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**An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.**

9th August 2023

**Re: Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application for construction of three new 110 kV electricity circuits at various locations in North Dublin between Forrest Little, Belcamp, Clonshaugh and Harristown, County Dublin, required to support the MetroLink Project.
ABP Pre-Application Consultation Case Number ABP - 312348-22.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. Introduction

Please find enclosed an application from the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) for approval of the proposed construction of three new 110 kV electricity circuits at various locations in North Dublin between Forrest Little, Belcamp, Clonshaugh and Harristown, County Dublin, primarily required to support the MetroLink Project.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and associated planning regulations.

The SID status and application process was confirmed by ABP to the applicant on 24th January 2023, following pre-application consultations with ABP (case number ABP-312348-22), a copy of the Board's determination is enclosed with this application.

The proposed development involves the installation of three new 110 kV UGC circuits as outlined below and as shown in **Figure 1**:

The proposed development consists of the following elements:

- Installation of three new 110 kV UGC circuits as outlined below and as shown in the map:
 - The proposed (Metrolink) Forrest Little 110 kV substation – Belcamp 110 kV substation (Option 1) – **shown in blue** - approximately 9km or (Option 2) – **shown in pink** - approximately 4km.
 - The proposed (Metrolink) Ballystruan 110 kV substation - Newbury 110 kV substation - **shown in green** and existing ducts in **light blue** approximately 5km.
 - The proposed (Metrolink) Ballystruan 110 kV substation – the proposed (Metrolink) Forrest Little 110 kV substation - approximately 10km – **shown in orange**.

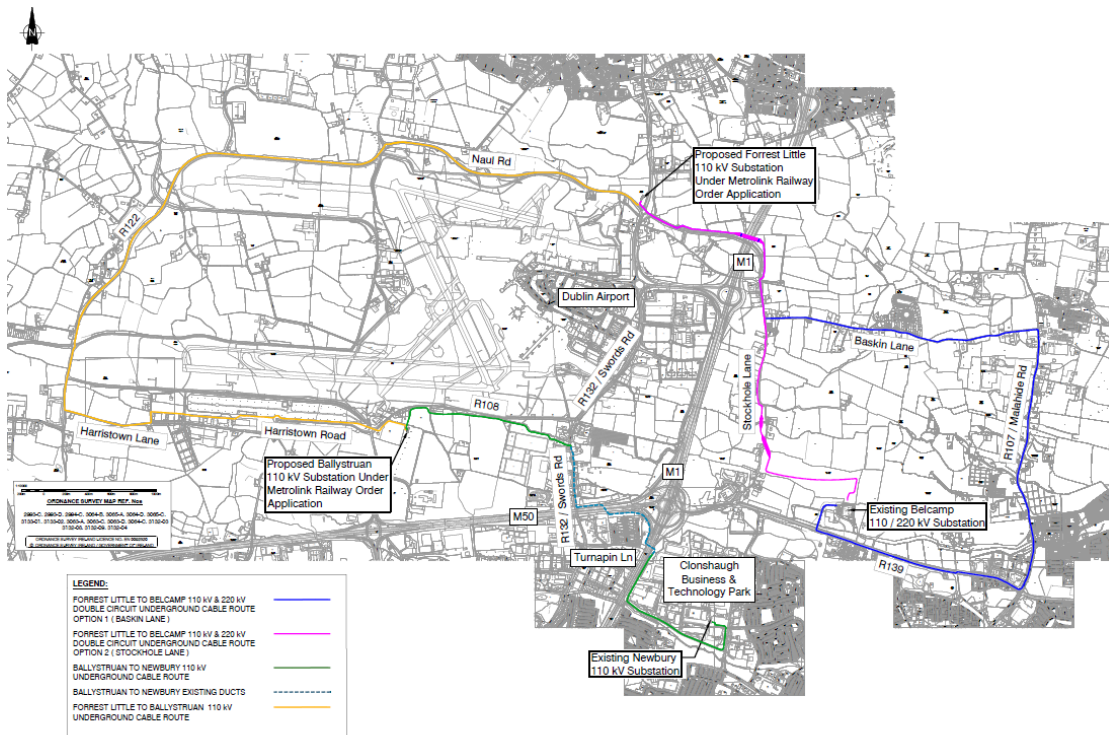


Figure 1 Location of Proposed Development

The cable circuits will be installed along a mixture of public roads and private land and will result in connections to two new proposed electricity substations to be named Forrest Little 110 kV substation, located at MetroLink North Portal in Cloghran, and Ballystruan 110 kV substation located at MetroLink Dardistown in Ballystruan. These electricity substations do not form part of



this application as they have been included in the Railway Order Application for MetroLink currently before ABP - case number NA29N.314724.

2. Justification for the Proposed Development

The purpose of this approx. 24km of underground cables (UGC) between Forrest Little, Belcamp, Clonshaugh and Harristown, County Dublin is to provide electrical power to the proposed MetroLink project currently under determination (ABP Case reference: NA29N.314724). That application provides a very detailed justification and rationale for the MetroLink project and this underground cables application should be considered in the context of the MetroLink Railway Order application.

3. Planning Policy Context

The Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 details the planning policy context for the proposed application area. The proposed electricity circuit routes are being sought in order to support the development and operation of the future MetroLink project (subject of a separate Railway Order Application).

In this regard, the Development Plan outlines that the delivery of MetroLink is crucial for the future sustainable development of the County. The Development Plan includes a number of policies and objectives to support the delivery of this strategic transport project including the following:

Policy CSP29 – Promote and Facilitate MetroLink: Promote and facilitate the development of MetroLink, connecting Swords to the Airport and on to the City Centre.

Objective CSO43 – Swords – Dublin Airport: Support Swords-Dublin Airport as a key location for airport related economic development and employment provision linked to the protection and enhancement of access to Dublin Airport lands including the delivery of MetroLink.

Objective CMO23 – Enabling Public Transport Projects: Support the delivery of key sustainable transport projects including MetroLink, BusConnects, DART+ and LUAS expansion programme so as to provide an integrated public transport network with efficient interchange between transport modes to serve needs of the County and the mid-east region in collaboration with the NTA, TII and Irish Rail and other relevant stakeholders.



Objective CMO34 – Dublin Airport and MetroLink: Promote and facilitate the development of MetroLink, connecting Swords to the Airport and on to the City Centre.

Furthermore, the Development Plan outlines that the Local Authority will “support the development of enhanced electricity networks and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects... to service the existing and future needs of Fingal and the wider Eastern Region...”. Additional policy and objectives as outlined in the Development Plan are generally supportive of new electricity infrastructure projects in the area and include the following:

Policy IUP27 – Energy Networks and ICT Infrastructure: Facilitate and promote the development of energy networks and ICT infrastructure where necessary to facilitate sustainable growth and economic development and support the provision of critical energy utilities and the transition to alternative, renewable, decarbonised, and decentralised energy sources, technologies, and infrastructure.

Objective IUO44 – Energy Utilities: Support the development of enhanced electricity and gas supplies, and associated transmission and distribution networks, to serve the existing and future needs of the County, and to facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects and technologies.

It is submitted that the proposed cable infrastructure development will provide a suitable and sufficient power source to facilitate the MetroLink project and is generally consistent with the policies and objectives as contained within the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029.

4. Content of Planning Application

4.1 Statutory Particulars

The following documents are included in the ABP planning application package.

1. The completed ABP SID application form;
2. Fee already paid by EFT – see bank transmittal below;

40022888 / NETW
An Bord Pleanála
Dublin 1

Stat	Net Due Dt	Account	Reference	Pstng Date	Doc. Date	PBK	PH	Due Net	DocumentNo	Curr.	Amount in DC	LC Amount	W/Tax Amt	Clrng doc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	05.05.2023	40022888	DN0566METROLINK	10.05.2023	05.05.2023			X	1903923329	EUR	100,000.00-	100000.00-	0.00	2001303400
<input type="checkbox"/>	26.05.2023	40022888		26.05.2023	26.05.2023		2		2001303400	EUR	100,000.00	100000.00	0.00	2001303400
*										EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	

3. The site notice;



4. Each newspaper notice dated 9th August 2023 - newspaper notices placed in Irish Daily Star (national circulation) and Northside People (local circulation) - 1 no. copy of each original newspaper with notice outlined in red;
5. The EIA portal confirmation;
6. Planning application notification letter to Fingal County Council (FCC) and Dublin City Council (DCC) – these planning authorities have received 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies;
7. Planning application notification letter issued to each prescribed body and a related schedule. All prescribed bodies advised by the Board have been provided with a letter detailing the application and a link to the application website. Prescribed bodies have advised that they do not want hard copies or CD/USB as these cannot be used in their computer systems. If the prescribed bodies do ultimately request hard or electronic copies these will be provided.
8. Website - The application may also be viewed / downloaded on the following website www.esbmetroundergroundcables.ie
9. Spatial data: - .dwg file of the red line application site boundary.

4.2 Plans and Drawings

- Planning application drawings and drawing schedule.

4.3 Planning and Environmental Documents

- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in 3 volumes
 - Volume 1 Non Technical Summary
 - Volume 2 EIAR Main Text
 - Volume 3 Appendices.
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

4.1 and 4.2 - The statutory particulars and plans and drawings are on a CD.

4.3 - The EIAR and NIS are on a USB stick.

The application to ABP includes 3 no. hard copies of the application and 7 no. electronic copies enclosed with this letter.



I trust that you have all the required information to progress the assessment of the application. Please also see attached remittance advice for the payment of the required fee. If you have any queries, please contact the undersigned at Brendan.allen@esb.ie or 0868336990.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brendan Allen". The signature is written on a light blue rectangular background and is underlined with a thin black line.

Brendan Allen FIPI

Planning Team Leader