

From: Philip Ridley

Sent: 24 March 2022 09:58

To: Suffolk Energy Action Solutions - SEAS; craig.rivett@suffolk.gov.uk; Steve Gallant; James Mallinder; Naomi Goold; Tony Cooper; Russ Rainger; Tom Daly; Richard.Rout@suffolk.gov.uk; matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk; Phil Watson; Andrew.Reid@suffolk.gov.uk; TJ Haworth-Culf (SCC Councillor)

Cc: therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk; bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk; jerome.mayhew.mp@parliament.uk

Subject: RE: ESC/SCC joint letters to Greg Hands

Dear Fiona

Thank you for your e-mail. I am writing in response to the questions you have raised and responding on behalf of Cllr Craig Rivett.

In relation to the letters recently written by East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) to the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, where we requested a meeting to discuss some key concerns and provided a follow up letter after the meeting detailing the key points again. In the letters and during the meeting we highlighted our concerns regarding the outcomes of the Early Opportunities workstream of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), and the need to achieve maximum tangible coordination between energy projects proposing to connect to East Suffolk prior to 2030. As a result, we were advised that the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will be launching a programme of work with a specific focus on East Anglia and maximising the opportunities for coordination. We also highlighted the need for the provision of strategic Government-led community benefit and also project-level community benefit, supported by clear and robust guidance and appropriate policy change. It was made very clear from the outset that these discussions were had without prejudice to any position the Councils may take on individual projects. It is however only appropriate that the District Council seeks to secure the 'best' outcomes possible should the projects come forward, and that we require the exploration of options which could help to minimise the impacts on the environment and communities.

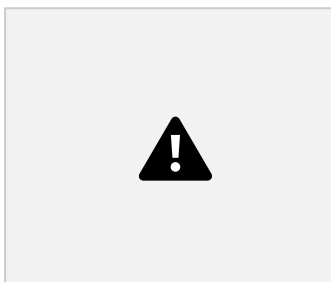
In your e-mail you have asked the question what compensation ESC and SCC have in mind? In terms of Government-led community benefit we have made reference to the Shale Wealth Fund. In relation to project level community benefit we requested that clear policy guidance is provided in relation to this through the National Planning Policy Statements. These are strategic requests of Government, we did not make specific project level requests as this would be inappropriate in this setting.

Finally, questions were raised regarding ESC's position on East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two offshore wind projects. This position was established by the Council's Cabinet, this position remains unchanged. The Council's position and

reasons for this are set out in the relevant Cabinet report (Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)). Cabinet has not changed ESC's position on the projects and therefore we will not be writing to the Secretary of State to amend this position. Notwithstanding the position ESC took on the projects, officers continued to provide important technical input into the examination to help the Examining Authority understand the key issues. It is noted as you have set out in your e-mail, that the economic benefits of the projects, if consented, will primarily be experienced in Lowestoft and not within the communities directly affected by the developments. This is obviously a matter which the Examining Authority have, and Secretary of State will, consider during their decision making. The Examining Authority and Secretary of State will also need to consider the cumulative impacts of the projects with other projects. This is a matter which ESC made representations on during the examination.

Thanks

Philip



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