

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL



**MINSTER
IN THANET**

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10th June 2025

National Grid (Sealink) Development Consent Order (Application Reference:EN020026)

Representation on behalf of Minster Parish Council – Interested Party

Minster Parish Council (MPC) wishes to confirm their registration as an interested party in respect of the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for the Sea Link Project.

MPC has participated in the Pre-application phase of the proposal and has submitted letters dated 12 December 2023 and 9 August 2024 (further copies of which can be supplied on request) outlining the issues that underpin Parish Council's objections. Such concerns continue to prevail.

It is noted that both Thanet District Council, as Local Planning Authority, and Kent County Council, as Local Highway Authority, are effective consultees to the process. MPC understands that Thanet District Council will identify the Policies from their Adopted Local Plan which they consider relevant in relation to the planning balance informing their response. It is also anticipated that National Planning Policy Framework Policies will be identified. MPC also expects that Kent County Council will assess the strategic and local traffic and transport impacts arising from the proposal.

MPC will wish to participate in the Examination going forward as relevant to the objections outlined at the Pre-application stage and as may be amplified by either Thanet District Council or Kent County Council's submissions or those made by others.

Subsequent to the earlier letters of objection, MPC has been alert to concerns around the operational integrity and serviceability of the Sevenscore Roundabout and wish to be fully assured that the Sea Link project will not compromise the situation at this location. In addition to this, MPC has also experienced a drag on developers complying with conditions on a major development with the Parish. Consequently, MPC would also wish to be fully assured



that any conditions or obligations that may be applied to any Development Consent Order, should this be permitted, would be fully complied with and how such matters can be rigorously enforced in the event of non-compliance.

Lastly, at this stage, and without prejudice to any decision. MPC in the letter of 9 August 2024, referred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicating that local communities should seek to obtain benefits from Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. In this respect, MPC is aware of the Government Guidance Community funds for transmission infrastructure Updated 9 April 2025. MPC notes that this Guidance indicates that "Community benefits are monetary and non-monetary benefits provided to enhance the economy, society and /or environment in a local area. There are a wide variety of community benefits that can be delivered, but broadly they cover funding for local projects and programmes, investments in the local area or direct benefits to individuals in the area....."

It is further noted that the Guidance is aimed at transmission network project developers and communities, setting out a list of non-exhaustive assets and the government's expectation of the level of funding that developers should provide.

MPC therefore expects that the Government Guidance should be applied and that an obligation should be attached to the Development Consent Order to this effect for the benefit of Minster.

Cllr Tim Ingleton – Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee

