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Case ref. PA25M.316051

Offaly County Council consider that an alternative grid connection route should be identified which omits any interface with the National Secondary Route, namely the N52. The proposed cabling route will negatively impact the N52 Kilbeggan to Tullamore Link Road Scheme and Offaly County Council therefore strongly advocates that consideration be given to restricting development along this route corridor so as to ensure the successful delivery of the strategically important N52 Kilbeggan to Tullamore Link Road Scheme. The preferred route corridor can be viewed at www.n52tullamoretokilbeggan.ie.

It is consider that the proposed cabling is contrary to Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 objective **SMAO-18** which states "It is an objective of the Council to protect the study area, route corridor options and thereafter the preferred route corridor selected for the national road schemes being progressed in the Development Plan in accordance with National Development Plan Objectives and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery" as the proposed cabling, in advance of consent being granted by An Bord Pleanala for the N52 Kilbeggan to Tullamore Link Road Scheme, would prejudice and potential constrain the construction of this road scheme.

In the event that the grid connection cable is constructed, in advance of a final design of the N5(iii) peggan to Tullamore Link Road scheme, this has the potential to introduce significant impediments to formulating a coherent design; as the position of any grid connection cable should not be within the traffic carriageway of the proposed N52 Kilbeggan to Tullamore Road scheme.

Regards

Administrative Officer

