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**BY EMAIL**

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Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Ms Barnett,

### **SCC Cabinet meeting 21-05-24 Norwich to Tilbury Project**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, the Suffolk County Council Cabinet considered and approved the Council's response (in outline) to the s42 Statutory Consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury project<sup>1</sup>.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the request for a pause in the development of this proposal, as set out in the recommendations; to ensure that the alternative options for this scheme of connection, as proposed by National Grid ESO, receive appropriate and robust public consideration, including effective consideration of the environmental benefits and risks, as well as any potential additional costs to the consumer.

The County Council recognises that the delivery of the current proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project is a licence obligation for National Grid Electricity Transmission, and therefore is requesting that Ofgem make a variation to the ASTI provisions of NGET's Licence Agreement.

It is considered that this is a reasonable request, given the findings of the Hiorns Report, which identified that the need case (timeline) for the development was not robust, and that it may not in fact be required until 2035. However, to be clear, the Council is not at this stage calling for an extended delay, rather it is calling for sufficient time to ensure a fair, robust, and effective consideration of alternatives, to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme, in the interests of securing a fair process which will command public confidence and enable a just transition to a decarbonised electricity system by 2035.

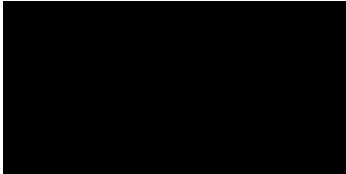
Furthermore, NGET have committed to review their approach to this scheme, and therefore the County Council would ask that this review is undertaken, and to ensure that this is done in such a way that is visible publicly.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda Item 8 [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(21-05-2024\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(21-05-2024),%20The%20Cabinet)

This request for a pause is made in a spirit of collaboration and co-operation with National Grid and the regulator, as the Council seeks to achieve the best possible outcome for the people of Suffolk, whilst at the same time enabling energy security, and decarbonisation of the electricity network, and enhancing public trust and confidence in the processes of change.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Rout

Deputy Leader of Suffolk County  
Council and Cabinet Member for  
Finance and Environment