

Strategic and Technical Planning Committee

4 March 2024

Decision List

Application Reference: P/FUL/2023/02446

Application Site: Land south of Coldharbour Chickerell Dorset DT3 4BG

Proposal: Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 60MW, associated infrastructure and enclosing compound, together with access and landscaping works.

Recommendation: Grant subject to planning conditions.

Decision: REFUSE for the following reasons:

Having regard to the provision of a singular vehicular access point to the site, lack of vehicular passing places, the layout of the site and lack of provision of sufficient water supply, drenchers and inlets for the fire service it is considered that the proposed development cannot demonstrate that it will be safe for the lifetime of the development having regard to fire risk and the proximity to residential development. Therefore, it would not comply with guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council on Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning (2023), Paragraph 163 and 191 of the NPPF (2023) and Policy ENV16 of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan (2015).

Having regard to the potential risk for fire and that in its event defensive fire tackling measures would be taken, this would result in the discharge of a significant volume of water that would likely be contaminated to the detriment of groundwater and the natural environment contrary to Policy ENV9 of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan (2015) and Paragraphs 180 and 191 of the NPPF (2023).