

Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	26 Feb 2026
Decision Maker (Officer):	Gary Guiver
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	Part 3, Schedule 3 – Responsibility for Executive Functions delegated to Officers paragraph 4.3 (1) – the Corporate Director has delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas (Part 3.38). All delegations are subject to consultation where considered appropriate in the circumstances (paragraph 4.3 (4)(ii) – Part 3.39).
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Concurrence has been obtained in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning, Cllr. A Baker.
Ward Member(s) consulted?	Yes – Ward members representing the most severely affected Parishes of Ardleigh, Little Bromley and Lawford have been consulted throughout the last 3 months and during negotiations with National Grid in respect of TDCs evolving Statement of Common Ground for the Norwich to Tilbury project.
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	To submit to the Planning Inspectorate, and publish, TDC and National Grid's (Deadline 1) joint Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) – pre-examination version, which sets out: • The matters on which National Grid and TDC are in agreement; and • The matters where agreement has not yet been reached.

	The SoCG also signposts where outstanding issues (or areas of disagreement) are discussed in more detail in TDC's Local Impact Report and other supporting evidence. In addition, the (deadline 1) SoCG identifies recommended mitigation measures and suggests actions that could help resolve outstanding disagreements or narrow the areas of difference.
Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	See above and also the deadline 1 SoCG version, however in summary it is to ensure transparency of the current position and to ensure the Examining Authority has sight of and fully understands the areas of agreement and disagreement between National Grid and TDC at this crucial early examination phase
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	No significant financial, legal, procedural or equality risks have been identified in relation to submitting and publishing the Deadline 1 Statement of Common Ground.
NEW : Details of Local Government Reorganisation and/or Devolution considerations	The decision to submit and publish the Deadline 1 version of TDC and National Grid's SoCG has no direct impacts on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	The only alternative would be for the Council not to submit a deadline 1 version of the SoCG, and therefore not collaboratively and meaningfully engage in the remainder of the NSIP examination on wide-ranging issues not agreed but also not providing confirming on areas where we are in agreement. This would significantly limit the Council's ability to influence route and infrastructure location selection criteria, design, landscape, health and wellbeing, highways matters and more, including mitigation. It would also risk reputational harm by creating the impression that TDC is unwilling to challenge areas of disagreement between the Council and National Grid potentially resulting in a DCO that fails to secure the best possible outcomes and mitigation for the district and affected communities.
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision)	N/A

If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:		
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>	X	Not applicable – TDCs Deadline 1 version of its SoCG with National Grid has already been shared widely with the most severely affected parishes and their respective ward councillor, and it will soon be available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website
		If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:
		N/A

Officers

Office Decision and TDC response prepared by:

Jacob Jaarsma

Title: Policy Planning

Signed off by: Paul Woods

Title: Planning Policy Team Leader

In consultation with: Cllr. A. Baker

Dated: 28 February 2026