

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO CHELMSFORD POLICY BOARD

3 December 2020 - Agenda Item 6

Chelmsford City Council has recently been consulted separately on the Longfield Solar Farm Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report. EIA is a process carried out to enable decision makers to understand the likely significant effects of the new solar farm.

The EIA Scoping Report includes more detail regarding the solar farm and a wider site boundary than that shown within the Public Consultation Booklet. These differences have been reflected in the amendments and alterations to the report set out below. A response to the EIA Scoping Report is being co-ordinated by the Development Management Team.

Covering Report

No changes proposed.

Appendix 1

Paragraph	Amendment
Add to the end of the response to 'Is there anything you would like to know more about at the next round of consultation events?'	<p>It is proposed that the following additional wording is included within the responses to the consultation at Appendix 1:</p> <p><i>CCC has noted that for technical reasoning the boundaries between the initial consultation document and EIA scoping report differ. For further clarity in assessing the implications of the scheme in future consultation, it is requested that more detail and clarification is given to the changes to the site boundary in future consultation material and where possible, multiple site boundaries are not published to avoid any confusion. Further information is also sought for the intended use of the land to the west of Waltham Road.</i></p>

Appendix 2

Appendix 2, the site context plan, has been revised to show additional areas which are also subject to the EIA scoping report and the reasoning set out below.

The EIA scoping report states the site boundary 'shows the expected maximum extent of land that would be included within the application for a development consent order (DCO), which includes all land being considered for the purposes of the Scheme, and provides a 'plan sufficient to identify the land' for the purposes of this Scoping Report'.

The land area shown represents the maximum land take based on the full range of possible development options and components (such as the solar arrays, substation, storage facilities and cable route corridors) and the land potentially required for the construction, operation and maintenance which could form part of the final scheme. This ensures that the Environment Statement considers the potential environmental effects of the full range of options under consideration, to ensure that the likely significant effects of each of the component options has been scoped into the assessment.

The proposal will be the subject of further consultation and discussions with key stakeholders. At this stage, options are still being considered with respect to the cable route and location of the substation which will be informed by ongoing discussions with National Grid and by the EIA assessment. The proposed land area will likely be refined as the scheme design progresses, taking into account environmental and technical factors, and consultation responses.