

DELEGATED OFFICER REPORT



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Application Number:	242057
Site Address:	Land to the West of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HP
Expiry Date:	2 September 2024
Proposal: Consultation from Southern Electric Power Distribution for the following: refurbishment works to the existing South Wokingham 132kV Overhead Line.	

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Parish/Town Council	None received
Internal	Highways – No objection

APPRAISAL

Is there a strategic impact upon Wokingham Borough?:

Yes	☐
No	☒

RECOMMENDATION

Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 outlines the consenting strategy for the installation or maintenance of overhead lines ('OHLs'). There are exceptions to requiring Section 37 consent, as detailed in the Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Notably, Regulation 3(1)(f) states that 'the installation or maintenance of one or more additional poles to support an existing line' would be exempt from requiring Section 37 consent.

South Electric Power Distribution ('SEPD') intends to carry out refurbishment works to their existing South Wokingham 132kV Overhead Line ('OHL') located on land to the west of Easthampstead Road under a specified exemption of Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended). This is not a planning application and instead is a 'notification' that requires the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) response as to whether there is objection to the proposed works in planning terms, or where it believes the proposal contradicts Regulations 4 and 5 of the Electricity Act.

Turning to the proposal, these works include the replacement of existing towers BW13 and BW18 with new towers. The LPA understand the existing towers both reach a total height of 27075 mm, while the new towers reach nominally higher at a total height of 29210 mm, representing a 7.9% increase in height. This complies with exception 3(1)(f) of and Regulations 4 & 5 of The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

The new towers will not be located in the footprint of the existing ones, they will however be installed in close proximity. Both new towers will be equipped with a platform, to ensure safe access to the towers for maintenance purposes.

With the above considered, following the appraisal of the application it is considered that the Local Planning Authority would not raise any objection to the proposal on planning grounds.

Date:	02/09/2024
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Recommendation agreed by: (Authorised Officer)	
Date:	2 September 2024