

Riverside Energy Park

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

CHAPTER:

14

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER:
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SOCIO-ECONOMICS

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Appendix J

Appendix J.1 - Figures

14 Socio-economics

14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 This chapter presents preliminary findings of the assessment of likely significant effects, on the labour market and community infrastructure arising from the Proposed Development.
- 14.1.2 Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) has prepared this chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). In accordance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, a statement outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of competent experts appointed to prepare this PEIR is provided in **Appendix A.3**.
- 14.1.3 The Proposed Development has the potential to create both positive and negative impacts to socio-economic and community infrastructure receptors. The potential socio-economics impacts are assessed through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

14.2 Policy Context, Legislation, Guidance and Standards

- 14.2.1 As outlined in **Chapter 2**, the relevant National Policy Statements provide the primary basis for decisions by the Secretary of State on nationally significant infrastructure projects.

National Planning Policy

NPS EN-1

- 14.2.2 National Planning Statement (NPS) EN-1 sets out the Government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure in England and Wales and recognises that there is a significant need for new energy infrastructure. NPS EN-1 also identifies technology-specific impacts.
- 14.2.3 NPS for Energy EN-1 acknowledges that "*the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure may have socio-economic impacts at local and regional levels*". At Paragraph 4.2.2, it states that in addition to an Environmental Statement (ES) prepared in accordance with the European Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Secretary of State "*will find it helpful if the applicant sets out information on the likely significant social and economic effects of the development, and shows how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided or mitigated. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, community cohesion and well-being.*"
- 14.2.4 Paragraph 5.12.3 states that where the Application Site is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should "*consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: creation of jobs and training opportunities; provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including provision of educational and visitor facilities; the impacts of a changing influx of workers during different phases; and cumulative effects*" to take account of the construction requirements and timeframes associated with other major projects.
- 14.2.5 NPS for Energy EN-1 further notes in Paragraph 5.12.7, that in making a determination on energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) the Secretary of State may attribute limited weight to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence and will take into account mitigation such as planning obligations and particular options as to phasing the development in relation to impacts.

NPS EN-3

- 14.2.6 NPS EN-3, the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, Paragraph 1.7.2 details the benefits of a low carbon economy including the likely “*positive effects on the Economy and Skills.*”
- 14.2.7 Whilst only some of the impacts raised in the NPS’s are considered relevant to the Proposed Development, this assessment also considers relevant positive provisions the Applicant has made or is proposing to make. This includes provisions to mitigate impacts, any legacy benefits that may arise, as well as any options for phasing development in relation to any identified Socio-Economic impacts. This will enable them to be considered by the Secretary of State for the purposes of decision-making.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 14.2.8 The NPPF was published in March 2012, setting out the Government’s planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF emphasises the importance of National Policy Statements for major infrastructure in the determination of NSIPs.
- 14.2.9 The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the 12 supporting core planning principles. The core principles recognise that sustainable development has three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.
- 14.2.10 The core principles of relevance to this assessment include:
- “*Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;*” and
 - “*Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.*”
- 14.2.11 The aforementioned core principles underpin the 13 ways of ‘delivering sustainable development’, with the most relevant for this chapter listed below:

- Building a strong, competitive economy (1);
 - Paragraph 19 states “*the Government is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Planning should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Therefore significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system*”; and
 - Paragraph 21 continues with “*investment in business should not be over-burdened by the combined requirements of planning policy expectations. [Local¹] Planning policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including a poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing*”.

¹ Author’s inclusion

- Ensuring the vitality of town centres (2);
 - Paragraph 23 highlights that planning policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period. In drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should further define a network and hierarchy of centres that is resilient to anticipated future economic changes.
 - The paragraph follows on to state that where town centres are in decline, local planning authorities should plan positively for their future to encourage economic activity.
- Promoting healthy communities (8);
 - Paragraphs 69 and 70 note that (local) planning policies and decisions should develop a shared vision with communities of the environment and facilities they wish to see, and ensure an integrated approach to the location of economic uses of land.

Planning Practice Guidance (online resource) (PPG)

14.2.12 At paragraph 001 Reference ID: 5-001-20140306, the PPG states:

- *“Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses...”*

National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)

14.2.13 The NPPW was published in October 2014, setting out the Government’s ambition to develop a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. The NPPW recognises that planning can help to deliver the national waste strategy by helping to secure the re-use, recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.

14.2.14 Section 4 states that local authorities should identify sites for waste management facilities in local plans and that waste planning authorities should consider the suitable siting of energy recovery facilities to enable the utilisation of the heat produced as an energy source in close proximity to suitable potential heat customers.

Emerging National Planning Policy

Draft National Planning Policy Framework

14.2.15 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published a draft revised version of the NPPF for consultation between 5 March and 10 May 2018. MHCLG aim to publish a final version of the NPPF by summer 2018.

14.2.16 The following proposed change is relevant to this socio-economic chapter:

- Building a strong and competitive economy:
 - Paragraphs 82-83 place more emphasis on supporting business growth and improved productivity stating that *“significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.”*

Regional Planning Policy

14.2.17 At regional level, relevant planning policies are contained in The London Plan (published March 2016) and the London Municipal Waste Management Strategy (adopted 2011). The emerging draft London Environment Strategy is also considered to be relevant to the REP Development Consent Order (DCO).

London Plan 2016

14.2.18 The London Plan is the overall strategic plan for Greater London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital to 2036.

14.2.19 Under the legislation setting up the GLA (Greater London Authority Act 1999), the London Plan should only deal with things of strategic importance to Greater London. The legislation also requires that the London Plan should take account of three cross-cutting themes:

- Economic development and wealth creation;
- Social development; and
- Improvement of the environment.

14.2.20 Policy 1.1 of the London Plan 2016 sets out the strategic vision and objectives for London. This is supported by six detailed objectives. Those of relevance to this assessment are summarised below:

- A city that meets the challenges of economic and population growth (a);
- An internationally competitive and successful city (b); and
- A city where it is easy, safe and convenient for everyone to access jobs, opportunities and facilities (f).

14.2.21 Policy 2.1 highlights London in its global, European and UK context. It states:

“that the development of London supports the spatial, economic, environmental and social development of Europe and the United Kingdom, in particular ensuring that London plays a distinctive and supportive part in the UK’s network of cities.”

14.2.22 Waste net self-sufficiency is addressed in Policy 5.16, which states that *“the Mayor will work with London boroughs and waste authorities, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWaRB), the Environment Agency, the private sector, voluntary and community sector groups, and neighbouring regions and authorities to: (b) create positive environmental and economic impacts from waste processing”*.

London’s Wasted Resource – The Mayor’s Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2011)

14.2.23 There are several objectives set through the Strategy to support the Mayor’s vision. Objective 3 is of particular relevance to this assessment and states the objective to:

“Unlock the massive economic value of London’s municipal waste through increased levels of reuse, recycling, composting and the generation of low carbon energy from waste”.

14.2.24 Policy 3 explores London capturing the economic benefits of municipal waste management. In light of this the Mayor’s Business Waste Strategy highlights that although the Mayor only has

statutory powers with regard to London's municipal waste management, he believes we should look at all of London's waste in order to obtain the greatest benefits for London economically and environmentally.

14.2.25 The Policy further states that in order for municipal waste to become a greater source of economic benefit to London, the quality of the waste material produced for recycling, composting and low carbon energy generation needs to be of a high standard.

Emerging Regional Planning Policy

Draft London Plan 2017

14.2.26 The Mayor published the Draft London Plan 2017 for consultation between 1 December 2017 and 2 March 2018. According to the GLA, the draft plan will be examined in Winter 2018 and the final plan published by Winter 2019. As the overall strategic plan for London, it sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years.

14.2.27 The Draft London Plan discusses the concept of Good Growth at paragraph 0.0.18 noting that *"growth that is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable – underpins the Plan and ensures that it is focused on sustainable development"*.

14.2.28 Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities states that development must:

- *"Seek to ensure that London continues to generate a wide range of economic and other opportunities, and that everyone is able to benefit from these to ensure that London is a fairer and more equal city" (A).*

14.2.29 To conserve and enhance London's global economic competitiveness and ensure that economic success is shared amongst all Londoners, Policy GG5 requires that those involved in planning and development must:

- *"Seek to ensure that London's economy diversifies and that the benefits of economic success are shared more equitably across London" (B);*
- *"Plan for sufficient employment and industrial space in the right locations to support economic development and regeneration" (C).*

14.2.30 Policy E8, sector growth opportunities and clusters, states that *"employment opportunities..... should be promoted and supported along with support for the development of business growth and sector-specific opportunities"*.

14.2.31 Policy S17 highlights how developments should reduce waste and support London's circular economy, with Policy S18 highlighting that economic benefits from waste and secondary materials management should be created.

Draft Economic Development Strategy for London

14.2.32 The Economic Development Strategy for London was issued in its draft format for Consultation in December 2017. The Strategy intends to ensure that all Londoners share in the benefits of London's prosperity as it grows, alongside a package of new London Enterprise Action Partnership (LEAP) supported initiatives which will support entrepreneurs and help small businesses across London to grow and flourish. LEAP is a non-incorporated consultative and advisory body established by the Mayor under Sections 30 and 34 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It brings entrepreneurs and business together with the Mayoralty and London Councils to identify strategic actions to support and lead economic growth and job creation in the capital.

Local Planning Policy Context

14.2.33 The London Borough of Bexley Local Development Plan contains the following Core Strategy and Development Control policies relating to socio-economics.

14.2.34 Bexley Core Strategy (2012): The Bexley Core Strategy sets out a spatial planning framework for the Borough until 2026. The Core Strategy sets out 15 spatial objectives for Bexley, the overarching spatial objective is set out below:

- *“To promote development that assists regeneration and renewal within the borough and enhances the quality of life of all Bexley residents, and encourage development that promotes social inclusion, addresses local social and economic needs and provides a better environment”.*

14.2.35 Objective 12 is of particular importance to this assessment:

- *“Support the strengthening and growth of a diverse local economy, promote the growth of industry clusters and emerging sectors, ...”.*

14.2.36 Policy CS13, Access to jobs, has several aims to ensure that residents in the area are provided with opportunities to access training and a variety of local jobs. Those relevant to this assessment are listed below:

- *“supporting development proposals that diversify the local employment offer” (a);*
- *“supporting development proposals that intensify land-uses...” (b); and*
- *“reducing resident’s need to travel long distances by supporting the creation of a diverse local economy which offers a wide range of local job opportunities, ...” (c).*

Bexley Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2004) Saved Policies (2012)

14.2.37 The Bexley Unitary Development Plan was adopted in 2004. However, in 2007 a number of UDP policies expired and in 2012 some of the remaining saved policies were superseded by new policies following the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2012. The remaining saved policies will continue to apply until replacement policies are adopted in the new Bexley Local Plan. Relevant saved policies are identified below:

- Policy G1:
 - *“The Council will seek to protect, maintain and improve the quality of the built and natural environment for the economic and social well being of the borough whilst making efficient and effective use of the borough’s land resources. In particular, proposals for development which would detract from the overall environmental quality of an area will not be acceptable”; and*
- Policy G4:
 - *“The Council will, within available resources, seek to provide adequate means and opportunities for all Sections of the borough’s population to have access to housing, jobs, leisure, social and community facilities”.*

Dartford Core Strategy (2011)

14.2.38 The Council seeks a transformation of the economy by focusing on key growth sectors, in particular environmental technologies (d) (Policy CS8).

14.2.39 Policy CS9 seeks to ensure the provision of a locally skilled workforce to support the economic transformation of the Borough, by requiring developments (commensurate with their size) to contribute to the delivery of skills training and education.

Dartford Borough Council Development Policies Plan (April 2017)

14.2.40 The Dartford Development Policies Plan was adopted in 2017 and it sets out the main planning policies for assessing planning applications in the Borough.

14.2.41 Policy DP1, Dartford's Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, makes clear that the Local Planning Authority will work with applicants to "*enable appropriately located development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the Borough*".

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 (2016)

14.2.42 The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which is relevant for the electrical connection, was adopted in 2016 and sets out strategic objectives for Kent's minerals and waste and development management policies that the County Council will take account of when assessing planning applications for the period from 2013-2030.

14.2.43 The strategic objectives of the plan for waste includes the following which is relevant to this assessment:

- "*Enable minerals and waste developments to contribute to the social and economic fabric of their communities through employment opportunities*" (4).

Bexley Growth Strategy (2017)

14.2.44 The Bexley Growth Strategy was adopted in 2017 and will help the Council meet the need for new homes and jobs. The strategy seeks to ensure growth is managed carefully to benefit local people, also bringing benefits to transport connectivity, economic prosperity and skills. The Growth Strategy will also inform policies in the emerging Draft London Borough of Bexley (LBB) Local Plan.

14.2.45 The economic development aims of the Bexley Growth Strategy are:

- "*To secure the highest rates of economic growth in London ... that not only support the development of the local economy but also the on-going evolution and competitiveness of London and the wider south east;*
- *To ensure residents have the necessary skills and qualifications to enable them to participate in these new opportunities, underpinned by a new spirit of entrepreneurialism, innovation and the knowledge that residents can stay living in the borough and have successful, rewarding careers; and*
- *To create more prosperity in Bexley, capitalise on the opportunities presented by growth to increase and improve employment, skills, infrastructure and participation, while at the same time, delivering a higher quality education and support offer for local people*".

14.2.46 Through the Growth Strategy, the following economic objectives have been set which are of relevance to this assessment:

- Economic objective 1: use growth to secure economic development;
- Economic objective 2: create a broader, more resilient and higher quality economic base; and

- Economic objective 3: make Bexley a thriving and ambitious place of opportunity through education and employment.

Emerging Local Planning Policy and Guidance

Draft Bexley Local Plan

14.2.47 The LBB is preparing a new local plan which will set out the policies to guide development across the Borough up to 2040.

14.2.48 Relevant draft policies from the new Bexley local plan will therefore not be adopted by the time of the REP DCO examination.

Draft Dartford Borough Council Local Plan

14.2.49 Dartford Borough Council is in the process of preparing a new local plan for the Borough. The Council is anticipating an extensive public consultation period which will launch in 2018. In preparation for this, Dartford Borough Council has revised its Statement of Community Involvement in planning, which was adopted in December 2017.

14.2.50 Relevant draft policies from the new DBC local plan will therefore not be adopted by the time of the REP DCO examination.

14.3 Consultation

14.3.1 A list of consultation responses received to date relating to this assessment is provided below.

Table 14.1 Summary of Consultation and Responses

Reference	Comment	Response
Secretary of State Scoping Opinion		
Section 4.11 – ID 1	The Inspectorate considers that there is potential for an increase in migration during construction and operation, and sufficient evidence has not been provided to scope out the assessment on housing and community infrastructure.	This is addressed in Section 14.8.
Section 4.11 – ID 2	The Inspectorate agrees that the effects of tourism and recreation will be sufficiently addressed in other chapters of the ES, and does not need to be specifically assessed in the socio-economic chapter.	Tourism and recreation scoped out of the Socio-economic assessment. No action required.
Section 4.11 – ID 3	The ES should set out the sources of the socio-economic data collected as part of the assessment.	Data sources are set out in paragraph 14.5.3.
Section 4.11 – ID 4	The Inspectorate advises that the types of jobs generated by the Proposed Development should be considered in the context of the available workforce in the area and advises that this applies equally to	The types of operational jobs are set out in paragraph 14.8.18.

Reference	Comment	Response
	the construction and operational stages.	
Section 4.11 – ID 5	The Inspectorate notes that the HM Treasury Green Book, is guidance for central government. The Applicant should take care to ensure that the methodology applied is sufficient to identify and assess the likely significant effects from the Proposed Development.	Noted.
Section 4.11 – ID 6	The methodology for assessing the significance of potential effects has not been identified within the Scoping Report; this should be clearly explained within the ES.	This is set out in Table 14.6 .
Other consultation with non-statutory bodies		
The London Economic Action Partnership	Consultation undertaken, awaiting response	No response received.
South East London Chamber of Commerce	Consultation undertaken, awaiting response	No response received.
Kent Chamber of Commerce	Consultation undertaken, awaiting response	No response received.
South East London Chamber of Commerce (CoC)	Initial telephone discussion taken place. South East London CoC to send on any relevant baseline information. Awaiting information	No information received.

14.4 Parameters Used for Assessment

- 14.4.1 The parameters for the Proposed Development (which are described in **Chapter 3**) have little bearing on the socio-economic impacts as they will all require the same number of construction, operational (including maintenance) and decommissioning staff and will give rise to the same impacts. This assessment considers the reasonable worst case scenario where the construction period lasts for c. 18 months.
- 14.4.2 The assessment uses smaller study areas in order to assess the reasonable worst case scenario where labour would be sourced from a much smaller area than the principal catchment.

14.5 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

Study Area

- 14.5.1 The socio-economic assessment for the labour market is based on a 60-minute drive time catchment ('wider region') from the REP site (**Figure 14.1, Appendix J.1**). This is considered to reflect the outer limit that individuals would typically commute on a daily basis. Smaller 'local area' (30-minute drive time) and 'wider area' (45-minute drive time) catchments are also used

to assess the reasonable worst case scenario that labour would be sourced from within much smaller areas. The wider region incorporates both the local area and the wider area.

Baseline Data Collection

14.5.2 The study area's socio-economic position has been described using standard indicators. This provides a baseline from which potential impacts and effects are assessed:

- Socio-economic/ labour market (details of the indicators are provided in **Section 14.6**). The area has been defined using a combination of:
 - standard sources and indicators;
 - research available at study area level; and
 - research into the business and labour market structure of the local economy.
- Community Infrastructure: An audit of community infrastructure including education and healthcare facilities has been prepared.

14.5.3 The baseline data has been collected using the following data sources:

- Socio-economic/labour market: Experian 2017, Census 2011; and
- Community Infrastructure: Department for Education, NHS Choices.

Assessment

14.5.4 The assessment follows UK Government guidelines and best practice guidance. The methodology used to estimate impacts follows guidance set out in the HM Treasury (2018) Green Book and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Additionality Guide, as well as considering Significance Criteria, as defined in paragraphs 14.5.10 to 14.5.16.

14.5.5 The significance of effect is defined by the combination of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of impacts upon them. The criteria set out in this chapter are specific to socio-economic factors and community infrastructure and have been adopted to assess receptor sensitivity and impact magnitude.

14.5.6 An assessment of likely significant effects on the local, regional and national economy during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been prepared. This assesses the scale of:

- Direct economic impacts: jobs and Gross Value Added (GVA) that are wholly or largely related to construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development;
- Indirect economic impacts (beneficial and adverse): jobs and GVA generated in the study area in the chain of suppliers of goods and services to the direct activities;
- Induced economic impacts: jobs and GVA created by direct and indirect employees' spending in the study area or in the wider economy; and
- Wider economic (catalytic) impacts (beneficial and adverse): employment and income generated in the economy related to the wider role of the Proposed Development in influencing economic activities (including wider socio-economic effects).

14.5.7 GVA is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.

14.5.8 For economic impacts and effects (including employment), the availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of a proposed development. Adequate capacity results in a low sensitivity of the receptor while a shortfall or constrained capacity results in a high sensitivity.

14.5.9 The key socio-economic indicators for the study area include:

- The proportion of skilled workforce in the study area relative to national averages;
- Educational attainment levels compared with national averages;
- The proportion of employment in relevant sectors (i.e. manufacturing and construction workers) in the study area;
- The availability of labour (including the unemployed workforce); and
- Relevant education and training provision, including existing and proposed programmes provided by institutions serving the study area.

Socio-economic Significance Criteria

14.5.10 The following criteria have been set to assess the effects on socio-economic receptors in relation to employment and GVA.

14.5.11 **Table 14.2** identifies the sensitivity criteria for socio-economic receptors.

Table 14.2 Socio-economic Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Example
Very High	The area has a shortfall of appropriate labour and skills. The Proposed Development would lead to excessive labour market pressure and distortions (i.e. skills and capacity shortages, import of labour, wage inflation).
High	The area has constrained supply of labour and skills. The Proposed Development would lead to labour market pressure and distortions (i.e. skills and capacity shortages, import of labour, wage inflation).
Medium	The area has a low/ limited supply of labour and skills. The Proposed Development could lead to labour market pressure or distortions.
Low	The receptor has a readily available labour force. The Proposed Development is unlikely to lead to labour market pressure or distortions.
Negligible	The area has a surplus of readily available labour with directly relevant and transferable skills. The Proposed Development will not lead to labour market pressure or distortions.

14.5.12 The magnitude of impact for socio-economic receptors is shown in **Table 14.3**.

Table 14.3 Socio-economic Magnitude criteria

Magnitude	Adverse/ Beneficial	Example
Major	Adverse	Effects would be observed on an international, national or regional scale; where the number of jobs lost in the study area would be greater than 250 (based upon the EU definition of small and medium enterprises ²). and/or Effects would be of long-term duration (i.e. greater than five years).
	Beneficial	Effects would be observed on an international, national or regional scale; where the number of jobs created in the study area would be greater than 250 (based upon EU definition of small and medium enterprises). and/or Effects would be of long-term duration (i.e. greater than five years).
Moderate	Adverse	Noticeable effects would arise that may be judged to be important at a local scale, either because there are large effects on few receptors or smaller effects on a larger proportion of receptors; where the number of jobs lost in the study area would be greater than 50, but fewer than 250. and/or Effects would be medium-term (i.e. 3-5 years).
	Beneficial	Noticeable effects would arise that may be judged to be important at a local scale, either because there are large effects on few receptors or smaller effects on a larger proportion of receptors; where the number of jobs created in the study area would be greater than 50, but fewer than 250. and/or Effects would be medium-term (i.e. 3-5 years).
Minor	Adverse	Small scale effects would arise, with a limited number of affected receptors; and/or where the number of jobs lost in the study area would be greater than 10, but fewer than 50. and/or Effects would be short-term (i.e. 1-2 years).
	Beneficial	Small scale effects would arise, with a limited number of affected receptors; and/or where the number of jobs created in the study area would be greater than 10, but fewer than 50. and/or Effects would be short-term (i.e. 1-2 years).
Negligible	Adverse	Very minor loss (e.g. less than 10 jobs lost) or very short term (less than 6 months).
	Beneficial	Very minor benefit (e.g. less than 10 jobs created) (less than 6 months).
No Change		No change would be perceptible, either beneficial or adverse.

² http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

Community Infrastructure Significance Criteria

14.5.13 In considering the level of community infrastructure sensitivity the area served by the facility, or the area from which people travel to access it, is the defining factor (**Table 14.4**).

Table 14.4 Community Infrastructure Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Example
Very High	Facility is of international importance e.g. Major research or academic centre.
High	Facility is of national importance e.g. University, Centre of Excellence for health care.
Medium	Facility is of regional importance e.g. hospital.
Low (or lower)/Negligible	Facility is of local importance e.g. GP facility, local schools, community centre.

14.5.14 The magnitude of impact on community infrastructure is gauged by estimating the amount of change on the receptor arising from a project. The magnitude of change is evaluated in line with the criteria below (**Table 14.5**).

Table 14.5 Community Infrastructure Magnitude of Impact Criteria

Magnitude		Example
Major	Adverse	A permanent or long term adverse impact on the integrity and value of a facility.
	Beneficial	Large scale or major improvement of the facility's quality; extensive restoration or enhancement; major improvement of facility's quality.
Moderate	Adverse	An adverse impact on the value of a facility, but recovery is possible in the medium term and no permanent impacts are predicted.
	Beneficial	Benefit to, or addition of, key characteristics, features, or elements or improvement of a facility's quality.
Minor	Adverse	An adverse impact on the value of a facility, but recovery is expected in the short- term and there would be no impact on its integrity.
	Beneficial	Minor benefit to, or addition of key characteristics, features or elements; some beneficial impact on attribute or a reduction in the risk of a negative impact occurring.
Negligible	Adverse	Very minor loss.
	Beneficial	Very minor benefit.
No Change		No change would be perceptible, either beneficial or adverse.

Significance of Effect

14.5.15 In line with standard EIA practice, the sensitivity of a receptor as defined in **Table 14.2** and **Table 14.4** is considered against the magnitude of impact in **Table 14.3** and **Table 14.5** to determine the significance of effect (**Table 14.6**).

Table 14.6 Significance of Effect

		Magnitude of Impact				
		No Change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Receptor Sensitivity	Very High	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Substantial
	High	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Major
	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Major
	Low	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

14.5.16 Effects which are moderate, major or substantial are considered to be significant in EIA terms.

Limitations

14.5.17 At this stage potential effects from the decommissioning phase are difficult to quantify. Decommissioning techniques are likely to have advanced considerably over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Precise information on any decommissioning effects, relating to socio-economic impact, is therefore not known at this time.

14.5.18 It is typical in socio-economic assessments to assume the level of decommissioning impacts will be similar to those experienced during the construction phase. Decommissioning effects are therefore considered to be of a similar scale or lower than construction phase effects, therefore adopting a conservative approach to the assessment.

14.6 Baseline Conditions and Receptors

Socio-economic profile

14.6.1 This socio-economic profile examines the key indicators and measures of socio-economic activity in the study area which is divided into the following tiers:

- 'local area' defined within a 30-minute drive time;
- 'wider area' defined within a 45-minute drive time; and
- 'wider region' defined within a 60-minute drive time.

14.6.2 The key indicators in the study area are compared against the English average.

14.6.3 A 60-minute drive time catchment (socio economic study area) is considered to be an accurate reflection of the area's labour market based on the distance that commuters are typically willing to travel on a daily basis. It is likely the majority of operational and construction employment will be sourced from this 'wider region 60-minute drive time catchment.' **Figure 14.1, Appendix J.1** shows the drive time catchment.

14.6.4 Smaller local and wider area catchments are provided to ensure more localised issues are reflected in the baseline. These smaller study areas are also used in the impact assessment to model the effects of sourcing the labour supply from smaller labour market areas.

Population

14.6.5 The local area, wider area and wider region has experienced relatively significant population increases since 2007, a trend which is expected to continue over the coming years to 2027. Over the same period the population of England has increased and is also projected to increase but at a lesser rate.

14.6.6 **Table 14.7** below sets out the population statistics in the study area.

Table 14.7 Population

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
2007	1,503,995	4,905,209	8,639,529	51,381,081
2017	1,745,193	5,608,788	9,767,329	55,578,918
2027	1,950,718	6,236,749	10,782,431	59,286,576
% change				
2007-2017	16%	14%	13%	8%
2017-2027	12%	11%	10%	7%

Source: Experian 2017

Age Structure

14.6.7 The local area, wider area and wider region has a higher than average level of working age people and lower than average dependency ratio which is likely to reduce pressures on services in the area. The dependency ratio (or proportion of working age people) is significant as it measures the relationship between the productive element of a population and the economically dependent. This age structure is seen to be reflective of that for England.

14.6.8 **Table 14.8** below sets out the age structure in the vicinity of the REP site.

Table 14.8 Age Structure: 2015

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Children (0-15)	22%	21%	20%	19%
Working age (16-64)	65%	66%	66%	63%
Retirement age (65+)	13%	13%	14%	18%

Source: Experian 2017

The Labour Market

Economic Activity

14.6.9 The economic activity rate is a useful measure of the labour market opportunities available in the area. The economic activity rate measures the percentage of the population, both in employment and unemployed, that represent the labour supply regardless of their labour status. The figure represents the degree of success of the area in engaging people in productive activity.

14.6.10 Economic activity in the local area, wider area and wider region is above that for England, with the Wider Region having the highest level as summarised in **Table 14.9** below.

Table 14.9: Economic Activity

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Total	1,170,649	3,821,336	6,748,915	38,881,374
Economically Active	71%	71%	72%	70%
Economically Inactive	29%	29%	28%	30%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

14.6.11 The study area is characterised by marginally higher levels of unemployment compared to England. The level of retired people in the study area is significantly below the national average. The wider area and wider region have slightly higher proportions of self-employed people which may indicate a more dynamic entrepreneurial workforce. There is also a higher proportion of economically active students in the local and wider area suggesting a skilled workforce. This is summarised in **Table 14.10**.

Table 14.10: Economic Activity by Type (using rounded figures)

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Economically Active				
Employee	72%	72%	72%	75%
Self-employed with employees	3%	3%	3%	3%
Self-employed w/out employees	11%	12%	12%	11%
Unemployed	8%	8%	7%	6%
Student (economically active)	6%	6%	5%	5%

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Economically Inactive				
Retired	34%	35%	35%	45%
Student (economically inactive)	23%	24%	24%	19%
Looking after home/family	19%	18%	18%	14%
Permanently sick/disabled	13%	13%	13%	13%
Other economically inactive	10%	10%	10%	7%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

Employment Structure

Occupational Profile

14.6.12 The study area (defined as the wider region) has a higher than average proportion of people employed in professional occupations (20%) and associate professional and technical occupations (16%). Similarly, the wider area has a higher than average proportion of people employed in professional occupations (19%). Employment in skilled trades in the local area is consistent with the national average (11%).

14.6.13 The occupational profile is summarised in **Table 14.11**.

Table 14.11: Occupational Profile

Occupational Profile	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Managers, directors and senior officials	10%	10%	12%	11%
Professional occupations	17%	19%	20%	17%
Associate professional and technical occupations	13%	14%	16%	13%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	13%	13%	12%	11%

Occupational Profile	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Skilled trades occupations	11%	10%	9%	11%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	9%	8%	8%	9%
Sales and customer service occupations	9%	8%	8%	8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	7%	6%	5%	7%
Elementary occupations	12%	11%	10%	11%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

Industry of Employment

14.6.14 Retail related occupations and health and social work are the main employment categories in the local area, however they are both below the national average.

14.6.15 Employment in financial and insurance activities across the study area is significantly higher than the national average. Employment in construction in the local area is higher than the national average.

14.6.16 The industries of employment are summarised in **Table 14.12**.

Table 14.12: Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0%	0%	0%	1%
Mining and quarrying	0%	0%	0%	0%
Manufacturing	4%	4%	4%	9%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0%	0%	0%	1%
Water supply; sewerage, waste mgt. and remediation	1%	1%	1%	1%
Construction	9%	8%	8%	8%

Industry of Employment	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor cycles and vehicles	15%	14%	14%	16%
Transport and storage	6%	5%	5%	5%
Accommodation and food service activities	6%	6%	6%	6%
Information and communication	5%	5%	6%	4%
Financial and insurance activities	7%	8%	8%	4%
Real estate activities	2%	2%	2%	1%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	7%	9%	10%	7%
Administrative and support service activities	6%	6%	6%	5%
Public administration, defence, compulsory social security	6%	6%	5%	6%
Education	9%	10%	10%	10%
Human health and social work activities	11%	11%	11%	12%
Other	5%	6%	6%	5%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

Education and Skills

Social Grade / Skills

14.6.17 The National Readership Survey (NRS) social grades are a system of demographic classification widely used in market research. This was originally developed by the NRS but is now used by many other organisations for wider applications and is a standard for market research.

14.6.18 As shown in **Table 14.13**, the study area (defined as the wider region) has a higher proportion of people in the highest social grades (AB) and second highest (C1) grade when compared to the national average. The local area has a marginally higher proportion of those in the lowest social grade (DE) but marginally lower proportion of those in the second lowest social grade (C2).

Table 14.13: National Readership Survey (NRS) Social Grade

	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
AB – High/intermediate manager/admin/professional	21%	24%	27%	23%
C1 – Supervisor/clerical/junior manager/admin/professional	32%	33%	33%	31%
C2 – Skilled manual	20%	18%	17%	21%
DE- Semi-skilled/unskilled manual/state benefit/unemployed/lowest grade	26%	25%	23%	25%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

Qualifications

14.6.19 The local area's education attainment rate is generally comparable to that of England. Qualifications in the wider area and wider region are generally comparable to that of England apart from level 4 qualifications and above. There are higher levels of Level 4 qualification across the wider area and wider region and higher levels of "other qualifications" across the study area. The study area as a whole has slightly lower levels of Apprenticeship qualifications than that of England. This is summarised in **Table 14.14**.

Table 14.14: Qualifications

Qualifications	Study Area			Comparator
	Local Area	Wider Area	Wider Region	England
Level 4 qualifications and above	27%	30%	33%	27%
Level 3 qualifications	11%	11%	11%	12%
Apprenticeship	3%	2%	2%	4%
Level 2 qualifications	15%	14%	14%	15%
Level 1 qualifications	14%	13%	12%	13%
Other qualifications	8%	8%	8%	6%
No qualifications	22%	21%	19%	22%

Source: Experian 2017, Census 2011

Socio-economic Summary

14.6.20 The socio-economic study area (wider region defined as the 60-minute drive time – incorporating the wider and local study areas) surrounding REP is characterised by:

- An increasing population between 2007 and 2017;
- An increasing population between 2017 and 2027;
- Higher economic activity rate than the national average;
- Marginally higher levels of unemployment compared to the national average;
- Retirement age population significantly below the national average;
- Higher than average proportion of people employed in professional occupations and associate professional and technical occupations;
- A comparable proportion of people working in the construction sector as that of the national average;
- Higher than average proportion of people in highly skilled jobs and lower proportion of people employed in semi-skilled/unskilled jobs;
- Lower proportion of people with no qualifications; and
- High proportion of people achieving the highest qualifications compared to the national average.

14.6.21 The socio-economic study area exhibits some characteristics consistent with a low sensitivity labour market (i.e. readily available skilled labour, increasing population, above average economic activity, high educational attainment).

14.6.22 The overall sensitivity of the labour market is assessed as low, in line with the criteria set out in **Table 14.2**.

Community Infrastructure Baseline

14.6.23 Demand for community infrastructure facilities could arise from the in-migration of construction workers and their families during the temporary construction phase. However, based on the anticipated number of construction workers and professional judgement and experience of RRRF and other similar developments, this requirement is likely to be minimal. An audit of community infrastructure is provided below.

Education

14.6.24 An audit of schools within 3 km of the REP site has been carried out (Department for Education 2018). There are 33 schools within 3 km of the REP site. These are a combination of primary and secondary schools including some independent and free schools. Most of the schools provide capacity information and this shows that there is capacity to accommodate 1,789 pupils.

Health

- 14.6.25 There are nine GP's surgeries within 3 km of the REP site, all of which are accepting new patients (NHS 2018). There are five dentists within 3 km of the REP site, one of which is accepting new patients. It is not clear whether the other four are accepting new patients³.
- 14.6.26 Erith and District Hospital is approximately 4 km from the REP site and offers urgent care and outpatient care. The nearest Accident and Emergency is at Darent Valley Hospital which is c. 14 km from the REP site.
- 14.6.27 The overall sensitivity of the community infrastructure is assessed as low, as defined in **Table 14.4**, as most of the facilities identified above are of local importance. There is capacity within existing community infrastructure in the local area to accommodate more people should it be required.

Baseline Evolution

- 14.6.28 The population projection figures indicated that the study area's population is expected to increase by 10% between 2017 and 2027 which is higher than the national average (7%).

14.7 Embedded Mitigation

- 14.7.1 At this stage, this assessment is not reliant on any embedded mitigation. The inclusion of embedded mitigation measures is an iterative process and any measures which are introduced after the publication of this PEIR will be considered within the ES.

14.8 Assessment of Likely Effects

- 14.8.1 The assessment of likely effects is split into two sections as follows:
- The REP Site and the Main Temporary Construction Compounds; and
 - The Electrical Connection and the Cable Route Temporary Construction Compounds.

The REP Site and the Main Temporary Construction Compounds

Construction and Decommissioning

- 14.8.2 An anticipated schedule of construction for REP and the Main Temporary Construction Compounds is provided within **Chapter 3**.
- 14.8.3 The construction period is estimated to last approximately 43 months (3.6 years). The average daily number of construction workers onsite per month ranges from 74 to 1,666 during the peak construction period. This is based on the average daily expected local and non-local workforce per month. The peak construction period, when there is estimated to be a monthly average of over 1,000 workers on site per day, is anticipated to last for approximately 3 months during months 12 to 14.
- 14.8.4 Construction activities at the REP site would support 1,397 temporary construction job years, equivalent to 140 permanent construction jobs. It is generally accepted in economic appraisals that 10 construction job years are equivalent to one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job.

³ Updated information has not been provided to NHS Choices in the last 90 days

14.8.5 Annual construction GVA per head in Greater London is £111,444. The construction phase would therefore deliver £155.7 million GVA⁴ to the wider economy.

Absorption Capacity

14.8.6 The labour market data from the baseline is used to show the extent to which the study area can supply relevant skills and labour for the construction period.

14.8.7 As set out above, labour market data is expressed at a drive time level i.e. a catchment reflecting travel to work patterns. The 'local area' is defined within a 30-minute drive time; the 'wider area' within a 45-minute drive time and the 'wider region' within a 60-minute drive time.

14.8.8 **Table 14.15** shows that the required construction labour force would account for 0.12% of the employed construction workforce within a 30-minute drive time.

14.8.9 If the demand for construction labour were fully sourced from the 'potentially available labour pool' (i.e. unemployed) it would account for 1.50% of unemployed workers within a 30-minute drive time.

14.8.10 The demand for construction labour arising from REP would not therefore result in any pressure on labour market capacity (i.e. requiring more than 15% of existing capacity). The 15% threshold is based on professional judgement.

Table 14.15: Labour Market Absorption Capacity (30; 45 and 60-minute drive times)

	30 mins	45 mins	60 mins
No. of workers			
Economically Active	825,909	2,714,815	4,842,498
Economically active: Unemployed	66,513	205,301	335,428
Construction	65,624	200,924	333,940
Electricity & gas	2,899	8,100	14,184
Peak Construction workers as % of:			
Economically Active	0.12%	0.04%	0.02%
Economically active: Unemployed	1.50%	0.49%	0.30%
Construction	1.52%	0.50%	0.30%

Construction/Decommissioning Impact

14.8.11 The study area for the labour market is assessed to be of low sensitivity in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table Error! Reference source not found.14.2**. Construction activities at REP would provide a **Moderate Beneficial** impact in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.3**, resulting in an overall **Minor Beneficial** effect as defined in **Table 14.6**

⁴ £111,44 * 1,397 person years= £155.7m (note this is the same as 140 FTEs x 10 years continuous employment x £111,44 = £155.7m)

Community Infrastructure

14.8.12 **Table 14.15** shows that the study area can accommodate the construction of REP in terms of the available labour market. In reality, workers with specialist skills would be required and the likelihood is that some workers would be brought in from outside the study area.

14.8.13 The temporary nature of the construction phase and the varying requirement for specific skills at different times throughout the construction period means it is unlikely any construction workers would choose to permanently locate in the local area as a result of the construction of REP. Experience from RRRF shows that workers who are not from the local area would likely stay in local hotels/B&Bs during the working week. The impact is considered to be **Negligible** as defined in **Table 14.5**, resulting in an overall **Minor** effect as defined in **Table 14.6**.

Operation

14.8.14 Best practice principles outlined in HM Treasury (2018) Green Book Appraisal Guidance have been applied to assess the operational effect of REP on employment.

14.8.15 An Economic Impact Model has been developed to measure net additional employment and GVA. The Guidance has been used along with professional judgment to estimate values for:

- **Deadweight** – what would happen in the absence of REP;
- **Leakage** – the proportion of employment opportunities accessed by people living outside the study area;
- **Displacement** – the proportion of REP benefit accounted for by a reduction in benefit elsewhere;
- **Substitution** – when a firm substitutes one activity for another to take advantage of public sector assistances; and
- **Multipliers** – to estimate further economic activity associated with additional income and supplier purchases.

14.8.16 **Table 14.16** shows the values used in the model. Explanatory comments are given for each value.

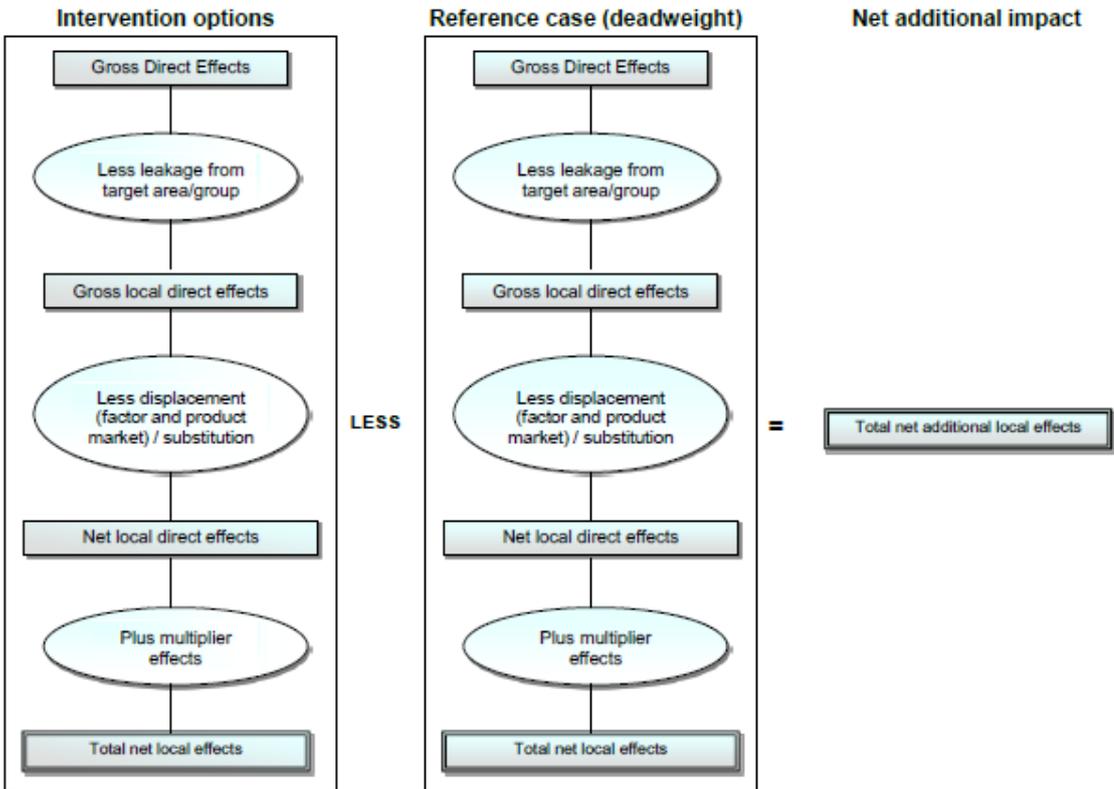
Table 14.16 Assumptions for Economic Impact Model

	Value used in Economic Impact Model	Level	Comments
Regional (within 60-minute drive time)			
Deadweight	0%	None	Operational jobs depend solely on REP being built.
Leakage	40%	Low	The majority of operational jobs will be sourced by residents within a 60-minute drive time area.
Displacement	25%	Low	Small proportion of highly skilled senior staff may be displaced from similar employment elsewhere in the region. The majority of staff will be sourced from within a 60-minute drive time area and be specifically trained for REP.
Substitution	0%	None	Assumed no incentives to influence substitution behaviour.
Multiplier	1.40	-	Greater London construction multipliers (2018).

	Value used in Economic Impact Model	Level	Comments
National			
Deadweight	0%	None	Operational jobs depend solely on REP being built.
Leakage	1%	Low	A small proportion of jobs will be taken up by non-UK residents.
Displacement	5%	Low	A small proportion of highly skilled senior staff may be displaced from similar employment elsewhere in the UK. The majority of staff will be sourced from the regional area and specifically trained for REP.
Substitution	0%	None	Assumed no incentives to influence substitution behaviour.
Multiplier	1.86	-	Greater London construction multipliers (2018).

14.8.17 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has provided a methodology for calculating additionality through a 'net additionality framework'. This is represented in **Plate 14.1** and can be described as: 'Impact of intervention option' less 'impact of reference case' (deadweight) equals 'net additional impact'.

Plate 14.1: Calculating additionality through HCA 'net additionality framework'



Source: Homes and Communities Agency, 2014

14.8.18 The operational phase of REP would provide an estimated minimum 75 FTE direct jobs. Over 50% of these jobs would be jetty/site operational jobs, a further 20% would be operational jobs and over 10% would be technician/fitter jobs. The net effect, taking account of the leakage, displacement and multiplier effects shown above, would be 91 additional regional FTE jobs and 135 national FTE jobs⁵. Average GVA per utilities employee in Greater London is £184,104. Assuming REP related employment generates average levels of GVA, REP operation would provide approximately £16.8m GVA⁶ and £24.9m GVA⁷ per annum to the local and national economy respectively.

Absorption Capacity

14.8.19 The labour market data from the baseline is used to show the extent to which the study area can supply relevant skills and labour for the operation of REP.

14.8.20 Labour market data is expressed at a drive time level i.e. a catchment reflecting travel to work patterns.

14.8.21 Operational impacts have been assessed against the current labour market. The operational workforce requirement accounts for less than 3% of the electricity and gas workers and less than 1% of the working age, economically active labour force within the 30-minute drive time.

14.8.22 Demand for operational employment would not therefore result in any noticeable labour market pressure within the 30, 45 or 60-minute drive time areas and would not exert negative pressure through labour shortages and wage increases.

14.8.23 The labour requirement during the operational phase would provide a benefit and in reality would be sourced from a number of economically active categories including workers in directly relevant industries, workers with transferable skills and unemployed workers.

Table 14.17: Labour Market Absorption Capacity (30; 45 and 60-minute drive times)

	30 mins	45 mins	60 mins
No. of workers			
Economically Active	825,909	2,714,815	4,842,498
Economically active: Unemployed	66,513	205,301	335,428
Electricity & gas	2,899	8,100	14,184
Operational FTE jobs as % of:			
Economically Active	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
Economically active: Unemployed	0.11%	0.04%	0.02%
Electricity & gas	2.59%	0.00%	0.00%

Operational Impact

14.8.24 The study area for the labour market is assessed to be of low sensitivity in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.2**. REP would provide a **Moderate Beneficial** impact during

⁵ The assumptions in Table 14.16 are applied to the 75 Gross FTE Operational jobs created by REP. This is done in an Excel Economic Impact Model created using HM Treasury Green Book Appraisal Guidance.

⁶ 91 net additional local jobs x £184,104 = £16.8m

⁷ 135 net additional national jobs x £184,104 = £24.9m

operation in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.3**, resulting in a likely **Minor Beneficial** effect, as defined in **Table 14.6**.

Community Infrastructure

14.8.25 As noted in the paragraphs above **Table 14.17** shows that the study area can accommodate the operation of REP. Transport links in the area would allow workers to travel from within the study area to the REP site without the need to relocate. **Chapter 6** outlines the public transport network serving the site including bus services offering frequent services to local residential areas and Belvedere rail station which is a 17-minute walk from the REP site. **Chapter 6** provides an assessment of the impact from REP on local transport links. The community infrastructure baseline shows that there is availability within local facilities should workers choose to relocate as a result of their job. However, based on the anticipated number of construction workers and professional judgement and experience of RRRF and other similar development projects, this requirement is likely to be minimal. This will result in a negligible impact as defined in **Table 14.5**, resulting in a **Minor** effect as defined in **Table 14.6**.

The Electrical Connection and the Cable Route Temporary Construction Compounds

Construction and Decommissioning

14.8.26 The construction period for the Electrical Connection is estimated to last approximately 24 months. This timescale has been determined with UKPN. Further information will be provided in the ES. Construction of the Electrical Connection itself would support 13 temporary construction job years, equivalent to one permanent construction job. It is generally accepted in economic appraisals that 10 years of continuous employment is equivalent to one FTE. This would provide a **Negligible Beneficial** temporary impact in line with the criteria in **Table 14.3**. The study area for the labour market is assessed to be of low sensitivity in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.2** and overall this results in a **Minor** effect as identified in **Table 14.6**.

14.8.27 At the end of its operational life, it is currently anticipated that the ducting for the Electrical Connection will be left in situ, such that there will be no decommissioning works and therefore no effects.

Operation

14.8.28 The operational worker requirement for the Electrical Connection would be minimal. It is assumed that these are existing UKPN staff and contractors and no new jobs would be created as a result of this Proposed Development or that any change would be imperceptible, as defined in **Table 14.3**. The study area for the labour market is assessed to be of low sensitivity in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.2** and overall this results in a **Negligible** effect as identified in **Table 14.6**.

Summary of Assessment

Construction and Decommissioning

14.8.29 Any decommissioning phase is assumed to be of a similar duration to construction, and therefore environmental effects are considered to be of a similar level to those during the construction phase.

14.8.30 The construction and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development would provide an overall **Moderate Beneficial** impact in line with the criteria in **Table 14.3**. The low sensitivity and moderate beneficial impact on the labour market results in an overall **Minor Beneficial** effect which is not significant, as defined in **Table 14.6**.

14.8.31 The construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would provide a negligible impact on community infrastructure. The low sensitivity and negligible impact on community infrastructure results in an overall **Minor** effect which is not significant, as defined in **Table 14.6**.

Operation

14.8.32 The low sensitivity and **Moderate Beneficial** impact on the labour market results in a likely **Minor Beneficial** effect, and therefore not significant, in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 14.6**.

14.8.33 The operation of the Proposed Development would provide a negligible impact on community infrastructure. The low sensitivity and **Negligible** impact on community infrastructure results in an overall **Minor** effect which is not significant, as defined in **Table 14.6**.

14.9 Cumulative Assessment

Construction/Decommissioning

14.9.1 Construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development could occur simultaneously with other projects located in the vicinity of the Application Site. The 'other developments' with the most potential for simultaneous construction effects are identified in **Chapter 4**. Construction phase mitigation measures will be employed during the construction of the Proposed Development, as such significant adverse cumulative construction effects are not anticipated to be likely. However, this assessment is subject to further detailed assessment, the results of which will be provided within the ES.

14.9.2 It is assumed for the purposes of this assessment that the REP generating equipment would be removed once the plant had ceased operations permanently. Any decommissioning phase is assumed to be of a similar or shorter duration to construction, and therefore environmental effects are considered to be of a similar level to those during the construction phase. It is assumed that the ducting for the Electrical Connection would remain in situ, but that the cables may be removed.

Operation

14.9.3 The operation of the Proposed Development could occur simultaneously with other projects located in the vicinity of the Application Site. The 'other developments' with the most potential for simultaneous operational effects are identified in **Chapter 4**. Operational phase mitigation measures will be employed during the operation of the Proposed Development. As such significant adverse cumulative operational effects are not anticipated to be likely. However, this assessment is subject to further detailed assessment, the results of which will be detailed within the ES.

14.10 Further Mitigation and Enhancement

14.10.1 The Applicant may explore the possibility of making a number of bookings with specific local accommodation providers who have capacity to accommodate workers. In addition, the Applicant has a preference to recruit in the borough for RRRF where possible and a similar approach is likely to be followed for the Proposed Development. These matters are to be confirmed for the assessment within the ES.

14.11 Residual Effects and Monitoring

14.11.1 The preliminary conclusions of the assessment have identified a Minor beneficial effect to the labour market during construction and operation of REP, and a Minor adverse effect to community infrastructure during the construction and operation of REP.

14.11.2 As these Minor effects are not significant, it considered unlikely that there will be a requirement for any monitoring.

14.12 Summary of Residual Effects

Table 14.18 Summary of Residual Effects - REP

	Receptor name and description	Potential mitigation	Assessment of Residual Effects
The REP DCO			
Construction / decommissioning	Labour Market	No specific mitigation is anticipated at this stage	Minor beneficial Effects are not anticipated to be significant
	Community Infrastructure	Possibility of block booking of local accommodation for workers	Minor Effects are not anticipated to be significant
Operation	Labour Market	No specific mitigation is anticipated at this stage	Minor beneficial Effects are anticipated to be not significant
	Community Infrastructure	No specific mitigation is anticipated at this stage	Minor Effects are anticipated to be not significant

14.13 Preliminary Conclusion and Further Assessment

14.13.1 The Proposed Development would have minor beneficial effects on the socio-economic status of the area through both employment creation and capital expenditure and worker spending in the local economy. Construction of the Proposed Development would support 1,397 temporary construction job years, equivalent to 140 permanent construction jobs and would deliver £155.7 million GVA to the wider economy.

14.13.2 During operation there would be 75 FTE jobs created. This is anticipated to bring minor beneficial effects to the area in the vicinity of the REP site through the generation of jobs, supply chain linkages and employee spending. Operation of the Proposed Development would provide approximately £16.8m GVA and £24.9m GVA per annum to the local and national economy respectively.

14.13.3 No likely significant effects are predicted on community infrastructure during construction or operation of the Proposed Development.

14.14 References

Bexley UDP (2004) Saved Policies (2012)

Dartford Borough Council, 2011, Dartford Borough Council Core Strategy

Draft Dartford Borough Council Local Plan

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