



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Lucy Frazer QC
MP
House of
Commons
LONDON
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This matter is being dealt with by:

Jo Brooks

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My Ref: JH/jh

Date: 12 October 2020

Sent by email to luke.cheadle@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Frazer

Re: Local Electricity Bill

At a meeting of this Council's Operations Committee, it was resolved that I write to you in respect of the above mentioned Bill.

Whilst the Committee resolved, in principle, support for the Bill, the Committee asked whether you are able to provide any detail on any impact assessment associated with the Bill. The Committee would welcome sight of any such assessment, in order to determine whether to firm up its support for the Bill.

In particular the Committee seeks clarity on the two points below;

1. The Bill seeks to change all the current legislation and regulation relating to electricity supply and charging. The impact of this and how this will be achieved is unclear in The Bill and the current charges and regulations are in place to protect customers with regards to continuous supply of energy and also most importantly to ensure that health and safety aspects of connections are not compromised. It is fair to say that removing the regulations could have catastrophic and dangerous repercussions if not carefully considered and managed.
2. The Bill is also mute on how and when the changes to regulation would be introduced and, alongside the risks with changing a very regulated framework, the timing is really important that it does not negatively impact on the significant projects that are a long way through the process. The implications of changing regulation could result in schemes such as Swaffham Prior heat project and Soham Solar farm (as well as others) to be derailed and have subsequent lost opportunity in carbon reduction and negatively impact our aspirations set out in the council's environment and Climate change strategy.

If you have any further views or information in respect of the Bill, the Committee would very much welcome hearing from you in order to make an informed decision as to whether to support the Bill.

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Jo Brooks
Director, Operations