

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) Policy

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Policy Summary

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is a large-scale development over a specific threshold that the government considers to be of national importance. Like its neighbouring counties Suffolk and Norfolk, Essex has specific natural and geographic advantages which make it an optimal location for NSIPs particularly in relation to transport and energy.

NSIPs do not require planning permission from the local authority and the project promoter must make an application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a different type of permission called 'development consent'. An application for development consent is examined by PINS and a recommendation made to the SoS, who will make the final decision. An NSIP is primarily determined in accordance with National Policy Statements (NPS) that provide the planning policy framework for different types of nationally significant infrastructure. Development consent is often made in the form of a statutory instrument known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Planning Act 2008 provides the consenting regime for NSIPs.

Essex County Council's (ECC's) role in the development consent process is as an important statutory consultee, making representation on behalf of Essex. Any representation ECC makes in relation to an NSIP is a material consideration in the determination of an application for development consent.

This policy provides clarity and certainty about ECC's position in relation to NSIPs and how and when it will engage in the development consent process, to ensure that decisions made by government in the national interest consider fully the impacts, both positive and negative, to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex. This includes ancillary development that falls outside of the scope of the development consent process but is related to the NSIP.

ECC will only support NSIPs that create resilience in Essex and not those that exacerbate existing, or make new, vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to ECC's commitment to deliver sustainable communities that level up the economy, environment and health and wellbeing across the county.

A key requirement of the policy is the mandatory use of a Planning Performance Agreement to enable ECC to secure sufficient financial resource from each project promoter to enable early and effective engagement in all relevant stages of the development consent process for an NSIP, without undue burden on its budgets.

1. Net Zero, Levelling Up and NSIPs

- 1.1 Planning and NSIPs are central to the government's plan to support sustainable economic growth as the United Kingdom (UK) transitions to a net zero economy by 2050. The UK's progress to net zero has been largely driven by the decarbonisation of the energy sector but there is an urgent need to meet sustained reduction in emissions across all sectors of the economy. The government recognises that the transition to a net zero economy requires simultaneous action to not just reduce emissions, but also to develop climate resilient environments, infrastructure and places to live. This includes reversing the decline in biodiversity and habitats.
- 1.2 As part of its sustainable growth ambition, the Government is committed to tackling geographical inequalities and levelling up so that there is equality of opportunities to prosper in relation to the economy, environment and health and wellbeing¹.
- 1.3 At the local level, ECC's strategic plan 'Everyone's Essex' is based around the overarching vision of levelling up the county for the period 2021-2025. The plan sets out 20 commitments to achieve the following four strategic aims:
- Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - High-quality environment
 - Health, wellbeing and independence for all ages
 - Good place for children and families to grow
- 1.4 Central to the plan is climate action and ECC is collaborating with partners that include Essex Climate Action Commission and other public sector leaders across Essex to work towards achieving a net zero economy by 2050². Although Everyone's Essex makes no direct reference to NSIPs, its strategic aims align with the purpose of the planning system to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development.

2. Why do we need an NSIP Policy?

- 2.1 Like its neighbouring counties Suffolk and Norfolk, Essex has specific location and geographic advantages which make it an optimal location for NSIPs, particularly in relation to transport and energy. Given the exponential rise in

¹ The Levelling Up White Paper (2022)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052708/Levelling_up_the_UK_white_paper.pdf

² Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral (2021)

https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/DS21_7178%20ECAC_Commission_Report-Final.pdf

NSIPs proposed in or neighbouring Essex, ECC needs to establish a policy position for the following reasons:

- a) To provide clear direction to influence well-designed NSIPs and ancillary development that unlock the economic growth potential of net zero, both nationally and locally, but that also enhance the local environment and health and wellbeing of local communities across Essex.
- b) To ensure that the location and geographic advantages of Essex for NSIPs and ancillary development deliver short term economic recovery (post COVID-19 pandemic) and long-term economic growth both locally as well as nationally.
- c) To ensure that the impacts, both positive and negative, to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of local communities from individual, overlapping and consecutive NSIPs and ancillary development are fully understood and considered robustly in future decisions at the national and local levels.
- d) To provide the necessary financial and working arrangements required for ECC to engage early and effectively in all relevant stages of the development consent process, particularly at the pre-application stage where it can have the greatest influence.
- e) To maintain the ability of ECC to provide excellent value for money services without risk to performance standards from engaging in resource-intensive regulatory processes that require substantial cross-departmental resources over many years and months for more complex projects.
- f) To ensure that potential benefits from NSIPs, both direct and indirect, are maximised from all possible sources to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.

3. The Purpose of this Policy

3.1 To set out ECC's approach to discharging its role:

- a) as an important statutory consultee for NSIPs
- b) as a determining authority or statutory consultee for ancillary development related to NSIPs
- c) post consent in determining applications to discharge requirements / legal obligations and as a monitoring and enforcement authority.
- d) as an infrastructure and service provider

4. The Scope of this Policy

4.1 The policy will:

- a) cover all stages of the NSIP process from early pre-application engagement through to post consent implementation and discharge of requirements.
- b) recognise the need for engagement to be proportionate to the potential scale and extent of impacts, both positive and negative, to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.

- c) ensure beneficial and adverse impacts to the local economy, environment, health and wellbeing of communities are fully understood and addressed as part of future decisions.
- d) maximise social value from NSIPs and ancillary development to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.
- e) reduce the risk to service delivery budgets from engaging in the NSIP process and pressure on ECC budgets from hosting infrastructure in the national interest.

5. The Development Consent Process

5.1 The development consent process involves six key stages (Figure 1) with the administration of development consent applications being undertaken by PINS on behalf of the SoS. An application will be examined by PINS through an appointed Examining Authority (ExA) and a recommendation will be made to the SoS, who will make the final decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent. Development consent is often made in the form of a statutory instrument, depending on the powers it contains and is known as a DCO. Consequently, the DCO can disapply other areas of planning and regulation that may normally apply to a development determined through the Town and Country Planning 1990 (TCPA90) regime.

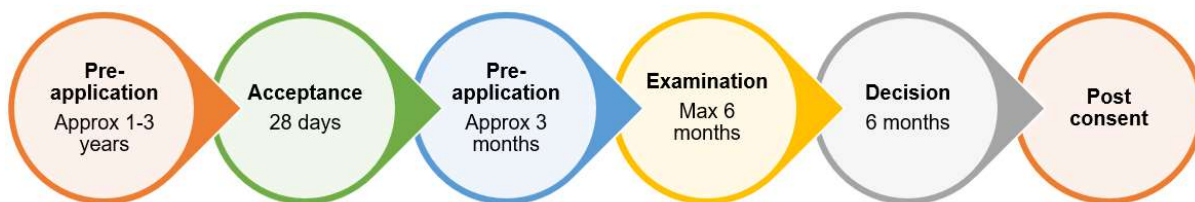


Figure 1: The six stages of the development consent process

6. The Role of ECC

- 6.1 Up until the post consent stage, ECC’s role in the development consent process is as a statutory consultee. This means that the project promoter is required under the Planning Act 2008 (“PA2008”) to consult ECC before an application for development consent is submitted to PINS for examination. PINS has a duty under the same Act to consult ECC once a development consent application is submitted and accepted for examination. PINS is also required under secondary legislation to consult ECC before issuing its written opinion (a Scoping Opinion) on the content of any environmental impact assessment³. ECC will also be a statutory consultee for ancillary development determined by the relevant district council under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“TCPA90”), unless related to minerals, waste or ECC’s own infrastructure development.
- 6.2 There are various stages of engagement and consultation in the development consent process, but it is heavily front-loaded and so particularly resource

³ The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation) 2017
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572/made>

intensive at the pre-application stage. Unlike a planning application there is no statutory requirement for an NSIP proposal to incur a fee. ECC receives no additional resources from Government and there is no requirement in legislation for project promoters to resource ECC's engagement in the development consent process. This places considerable strain on ECC's finite budget for other statutory and discretionary services.

- 6.3 Whilst PINS strongly encourages local authorities to participate in the process, primary and secondary legislation only obligates ECC to respond to consultation in relation to the project promoters Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and PINS Adequacy of Consultation (AoC) and Scoping Opinion during the pre-application and acceptance stages (Table 1). This discretion over engagement does allow ECC the flexibility to decide its approach to individual projects, but it is often in the public interest that ECC uses its local knowledge and technical expertise to ensure that the beneficial and adverse impacts from an NSIP are considered early at the pre-application stage and where relevant, at all subsequent stages. It is, therefore, essential that ECC has the right resources in place at the right time to provide the necessary technical expertise and democratic accountability to improve the outcome of the development consent process on behalf of Essex.

Table 1: Key stages of consultation during the development consent process

Consultation	Stage	ECC's role
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) – managed by the project promoter.	Pre-application	As a host local authority, ECC will be consulted and has a statutory duty to provide comments on its content. The project promoter must then carry out its statutory community consultation in accordance with the SoCC.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping opinion – managed by PINS.	Pre-application	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a statutory duty to comment on the scope of the EIA and make available any information that could be included in an EIA.
Non statutory consultation – managed by the project promoter	Pre-application	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a discretionary duty to comment on the NSIP proposal.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – managed by the project promoter	Pre-application	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a discretionary duty to comment on the NSIP proposal and EIA as set out in the PEIR. Following the PEIR consultation, the project promoter can submit the application for development consent to PINS, provided they can demonstrate that they've taken consideration of consultee responses. The applicant does not necessarily have to address any concerns ECC may have raised, although they may change the NSIP proposal or EIA based on consultee responses. The comments that ECC make, and engagement had with the project promoter at the pre-application stage will form the basis of the ECC's representations at the examination.

Statutory consultation – managed by the project promoter	Pre-application	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a discretionary duty to comment on the NSIP proposal.
Adequacy of Consultation Report (AoC) – managed by PINS	Acceptance – 28 days	As a host authority, ECC has a statutory duty to confirm and comment on the AoC to ensure that the project promoter has fulfilled its duty in respect of public engagement and consultation. Once the application has been accepted for examination, the timescales for examination and decision making are set out in legislation.
Relevant Representation – prepared by ECC	Pre-examination – typically 3 months	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a discretionary duty to submit a Relevant Representation. This sets out a summary of the points in the development consent application that ECC agrees and/or disagrees with, highlighting what is considered to be the main issues and impacts.
Local Impact Report (LIR) – prepared by ECC Statement of Common Ground – prepared in partnership with the project promoter and other host or neighbouring local authorities	Examination – no longer than 6 months	As a statutory consultee, ECC has a discretionary duty to submit a LIR for consideration by the ExA. The LIR goes into more detail about the likely impacts (positive, negative and neutral) of the proposed NSIP on Essex (or part thereof). The LIR will also include an appraisal of the NSIP's compliance with the local development plan. The deadline for submitting the LIR is set at the Preliminary Hearing during the pre-examination stage. Given the detail expected to be covered in the LIR, ECC need to begin drafting the report during the pre-application stage. period, and to ensure that any approval process for the report is built into the timetable. It is essential that ECC has sufficient resources in place to undertake the extensive engagement required in pre-application stage where it has greatest influence in contributing to a high-quality development. The ExA will consider representations made by interested parties (ECC will automatically be registered as such) through a series of hearings, and deadlines will be set for those involved in the examination to respond to questions and submissions by the project promoter as the examination progresses. Alongside this there will be a need to prepare and agree SoCG, Section 106 agreements, and the draft DCO itself. All matters relating to the NSIP must be agreed and finalised within the six-month examination

		period. Anything that is not agreed between parties will be determined by the ExA.
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- 6.4 Once a DCO has been made, the relevant local planning authority (LPA) has a duty under the PA2008 to discharge any planning requirements (comparable to planning conditions under the TCPA90) and obligations that are part of a DCO. This duty extends to compliance monitoring and enforcement, including change management. ECC, as the waste planning authority, is the relevant LPA for discharging any requirements and obligations related to hazardous waste. For all other requirements and obligations, ECC will be a statutory consultee. For applications to discharge requirements, consistency with the DCO and relevant certified documentation is the primary consideration. However, national and local policy may also be relevant. Further information on the development consent process, including relevant legislation, guidance advice and the roles of the various interested parties may be found on the PINS website.⁴

7. What will this Policy deliver?

- 7.1 When faced with a recessionary environment and inflation forecast to keep rising, there is an increasing need to make public funding go further and this means securing maximum benefits to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex from NSIPs and ancillary development. In a time of significant challenge and change that includes future planning reform, this policy will provide the necessary clarity and certainty regarding ECC's position in relation to what it expects from NSIPs and how it will engage in the development consent process.
- 7.2 With NSIP proposals increasing exponentially in or neighbouring Essex, continuously delivering excellent value for money services whilst engaging in the development consent process is beyond the current financial capabilities of ECC. This policy, therefore, includes a fair and reasonable expectation that project promoters will fully resource ECC's engagement in all stages of the development consent process and partnership work to maximise beneficial and minimise adverse impacts from NSIPs and ancillary development to the economy, environment and health and wellbeing of local communities.
- 7.3 Given the presumption in favour of an NSIP that accords with national policy, a local policy will ensure that decisions made by Government in the national interest consider fully the impacts, both positive and negative, from an NSIP to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex. This consideration of impacts extends beyond the NSIP in isolation but cumulatively with other NSIPs and major development located in or neighbouring the county.
- 7.4 Accordingly, ECC will only support NSIPs that create resilience in Essex and not those that exacerbate existing or create new vulnerabilities, particularly in

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

relation to ECC's commitment to deliver sustainable communities that level up the economy, environment and health and wellbeing across the county.

8. How will this Policy work?

- 8.1 Each NSIP will be different in terms of development, political interest and relationship with partners, so this policy is intended to provide a 'principle based' approach to expectations and engagement. Although the policy does not have statutory status, either as national policy or as part of the local development plan (including neighbourhood plans), it will be a material consideration for ECC as a statutory consultee in the production of a Local Impact Report (LIR)⁵ and all other representation made in relation to an NSIP. The policy will also be a material consideration in determining any planning application for ancillary development where ECC is the decision maker and in making representation for ancillary development where ECC is a statutory consultee.

Delegation

- 8.2 The PA2008 was intended to speed-up the decision-making process for NSIPs so timescales for engagement and participation are often inflexible and compressed to reflect this intention. It is, therefore, essential that ECC can consistently work at pace to effectively understand and influence projects without hindering the regulatory progress. ECC's authority to manage its engagement with consultation is delegated to the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development. Depending on the nature, size, scale and extent of the NSIP and ancillary development, consultation and engagement will primarily be with the Cabinet Member for Economy Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, but could also include other cabinet members and affected ward council members. ECC operates a Scheme of Delegation that is intended to ensure that decisions at the various stages of the development consent process can be taken at the appropriate level and in the most timely and efficient way.

Planning Performance Agreement

- 8.3 If ECC is to meaningfully engage with the development consent process to maximise beneficial and minimise adverse impacts to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities without risk to the degradation of other services, project promoters are required to provide sufficient early financial resource through a PPA. A PPA is a prerequisite to engagement and ECC is unable to engage in the development consent process without being sufficiently resourced to do so.
- 8.4 The PPA will set out working arrangements to ensure an efficient project managed approach to all engagement with NSIP and ancillary development. Given the highly technical nature of many NSIPs, the PPA is also critical to ensuring ECC can commission relevant legal and technical advice. The

⁵ PINS Guidance Note One: Local Impact Reports
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010048/EN010048-Advice-00007-2-Advice-note-1v2.pdf>

signing of a PPA does not hold ECC to any future decisions or recommendations on a project. It will include specific commitments that enable ECC to continue to act independently, impartially, and in accordance with its statutory duties.

Impact assessment, mitigation and monitoring

- 8.5 To understand the beneficial and adverse impacts from an NSIP and ancillary development, which includes reducing the risk of unforeseen or inaccurately predicted impacts, advance assessment of baseline conditions relating to local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities should inform site selection and planning work, as well as the detailed design. The assessment of impacts should be an iterative process that is undertaken alongside the development of a proposal to inform both project planning and design.
- 8.6 The assessment of impacts should include in-combination and cumulative impact assessments with other relevant plans, strategies and strategic development proposals. This is important because some impacts when assessed individually may not be considered significant but when assessed cumulatively, will be.
- 8.7 There has historically been an over emphasis on assessing the impacts of NSIPs 'at peak' construction for example, when there are predicted to be a maximum number of traffic movements or workers on site for a relatively short period of time. However, if unforeseen changes to the project occur, such as a delay in the provision of associated development or financial investment decisions, lessons learnt from other NSIPs demonstrate that predicted peaks may be sustained over a longer or different timescale. To avoid this happening, it is important to assess the predicted impacts of an NSIP and ancillary development over its full lifecycle.
- 8.8 For NSIPs and/or ancillary development that are predicted to have significant beneficial or adverse local impacts, appropriate governance arrangements will need to be put in place to monitor and audit the progress of the project over time. These arrangements should involve relevant stakeholders, with data and findings published and reviewed at intervals appropriate to each key performance indicators (KPIs). All KPIs and relevant monitoring and audit measures secured as part of the DCO for example, management plans should be published annually on a dedicated project website and a paper copy provided in a suitable local publicly accessible venue. The cost of baseline, compliance or impact and mitigation monitoring by ECC should be resourced by the project promoter.
- 8.9 The impacts of an NSIP and/or ancillary development often require an appropriate and comprehensive package of developer contributions to mitigate and compensate for any new and increased levels of adverse impact and harm. ECC acknowledges that due to long timescales, changing context and complexities of some NSIPs, aspects of impact prediction may be uncertain. For example, the preparation and implementation of a specific NSIP may well overlap with existing and new local development plan timescales. The DCO may have been consented against a spatial strategy in an adopted local development

plan which has subsequently been reviewed and/or replaced whereby a new spatial strategy for growth is in place, and potential new impacts have arisen. It is essential that the development consent process establishes clear and consistent practice for impact monitoring (the identification and measurement of actual impacts) and impact auditing (the comparison of actual with predicted impacts) during both the construction and operation phases to assess the reality of impacts arising against impacts assessed. Mechanisms would also need to be secured to allow the introduction of additional mitigation or the adjustment of approved interventions, so that unanticipated impacts can be suitably managed.

Community benefits and social value

- 8.11 The result of multiple NSIPs being developed in Essex will have significant beneficial and adverse impacts on the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of local communities across Essex. ECC considers that the adverse impacts, both individually and cumulatively, from some NSIPs cannot always be adequately mitigated or compensated through the planning regime. In addition, there can often be additional community benefits and social value beyond what may be achieved just through mitigation or compensation.
- 8.12 The ability to introduce financial or non-financial contributions that go ‘above and beyond’ what is reasonably related to an NSIP and needed to make it acceptable in planning terms is limited by law and policy. Recognising this limitation and acknowledging the longevity of NSIPs, ECC wants to ensure that local communities benefit directly from the use of their local resources and are compensated for the disruption and inconvenience associated with hosting or neighbouring development required in the national interest. ECC expects project promoters to voluntarily commit to a community benefits package, and to work in partnership to plan and deliver this package to maximise benefits for local communities.
- 8.13 If a fairer and more inclusive Essex is to be delivered through levelling up opportunities across the county then it will be necessary for NSIPs and ancillary development to maximise wider social value. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 introduced a duty on local authorities to have regard for economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public service contracts. In response to the Act, ECC’s social value policy ⁶ considers how it can secure social value through its own procurement processes. However, there is considerable potential to broaden the scope of this policy and embed a social value approach to other ECC service areas, including planning and engagement with NSIPs.
- 8.14 The Social Value Planning Task Force advise that the best way of embedding social value in planning is through a policy that requires project promoters to submit a Social Value Statement ⁷. All project promoters will be expected to maximise social value throughout the lifetime of an NSIP and ancillary

⁶ Essex County Council Social Value Policy

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/knkzaf64jx5x/waGfuGD0ntqUKY2J0iZiy/0d7d960f8d7fb6048ee4ff2360e29278/Essex-County-Council-Social-Value-policy.pdf>

⁷ Social Value Portal [Embedding-Social-Value-into-Planning Briefing-Paper August-2021.pdf](https://socialvalueportal.com/Embedding-Social-Value-into-Planning-Briefing-Paper-August-2021.pdf) (socialvalueportal.com)

development from the earliest pre-application stage. This requires considering from the outset through the submission of a Social Value Statement whether the project can be approached in a different way which could add additional social value. For example, by utilising local supply chains so money spent on development stays in the local economy; and taking steps to improve the education, skills and employment offer for local people so that they can access employment in the construction and operation of the project.

- 8.15 The requirement of a Social Value Statement will provide a mechanism for project promoters to work in partnership with ECC and other stakeholders, enabling local communities to understand and influence the potential positive impacts that NSIPs can have to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing.
- 8.16 Where social value benefits are identified which go beyond what ECC would expect as a standard level of social value on an NSIP or ancillary development (resulting from compliance with all relevant planning policy), this could constitute a material consideration which would add weight to ECC's support of the project (although the level of weight would be determined on a case-by-case basis and may depend on the provision of specific information to demonstrate how any identified social value benefits will be delivered and sustained over the lifecycle of the development). As a minimum the Social Value Statement should demonstrate how an NSIP and ancillary development will maximise its positive contribution to the social value priorities of ECC⁸.

Essex County Council's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) Policy
<p>(1) In responding to any application for development that is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or ancillary development to an NSIP in its role as either a statutory consultee, service provider or decision maker, ECC will consider relevant national policy, the relevant adopted and emerging local development plan(s) and other ECC policies and strategies relating to new infrastructure provision against the operational requirements of the NSIP.</p> <p>(2) ECC will engage in the pre-application process to identify the initial strategic issues in relation to individual NSIPs at the earliest opportunity in the pre-application stage. ECC will evaluate the balance of benefit and harm of an NSIP against these issues as the project progresses through the development consent process. These issues will be kept under review at each stage of the process or where the proposal is amended and/or updated ECC policies and strategies are published.</p> <p>(3) ECC will support in principle NSIPs and ancillary development that accord with national policy (including the relevant National Policy Statement) and contribute positively to the overarching objective of the local development plan(s) and other local policies and strategies in relation to the delivery of sustainable development. NSIPs should be capable of providing long-term 'legacy' benefits beyond</p>

⁸ Essex County Council Social Value Priorities [Supply the council: Social value - Essex County Council](#)

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construction to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.

(4) ECC will seek to ensure that all NSIPs and any ancillary development meet the following objectives:

- (a) Contribute positively to the overarching objective of the Essex Minerals Local Plan, Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan, Essex Local Transport Plan, local and neighbourhood plans and other supporting and/or relevant ECC policies and strategies in relation to the delivery of sustainable development.
- (b) Developed in partnership through early and effective engagement with ECC and other key stakeholders, including local communities.
- (c) Take a strategic and integrated approach to location, planning, design, phasing and delivery to maximise beneficial and minimise adverse impacts to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.
- (d) Secure mitigation and/or compensation of adverse impacts commensurate to the magnitude of impact.
- (e) Maximise social value and contribution to levelling up the local economy, environment and the health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.

(5) To deliver these objectives, inform consultation responses and work towards areas of common ground, ECC will:

- (a) Seek to establish a Planning Performance Agreement at the start of the pre-application stage.
- (b) Work in partnership to ensure that beneficial and adverse impacts are fully understood and considered as part of decision-making.
- (c) Take a proportionate approach to engagement depending on the type, size, scale, complexity and magnitude of beneficial and adverse impacts.
- (d) Seek to agree the scope, methodology and key recommendations (including impact monitoring and auditing practices) of all relevant evidence base documents. Evidence base documents should be comprehensive and address any predicted beneficial and adverse impacts over all key phases of the development lifecycle.
- (e) Require sufficient information to be able to understand and assess the complex adverse and beneficial impacts for the lifecycle of the development including decommissioning.
- (f) Require impact monitoring and auditing practices to form part of the environmental assessment and contain clearly defined key performance indicators against which the project will be assessed and reported.
- (g) Seek to agree the scope and methodology for in-combination and cumulative assessments to understand the beneficial and adverse impacts from multiple and/or consecutive projects to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.
- (h) Require evidence to be provided demonstrating what alternatives have been identified, assessed and discounted over all key phases of the development lifecycle, including mitigation.

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- (i) Require evidence to be provided demonstrating that opportunities for utilising brownfield land and/or redundant development sites where possible have been maximised.
 - (j) Require the preparation of phasing plans and the identification of triggers to secure the timely and co-ordinated delivery of various key elements of the project for the lifecycle of the development.
 - (k) Seek to maximise the beneficial impacts to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of local communities through the preparation and early implementation of topic-based strategies.
 - (l) Require the preparation of resource management and delivery plans for both the construction and operational phases to explain the systems and resources required to maximise beneficial and minimise adverse impacts, including mitigation and where necessary compensation.
 - (m) Require the submission of a Social Value Statement at the pre-application stage that identifies how social value has been considered and will be delivered, including monitoring and management, for the lifecycle of the NSIP.
 - (n) Encourage project promoters at the pre-application stage to work in partnership with ECC and local communities to provide a community benefits contribution package in recognise of the disturbance and burden to host/neighbouring communities from developing large-scale infrastructure projects required in the national interest.
- (6) To ensure beneficial impacts are maximised and the mitigation of adverse impacts remains relevant and effective, ECC will seek to ensure that the progress of the NSIP is monitored against the DCO, and related documents as made, discharge of requirements and through impact monitoring and auditing of the KPIs through the preparation of an annual monitoring report, for the lifecycle of the development. The quality and credibility of monitoring information should be ensured through independent analysis and verification, as well as the establishment of theme specific monitoring and advisory groups involving relevant stakeholders.
- (7) Given the scale, complexity and duration of larger NSIPs, ECC will seek to identify and secure mechanisms and contingencies to enable the modification of mitigation and/or compensation to address unanticipated or inaccurately predicted adverse impacts.
- (8) ECC will consider any non-material or material change to the DCO as made against all the criteria in this policy and will only support change where there is a positive balance of beneficial impacts to the local economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.

This information is issued by:
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