



My Ref: FOI4755
Your Ref:
Date: 31/07/2025
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

With reference to the Environment Solar Farm Grimethorpe which is in the final stages of a planning application.

Can you inform me as to when they originally had any contact with Barnsley Council including the dates and what it entailed.

The first contact from Environmena Project Management UK Ltd was via Stantec who submitted a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion to BMBC on their behalf. That enquiry was dated 23/12/2022.

Had they ever asked for a Scoping Opinion Request or a Screening Opinion? If they have can you please advise when, who and what was the outcome of any requests.

As outlined above a request for an EIA Screening Opinion was submitted to BMBC on 23/12/2022 by Stantec. The screening opinion concluded;

- *The site is not located within a 'sensitive area' as defined in regulation 2(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017.*
- *The proposed development is not Schedule 1 development.*
- *The proposed development is classified as Schedule 2 development.*

The proposal has been assessed as schedule 2 development of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and given the scale, nature and setting of the proposal, the environmental impacts are not anticipated at this time to warrant an EIA.

Has the Barnsley MBC received any other enquiries for any Solar energy production?

There are no current or recent planning applications or enquiries for large scale solar energy production/solar farms.

In the Principal Town Plan £75,000 had been allocated to search for potential suppliers of Solar Energy. Has anyone complied with this part of the Principal Town Plan? If so, what have they done and if not why not?

You have recently been in contact with colleagues in the Economic Development Team regarding the Principal Town & Local Village Centres Investment Plan – Cudworth (Feb 2022). Their response is outlined below;

The investment you referred to was part of the 2022 investment plans, which were aspirational in nature and encompassed a broad range of potential projects—including an exploration into the feasibility of solar farms. However, the anticipated funding for these initiatives did not come through, and the focus of available funding has since shifted. Current priorities differ from those outlined previously, with an emphasis now placed on economic development, in line with the funding streams that are presently accessible.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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