

BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

7th December 2023

PART III

Update regarding the request to the Secretary of State (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) for the Crow Wood solar farm

Application Reference: FUL/2023/0332

Date of Application: 16th June 2023

Proposal: Erection of solar farm comprising 1978 panels, transformer housing, CCTV and boundary fencing

At: Crow Wood Hotel, Holme Road

1. Purpose of report

To inform members of the outcome of the formal request sent from the Council on the 14th November 2023 to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the approved decision on the Crow Wood solar farm.

2. Background

Following the decision of DC committee on the 9th November to approve application FUL/2023/0332, a formal request under The Town and Country Planning (Consultation England) Direction 2021 was sent to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The reason for the request was that the proposed development is a major application within designated Green Belt which is contrary to Local and National Planning Policy and triggered the need to consult with the Secretary of State.

On the 29th November the Council received a formal response from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities stating that ‘*The Secretary of State has decided not to call in this application. He is content that it should be determined by the local planning authority.*’

3. Assessment

The full assessment of the application has already been considered as part of the FUL/2023/0332.

4. Recommendation

Committee have already approved the application at DC committee on the 9th November 2023. With the formal response now received from the Secretary of State stating the application is not being 'called in', the decision can now be issued.

5. Financial implications – Not applicable

6. Background Papers

FUL/2023/0332 – officer report and draft decision

Report Author: Paula Fitzgerald, Senior Planner 29th November 2023