

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)**

**Application by Smart Wind Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4) – Project Two.**

**Your Ref EN010053**

**Our Ref HOR2-AFP185**

**Response to questions by North East Lincolnshire Council**

E0012 – No comment

EL5 – It is confirmed that there are no issues with regard to the Terrestrial Ecology Survey.

EL8 – It is confirmed that there are no issues with the outline Ecological Management Plan (EMP), notwithstanding the usual caveats regarding the conditioning of the details.

LH3 and LH4 – It is confirmed that there are no issues with the historic environment assessment.

LH6 – It is considered that the information provided is sufficient for the purpose of adequately assessing the proposal.

LH7 – It is confirmed that there are no outstanding concerns with regard to the assessments methodology.

CL9 – It is considered that there is sufficient information in relation to the Code of Construction Practice.

CL10 – No comment

CL14 and CL15 – It is requested that a response be provided when the further comments of the applicant are known and when further discussions have been undertaken. This is acknowledged in the Statement of Common Ground.

SE2 (a) – The applicant has made significant progress in working with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership and North East Lincolnshire Council in order to plan and implement mitigation measures well in advance of the project commencement and have assessed supply chain impacts. In addition, we are aware of significant demonstration working with the local education and training providers.

SE2 (b) - The plan is comprehensive. Furthermore, working with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership, the applicant has ensured that they would build upon current employment and skills initiatives in the region (including North East Lincolnshire) as well as working with local networks to ensure that information is disseminated in a timely fashion and to relevant stakeholders.

SE2 (c) - Though there are no measurable outcomes at this stage in the project there is confidence that the proactive approach taken by the applicant will yield into the future. The planning and implementation thus far has been keenly supported by stakeholders and there is confidence that measurable outcomes will be delivered following project commencement.

SE4 – The offshore wind industry, on the whole, is relatively new to the UK and to the region thus this raises issues since an indigenous supply chain of services, equipment and skills requires development. However, the Humber Region has been responding for some time to the imminent opportunities presented by the industry with some significant investments being made. The Humber has seen significant developments across existing education and training providers, as well as new investments coming forward, such as a National College for Wind Energy (in which the applicant was a strong supporter of the bid), two University Technical Colleges as well providers such as Advanced Industrial Solutions who is making a multi-million pound investment. It is expected that these developments will mitigate skills issues for the future, also in the light of developments such as Siemens at Hull Greenport, Able Humber Port and the continued expansion of activities at Grimsby.

SE6 – Though there are no specific plans supplied on the proposed Community Benefits Fund, North East Lincolnshire Council would be happy to work with the applicant (as we have with others) on ensuring the useful and timely deployment into community projects of value.

DC5, DC6, DC7, DC8 and DC10 – It is confirmed that there are no issues.

DC9 – It is confirmed that the principles, provisions and notification time are appropriate.