

**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

## **SEAS RESPONSE TO THE WINSER REPORT**

**This is a wind energy infrastructure story but also has wider political implications.**

SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) welcome the Winser report (published on Friday 2 August), redressing as it does many of the failings of the current developer-led approach.

Our concerns are first around implementation of recommendations, that they will be either partial, not quick enough or both. Second, regarding the lack of consideration of socio-economic and other qualitative negative impacts which can't be mitigated by compensatory payoffs. For example, tourism is a key economy for the Suffolk Heritage Coast (from Aldeburgh to Southwold) and with these energy infrastructure projects, tourism revenues are estimated to reduce by at least 15% per annum (£40m according to an independent DMO survey 2019). Given that the area faces 12 years of construction, heavy industrial traffic, noise, dust pollution and environmental desecration in areas of outstanding natural importance, the disruption and loss of tranquillity to both visitors and local communities will be significant.

Destruction of precious countryside and environmental blight are not easily undone.

An offshore grid is the new imperative. Belgium, Holland, Germany and Denmark have all committed to this offshore grid strategy. Once Britain reforms its institutions with an independent Future System Operator (FSO) and a strengthened Ofgem, the opportunity to pivot to an offshore grid can be seized.

Britain has dithered for the last five years, losing valuable time. This report could have been published in 2018 if Government had looked at the bigger picture.

An offshore grid for East Anglia is easier, cheaper and faster. It delivers better value for money for all consumers and this can be achieved by 2030-32 for the designated projects. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), owners of the Electricity Grid push an anti-local "nimby" narrative with deliberately misleading figures, saying that offshore is more expensive. This is not true. If you look at the Total System costs for East Anglia there is a saving of over £2 billion according to NG ESO's Report of 2020\* and a £6 billion saving Nationally. National Grid need to accurately report the true costs of an offshore grid so Government and Ofgem can make the right decisions on the way forward.

True costings and the proposed accelerated planning and construction process, taking 7 years instead of 14 is to be welcomed. With a robust spatial strategy in place, Britain can move faster to Energy Security and Net Zero without the delays caused by poor planning and if we take the opportunity to site energy hubs at brownfield sites.

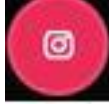
[\\*National Grid Electricity System Operator\(NG ESO\) Cost Benefits Analysis of Offshore Transmission Network Design 26.11.2020](#)

For more information, please contact Fiona Gilmore on 07788 870 823 or at [info@suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)

Suffolk Energy Action Solution (SEAS)

[info@suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)

[www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk](http://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)



***OFFSHORE is BEST***  
***Easier, Cheaper & Faster***