



Statement of Community Involvement

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement addresses requirements for applications for development on sites of 1ha or more to be accompanied by a Statement of Community Involvement, providing details of what consultation has been undertaken and how the scheme has been publicised in advance of the application being submitted.

2 Approach to pre-application consultation

- 2.1 It is recognised that early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties, as highlighted in paragraph 39 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). While there is no statutory requirement to carry out pre-application consultation prior to the submission of a planning application for a solar farm or BESS development, the applicant has considered the relative merits of different forms of engagement and the stage in the application process at which that would be most appropriate.
- 2.2 In this case, the proposed development would be a major development by virtue of the application site size. However, the nature of the proposed development, and the application site's location in the countryside, approximately 2.0km to the west of Elkesley and 2.5km to the north west of Bothamsall, means that the proposed development is not considered to be likely to affect any significant number of people, with any dwellinghouses within 1km being separated from the site by intervening woodland, and any impact on the nearby Robin Hood Way being positive (for the reasons set out in the Planning Statement and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted with the application).
- 2.3 As such it was considered that there would be little merit in providing information leaflets or letters to residents.
- 2.4 However, the applicant has contacted both Elkesley Parish Council and Bothamsall Parish Council to advise them of the submission of the application and of their intention to hold a public consultation event during the consultation period for the



application, and is now working with Elkesley Parish Council to facilitate an event in the Parish Hall, which it is anticipated will take place in mid-April.

- 2.5 Information on the project and the application will also be available on the applicant's website, with members of the public invited to make comment via that (see <https://www.oneplanet.ltd/public-consultations>).
- 2.6 Pre-application engagement with the Council was undertaken by way of the submission of a request for an EIA Screening Opinion in respect of the proposed development (20/01546/SCR), with documentation submitted with this made publicly available online.
- 2.7 It is also noted that the Council is required to undertake a formal period of public consultation before determining a planning application during which views on the proposed development can be expressed, and consultation will be carried out with internal and external statutory and non-statutory consultees.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The foregoing paragraphs demonstrate that due consideration was given to all potential approaches to pre-application consultation as part of the process of preparing this application, with the approach that was taken considered to have been proportionate and appropriate in the circumstances.

