a more advanced stage, with an application having recently been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 26 April 2024. The Application is being made by National Highways as the scheme forms part of the Government's second Road Investment Strategy. The Council is one of only two "host authorities" alongside Nottinghamshire County Council. Planning Officer Lynsey Preston has been identified to lead on the Council's involvement on the A46 Newark Bypass. The application was accepted for examination on the 23 May 2024.

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-two-the-role-of-local-authorities-in-the-development-consent-process/>

- 1.11 The Council is also providing pre-application advice for the Staythorpe Carbon Capture Project which is not an NSIP (and is not considered under the DCO process) but an application made under the Electricity Act 1989. The project promoters, RWE, are applying to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero to vary the Section 36 consent and Deemed Planning Permission for Staythorpe Power Station. The scope of the application is for the retrofit of carbon capture technology to Staythorpe Power Station, plus associated changes within the site which includes relocation of some operational equipment. The Council's involvement in this project is as a statutory consultee that will provide consultee advice to the Secretary of State (SoS). It is referenced in this report for information, as another type of project that follows a different consenting process, where the Council is not the decision maker. There are, however, no actions required, as the Electricity Act has minimal input for statutory consultees in comparison to the DCO process.
- 1.12 The Council has brought in external support to lead on NSIP Projects. Simon Betts, as a Planning Officer specialising in Major Projects. Support will be provided by two other Planning Officers namely Honor Whitfield for the One Earth Solar Farm and Amy Davies for the Great North Road Solar Park. Progress to date is reported below.

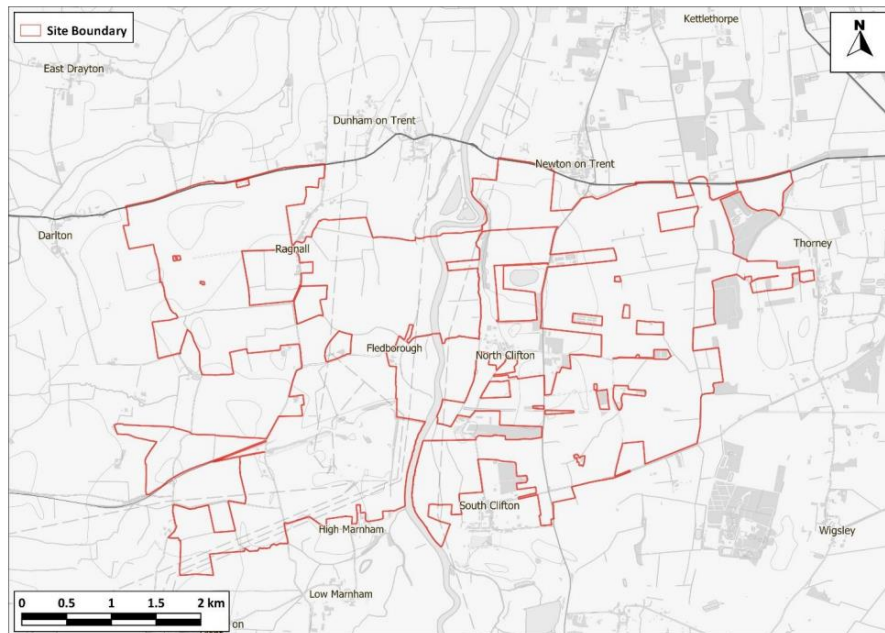
2.0 The Proposals

- 2.1 The Planning Inspectorate has dedicated project pages for each NSIP where you can find project updates and the document register, these are linked under the 'Background Papers and Published Documents' section of this report.

One Earth Solar Farm (OESF)

Project Overview

- 2.2 One Earth Solar Farm is being brought forward by two companies, PS Renewables and Ørsted ('the Developers'). The project website can be found here: <http://oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk/>
- 2.3 The OESF comprises the construction and installation of solar photovoltaic panels, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated grid connection infrastructure which would allow for the generation of an anticipated 740 megawatts (MW) of electricity across approximately 1,500 hectares (ha) in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.
- 2.4 The OESF site is located at OS grid reference SK816718 (approximate centre of the Site). The Site boundary is shown in Figure 2 and consists of approximately 170 agricultural fields located to the east and west of the River Trent. At its maximum, the Site extends approximately 4.5km in a north-south direction and approximately 8km in an east-west direction.



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Figure 2 OESF Site Boundary

- 2.5 The Site falls across two county boundaries and three local authorities, with approximately one third of the site within NSDC’s district. Approximately 1,250ha of the Site falls within Nottinghamshire County and the remaining 250ha of the Site falls within Lincolnshire County.
- 2.6 To the southwest of the OESF site is the existing national grid substation at High Marnham, which is proposed to provide the connection for the Proposed Development to the National Grid Electricity Transmission network. The Developer has secured a connection agreement with National Grid which would allow export and import up to 740MW of electricity to the High Marnham substation. The Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) register shows the Developer has a contract for this connection agreement to be established by 31/10/2027.

Progress to Date

- 2.7 The Developers carried out non-statutory public engagement between 27th September – 8th November 2023 which comprised of several in person and virtual consultation events as well as site visits to local properties. They also submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Scoping Report](#) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration in December 2023. Before responding to the Scoping Opinion, PINS consulted several consultation bodies⁴ including Newark and Sherwood District Council.
- 2.8 The Council responded to the Scoping Opinion, with input from specialist technical officers including the Council’s Biodiversity and Tree Officers. This response can be found in full on pages 170-193 of PINS’ Adopted Scoping Opinion here: [EN010159-](#)

⁴ in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

- 2.9 This project is currently at pre-application stage and has the following projected timetable:

Event	Estimated Date
Stage One (Pre-Application)	Q1 2024 – up until submission
Stage Two (Statutory Consultation)	Q2 2024
Stage Three (Application Submission)	Q1 2025
Stage Four (Pre-examination Period)	Q2 2025
Stage Five (Examination)	Q3 2025

- 2.10 Based on this projected timetable, the application is expected to be formally submitted to PINS between January-March 2025.
- 2.11 The Council has signed a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with the Applicant as part of the pre-application process which provides a framework within which the Council will engage with the Developers to provide advice on the proposal. Consultants have been instructed to provide expert assistance in assessing the potential Landscape Character and Visual Impact (LVIA) and Agricultural Land Classification implications of the proposal.
- 2.12 The Developers are in the process of carrying out site surveys to inform the production of their Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and are engaging with the Host Authorities and their Officers (including topic specialists such as Conservation, Ecology and Noise) to inform their local survey work. The PEIR is a document that precedes the Environmental Statement and enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the Proposed Development during the pre-application stage.
- 2.13 Feedback on a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how the local community will be consulted about the Proposed Development, has also been provided. Formal consultation by the applicant on the finalised SoCC was recently carried out, with the Council issuing a response on the 4th of May 2024. The statutory consultation period is proposed between the 29th of May and 9th July 2024.

Great North Road (GNR) Solar Park

Project Overview

- 2.14 Great North Road (GNR) Solar Park is being brought forward by Elements Green Ltd ('the Applicant') who have a project website that can be found here: <https://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/>
- 2.15 GNR Solar Park would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, an on-site energy storage facility, and the infrastructure needed to connect the scheme into

the national grid at Staythorpe substation. The Solar Park would be located on approximately 2,800 hectares (6,920 acres) of land to the north west of Newark and would connect to the grid by underground cables.

- 2.16 The Order Limits of the GNR Solar Park are shown on the masterplan image enclosed below. As indicated by the key, the redline area indicates the ‘Order Limits’ with the areas in blue typically comprising the solar panel areas and/or ancillary development. The green areas comprise mitigation and/or enhancement areas.

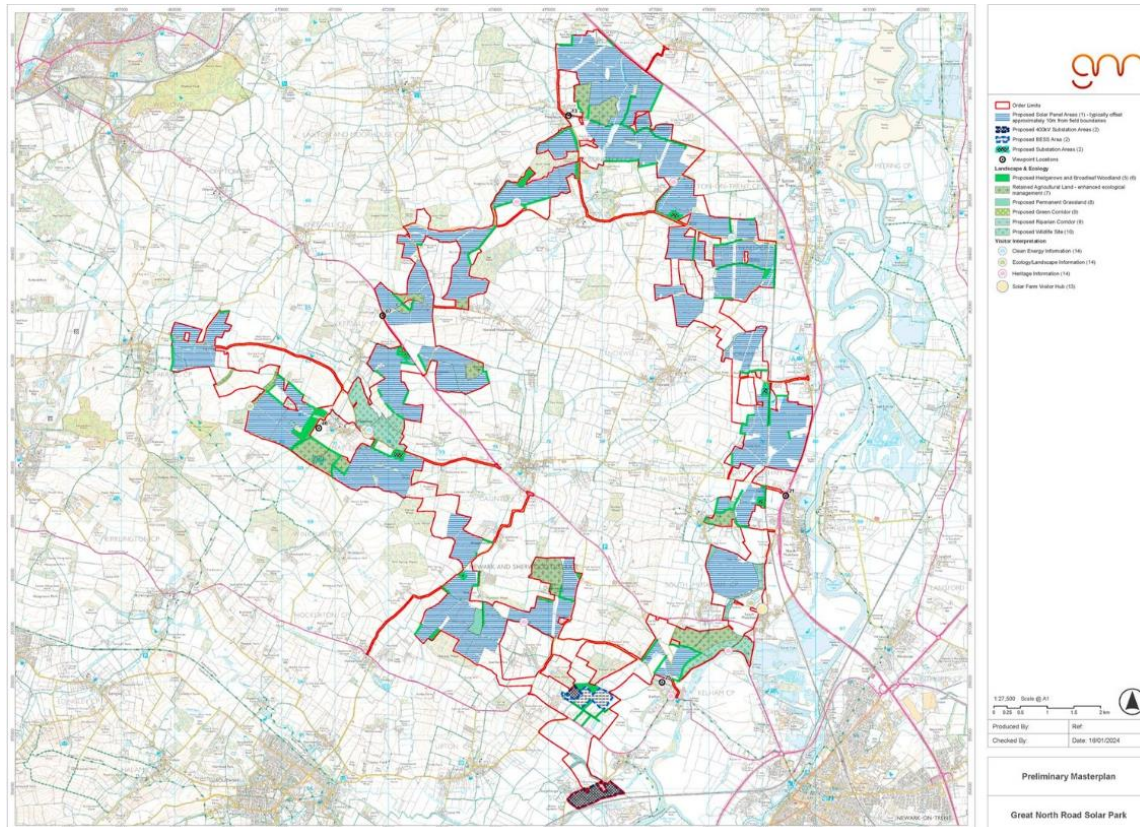


Figure 3 Great North Road Solar Park Preliminary Masterplan

- 2.17 The Applicant has secured a connection agreement with National Grid that would allow export and import up to 800MW of electricity to the Staythorpe substation. The Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) register shows the cumulative capacity of electricity secured by the connection would increase over four phases, starting with 360MW effective from 01/08/2025, increasing to 400MW effective from 01/05/2027, and then 600MW effective from 01/08/2027, before finally reaching the total agreed amount of 800MW effective from 01/05/2028.

Progress to Date

- 2.18 The Developers carried out non-statutory public engagement between 16th January and 27th February 2024, which comprised of several in person and virtual consultation events as well as letter and leaflet drops in and around a “core consultation zone”. Prior to this, they submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Scoping Report](#) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for consideration in December 2023. Before

responding to the Scoping Opinion, PINS consulted several consultation bodies⁵ including Newark and Sherwood District Council.

2.19 The Council responded to the Scoping Opinion with input from specialist technical officers including the Council’s Biodiversity and Tree Officers. This response can be found in full on pages 165-195 of PINS’ Adopted Scoping Opinion here: [EN010162 – Great North Road Solar Park - Scoping Opinion 2017 EIA Regs.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

2.20 This project is currently at pre-application stage and has the following projected timetable:

Event	Estimated Date
Stage One (Pre-Application)	January 2024 – up until submission
Stage Two (Statutory Consultation)	Autumn 2024
Stage Three (Application Submission)	Spring 2025
Stage Four (Pre-examination Period)	Mid-Late 2025
Stage Five (Examination)	2025-2026

2.21 Based on the projected timetable, the application is expected to be formally submitted to PINS Spring 2025.

2.22 A Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) is currently being drafted as part of the pre-application process, which will provide a framework within which the Council will engage with the Developers to provide advice on the proposal. The Council also intends to instruct consultants to provide expert assistance where needed, e.g., Landscape Character and Visual Impacts. It is expected that the PPA will be signed by the applicant and the Council shortly.

3.0 Focusing the Council’s Input and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Before submitting a DCO Application to PINS, potential applicants have a statutory duty to carry out consultation on their proposals. The length of time taken to prepare and consult on a project will vary depending upon its scale and complexity. Therefore, responding to pre-application consultations is considered the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it, or believe it could be improved.

3.2 PINS Advice Note Two explains that the pre-application stage is a very important part of the process for all participants. Pre-application consultation is a statutory requirement of the process. It is the responsibility of the developer to carry out the pre-application consultation with local authorities, statutory consultees, and members of the public. Whilst local authorities should have regard to what local communities are

⁵ in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

saying, the local authority and the local community are consultees in their own right and should engage with developers on issues of interest.

- 3.3 The Advice Note goes on to explain that a local authority must conduct itself in line with the National Policy Statements⁶ and the relevant guidance and that it is important for local authorities to use the pre-application process to inform themselves about the application and gather information that will assist in the production of the Local Impact Report (LIR), written representations and any Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). Adopting a proactive approach at this stage is expected to reduce the demand on the local authority's resources during the set timescales of the Examination stage.
- 3.4 The Advice Note sets out that local authorities should engage proactively with a developer even if they disagree with the proposal in principle. It goes on to explain that it is important to recognise that a local authority is not the decision maker but will want to contribute towards the development of the emerging proposals with the benefit of their detailed local knowledge. Local authorities are not undermining any 'in principle' objections to a scheme by engaging with a developer at the pre-application stage. Once an application has been formally submitted to PINS it cannot be changed to the extent that it would be a materially different application, so as to constitute a new application. It is therefore important for local authorities to put any fundamental points to the developer during the pre-application stage.
- 3.5 Following submission, i.e., during the Examination (stages 3 and 4 of Fig. 1), there will be numerous deadlines for the local authority to submit certain reports and representations. The PINS Advice Note explains that these require prompt responses to set deadlines to ensure all matters can be fully explored before the close of examination. In making its recommendation to the relevant SoS, the examining authority (i.e., PINS) can only consider evidence that has been received by the close of the examination by the relevant deadlines. Once the examination timetable is published, interested parties must adhere to the deadlines. Therefore, Advice Note 2 states that local authorities are advised to seek their Members' approval for examination documents to be submitted to PINS under delegated authority and confirms the following.
- 'A local authority will therefore need to ensure it has adequate delegations in place. There is unlikely to be time to seek committee approval for representations made by a local authority during the examination. In general terms a local authority must assume that it won't be possible for the examination timetable to be structured around its committee cycle.'*
- 3.6 Given the strict deadlines that must be adhered to, and having sought advice from other neighbouring Authorities, this report requests approval from Members to delegate authority to the Director – Planning & Growth for the submission of all examination documents and representations save for the Local Impact Report (LIR), which would be reported to Members for approval during the pre-examination period.

⁶ NPS for Overarching Energy (EN-1) and NPS for Renewable Energy (EN-3)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure>

- 3.7 The LIR is defined as a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area). This is a technical document setting out an evidence-based assessment of the impacts of a proposal and should cover any topics the local authority considers relevant to the impact of the proposed development on their area. The LIR should be used by the local authority as the means by which their existing body of local knowledge and evidence on local issues can be reported to PINS. The local authority can set out its local planning policy considerations as they relate to the proposal in the LIR. The LIR's principal purpose is to make the examining authority (PINS) aware of the potential impacts of the project with the benefit of local knowledge.
- 3.8 Given the breadth of topic areas the examination will cover, it is not practical, realistic, or appropriate for local authorities to respond on every subject matter. Therefore, having considered the remit of the District Council (compared with the County Council⁷ and other Statutory Consultees⁸), and consulted with neighbouring authorities with previous experience of Solar NSIP proposals, the following topic areas have been identified as those which NSDC should initially focus its efforts on responding to
- a) Landscape Character and Visual Impact
 - b) Public Rights of Way (user amenity)
 - c) Cultural, Built and Buried Heritage (Conservation and Archaeology)
 - d) Noise
 - e) Ecology and Biodiversity
 - f) Agricultural Land Classification and Impact
- 3.9 For these topic areas the Council will contribute towards in agreeing the methodology, assessment, and mitigation of effects. Whilst this topic specific focus enables the appropriate allocation of resources at a District level as part of the pre-application, this does not limit the authority's ability to respond on any other matters relating to the DCO that we see is appropriate if these are to arise during the process. Similarly, this does not preclude Members or Local Communities responding to consultations on issues of interest themselves.
- 3.10 This report therefore seeks agreement from Members that the local authority will focus on providing advice and responses on the topics listed in paragraph 3.8 of this report, unless this list is further refined throughout the pre-application stage of the application. Furthermore, this report seeks agreement to the more general protocol for responding to NSIP projects, so that a clear approach is in place for other future projects that may be promoted within the District, which is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 3.11 In addition, in relation to ongoing project progress, it is proposed that Members of the Planning Committee be provided with quarterly updates on both NSIPs (unless issues arising would necessitate earlier briefings) and the Council's input where there has been substantive progress and there are updates to report.

⁷ Who will respond to the NSIP in their remit as the Highway Authority, Lead Local Flood Risk Authority and on other matters such as impact on Public Rights of Way and Minerals and Waste (for example).

⁸ Such as the Environment Agency, National Highways, Natural England etc.

4.0 Implications

- 4.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations' officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

The Planning Inspectorate webpages for the two NSIPs can be found here:

[One Earth Solar Farm - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/one-earth-solar-farm/)

[Great North Road Solar Park - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/great-north-road-solar-park/)

Appendix – Protocol for responding to NSIP Projects

The following protocol is proposed to be adopted to guide the response of the Council to all future NSIP projects. It sets out the key stages of the statutory process for which the Council has an obligation to respond, the associated timetable for providing a response and the proposed delegation process associated with the Council's response to the process.

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
Pre-application stage	Agreeing a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).	No fixed timescales.	Delegated to Officers.	A PPA is simply a tool to ensure the project is resourced and allows the authority to secure funds for this.
	Joint working arrangements with other LPA's.	No fixed timescales.	Delegated to Officers.	This is simply a means to organise joint working arrangements, where it can improve efficiency and saves on cost.
	Informal discussions on the approach to consultation with applicants and information gathering.	No fixed timescales, this activity typically takes place over a period 3-6 months.	Delegated to Officers. Information provided to Ward Members and the Planning Committee as an update as part of the regular Planning Committee cycle.	This stage is simply a means for Officers to find out more information about the project and undertake informal discussions about how an applicant intends to consult with the community.
	Formal response to the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC).	The Council has 28 days to respond (beginning the day after the day of receipt) under the terms of Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008.	Delegated to Officers. Formal response subsequently provided to Members for information purposes.	An applicant only has a duty to 'consider' the comments of a Council if made within the fixed 28-day time period. In order to enable Officers to give thorough consideration to the proposals set out and provide a response, it is not considered practical nor possible to engage with Members via Planning Committee within the time available.

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
	Respond to Statutory Consultation (Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008)	Under the terms of Section 45 of the Planning Act 2008, an Applicant must provide a minimum of 28 days (which begins the day after the day of receipt), but most applicants consult for longer than the statutory minimum, typically for around a period of 6-8 weeks.	Delegated to Officers, on the assumption that 28 days is provided. with special agreement being reached on putting the recommended response to Planning Committee if there is sufficient time available in the consultation period. This would likely require a specially arranged Planning Committee. If not provided to Planning Committee for a decision, based on timescales, as a minimum, provided for information purposes, following a response at the next available Planning Committee meeting.	As there may be variation from one project to the next on the timescales for a response, a fixed approach is not considered feasible.
	Commence work on the Local Impact (LIR)	No fixed period.	Delegated to Officers.	In line with guidance from the Planning Inspectorate, an early start on the LIR is recommended although this would not be provided/completed within the pre-application stage (see below), but this is something that is requested in

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
				<p>the early part of the examination phase and the timescale for this request is not fixed (it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority (ExA)). In any event, the LIR is a factual based report, which seeks to simply provide a factual presentation of the potential impacts of the proposed development, taking account of the local knowledge and experience of the authority. It does not seek to appraise the project nor indicate support or otherwise but is designed to assist the ExA in the consideration and assessment of NSIP projects.</p>
	<p>Commence work on Statements of Common Ground (SOCG).</p>	<p>No fixed period.</p>	<p>Delegated, in consultation with Members of the Planning Committee where possible.</p>	<p>The preparation of any SOCG is something that is progressed and managed by the applicant. It is not mandatory to produce them at the pre-application stage, but they are requested by the ExA at the examination stage (see below). Any areas of agreement, if confirmed at this stage, would not relate to the merits of the development, but typically factual elements, including how the project will be assessed, including the methodology for</p>

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
				assessment with regard to EIA. Depending on the applicant seeking to progress this at the early stage, a recommendation could be made to Planning Committee, setting out the terms of any issues that could be agreed, setting a framework for the onward completion and negotiation of the SOCG.
	Discussion on Requirements and/or Section 106 Agreements.	No fixed period.	Delegated.	'Requirements' form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Statutory Instrument, but they are akin to planning conditions on a planning permission. As with planning conditions, they are the mechanism for producing detailed areas of work and/or mitigating the impacts of development. If tabled at the pre-application stage, they would comprise early discussions, only as per any discussion on S106 Agreements as relevant.
Acceptance Stage	Adequacy of Consultation Response	14 days.	Delegated.	At the point that an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) they have 28 days to decide whether to accept an application for examination based on satisfying a number of statutory tests within the Planning Act 2008.

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
				Within this period, PINS invite the relevant local planning authorities to comment on the adequacy of consultation. There would be insufficient time to allow a report to be put to Planning Committee during this period, with the timescale being fixed under the Act.
Pre-Examination Stage	Preliminary Meeting	Single date.	Delegated.	To be attended by Officers, a procedural meeting only, relating to how the examination will be conducted.
	Relevant Representations	No fixed period.	Delegated, in consultation with Members of the Planning Committee where possible.	A 'relevant' representation provides the initial opportunity during pre-examination to set out the main issues, impacts and concerns that the Council may have. It is an important procedural step, as it enables registration for active participation in the examination. As it is based on a timetable to be decided by the ExA, the time available may not allow for formal consideration by the Planning Committee.
	Finalise LIR	No fixed period.	Planning Committee.	Following the submission of the application, the finalised LIR can be drafted and presented for approval

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
				to the Planning Committee, during the pre-examination period.
Examination Stage.	Submission of LIR	No fixed period.	Delegated.	As per the approach recommended at pre-application stage. Completion of the LIR. The timescale is discretionary and is set by the ExA as part of the 'Rule 8' Letter. On the basis that the LIR will be drafted and approved in the Pre-examination stage by Planning Committee, the LIR will simply be released to coincide with the ExA timetable.
	Inputs into SOCGs.	No fixed period.	Delegated.	As part of an iterative process, inputs are provided throughout the examination, up to the point that a final version is agreed. Responses are dictated by the examination timetable.
	Written Responses.	No fixed period.	Delegated.	Written responses comprise a combination of responding to the written questions of the ExA, comments on other representations
	Participation in Hearings	No fixed period.	Delegated (but with member attendance where desired)	A number of hearings take place during the examination. This comprises round table discussions, where it is expected that Officers will provide verbal representations on the issues. It may be that Members (particularly Ward Members) may

Project Stage	Activity	Timescale	Proposed Approach	Justification
				wish to be present at certain hearings to observe or actively participate.
Post Decision	Discharge of requirements	No fixed period.	Delegated.	The 'Requirements' form part of the DCO Statute and are finalised on the assumption that the Secretary of State approves the application. The responsibility of discharging requirements falls to the Council, as does enforcement, in the event of non compliance. As the DCO is a statute, there would be no need to consider public interest, as non compliance would be a direct breach of legislation.