



The Planning Act 2008

East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) Offshore Wind Farms

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EA1N – EN010077, EA2 – EN010078

Deadline 5 – 3 February 2021

Comments of Suffolk County Council Socio-Economics

1. Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required) and submissions if there are any outstanding matters requiring to be heard

1.1 Written submission of oral case presented at ISH 5 Agenda Item 3 – Onshore social and economic effects

1.2 a) Economic benefits including at macro and micro level

1.3 Opportunities exist for local businesses to become part of the onshore and offshore supply chain as demonstrated through the levels of local contract spend for EA1. SCC working with SPR expect to see the same positive commitment maximising local content for EA1N and EA2 and indeed the EA3 development. Associated with this are the potential employment opportunities locally that would be available through the provision of direct and indirect services.

1.4 The potential scale of local economic growth hinges on the choice of both base and marshalling ports, which the Applicants have not confirmed. However, it is important that SCC continues to work with SPR to ensure the investment from EA1 in port infrastructure at Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth is maximised, specifically EA1's Operations and Maintenance base at Lowestoft.

1.5 Regionally we have already seen:

- £6 billion + invested in wind farms off our region's coastline
- £122 million invested into operations and maintenance in 2019
- A new £11.7 million Energy Skills Centre opened at East Coast College in Lowestoft in 2019.
- 4.6GW of offshore wind power is now operational from the region, accounting for 44% of the UK's current 10.4GW installed capacity.
- Over 800 businesses and 11,800 employees in offshore energy

1.6 And there is more to come:

- The operations and maintenance for offshore wind farms off the East of England, could be worth more than £1.3 billion per year if the current portfolio of consented offshore wind projects is installed and commissioned by 2025-30.
- The region has the potential to benefit more than any other region in England from a growth in offshore wind jobs, with an additional direct 6,150 FTEs in well-paid skilled work possible by 2032.
- The region is building strategic links with key European and Global offshore wind markets. Through the growing regional specialisms in

offshore renewables regional businesses are involved in many wind farm projects globally.

- 1.7 All of this activity is consistent with the Local Industrial Strategy that SCC endorsed in September 2019. The strategy identifies clean energy as one of the regional economic strengths and sets out the region's ambition to be globally recognised as leading the transition to a post-carbon economy through renewable energy generation and supporting the net zero agenda.
- 1.8 What we must do is ensure we capitalise on these opportunities to grow our local businesses, attract inward investment to the area that will generate jobs for our local communities, whilst providing people with the skills and competencies needed to gain these jobs.
- 1.9 There is a positive economic development aspect as a result of SPR adopting the East Anglia Hub approach – looking at longer term procurement benefits when treating these projects as a single meta project rather than separate projects. This will present the region with a far greater opportunity of achieving lasting economic benefit.
- 1.10 In response to b) Potential economic disbenefits: please refer to ESC response as lead authority
- 1.11 c) Construction
- 1.12 Please refer to ESC response for local accommodation issues.
- 1.13 Employment opportunities will only be maximised if strategies are put in place in order to ensure the appropriate skills are available in the local labour force. SCC continues to engage with SPR to build upon and strengthen strategies created for EA1 and EA3.
- 1.14 It should be noted that the employment generated during construction will be short term and only a proportion of this being associated with the cable corridor and substation construction with a larger share likely to be based in ports such as Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth for the offshore construction. The longer term opportunities are often created in areas a considerable distance from the communities experiencing the permanent effects of the onshore substations and infrastructure.
- 1.15 Through the continued dialogue the MOU promotes with SPR and, when contracted, its associated supply chains we will agree clear approaches and strategies to ensure local and regional companies have the best opportunity to secure work in both the onshore and offshore construction, thereby benefitting the regional economy and communities. We will also continue to work with SPR to enhance their commitments to working with regional stakeholders to ensure

more people have the opportunity to access higher skilled roles on the project and the long term operations and maintenance roles.

1.16 Of real importance, however, is that the skills strategies of all of the local energy projects – Sizewell C, SPR, Vattenfall and others – are not developed in isolation but considered against the wider demand for similarly skilled workers in the region. This includes a consideration of the labour demands of other significant infrastructure projects such as the third crossing in Lowestoft and their common competency requirements. This will ensure that we develop skillsets in our local workforce that have long-term applications across our economy.

1.17 The Technical Skills Legacy for Norfolk & Suffolk report by Pye Tait Consulting, commissioned by Suffolk Growth Programme Board and Norfolk County Council identifies the key skillsets that will have an enduring legacy and ensure the county maximises local employment opportunities associated with significant investment forecast in major infrastructure projects.

1.18 In response to d) please refer to ESC response as lead authority

2. Comments of Representations in relation to the additional land sought by the Applicant

2.1 Not applicable.

3. The Applicants revised draft Development Consent Order

3.1 Not applicable, but see below in relation to the further information requested by the ExA.

4. Any revised/updated Statements of Common Ground (if any)

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 4

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Responses to any further information requested by the Examining Authority for this deadline

6.1 In response to ISH5 Action Points action point 7: possible requirement in the dDCO

6.2 The ExA indicated that a formal commitment in respect of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) should be secured through a requirement in the draft DCO.

- 6.3 SCC remains of the firm view that the MoU, for it to work most effectively, should sit outside of the DCO. The MOU seeks to recognise that to maximise the economic benefits from offshore wind we need to work in partnership and collaboration. Not only as applicant and SCC but also alongside the growing local supply chain, developers, and industry leaders that make up our regional cluster. Our experience of EA1 and its associated strategy was that this promoted a binary relationship between SCC and the applicant with little flexibility and opportunity for collaboration. This hasn't been our experience since securing an MOU for EA3, we have been able to work as a true partnership, with a range of stakeholders, alongside the applicant to invest in the development of skills and promote future growth opportunities at scale.
- 6.4 The MOU objectives are embedded within the Applicants' Contracts for Difference (CfD) submission and secured via the Supply Chain Plan (SCP) process. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal provides an overarching framework, and challenge, for the industry to deliver increasing levels of UK content, as set out in the Industrial Strategy. The MOU objectives allow the articulation of local and regional strategy which the applicant then ensures is supported, enriched and enhanced through their contracted supply chains and held accountable for through the SCP process. Once a SCP has been agreed with BEIS it is then a monitored, enforceable process delivered by BEIS. As stated at Issue Specific Hearing 6, both SPR and ESC share the same view.
- 6.5 That being said, if the ExA is not content with the approach endorsed by SPR and SCC would suggest that the requirement take the following form:

The development shall not commence until a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed between the Applicant, Suffolk County Council, and East Suffolk Council. The MoU shall address the arrangements for securing the dissemination of skills and the integration of the supply chain into the local economy, including working to a shared set of objectives, and shall include measures for the periodic monitoring and review of those arrangements. The development shall be undertaken in accordance with the agreed MoU (including any review thereof).

- 6.6 The suggested requirement, including the reference to review, is drafted so as to ensure the retention of the positive elements (flexibility, dynamism etc.) of the MoU in its current form and allow SCC to continue to take a proactive, creative approach to skills, The MoU already stipulates that a joint review from all parties will take place bi-annually with its purpose being for all parties to update, review and coordinate ongoing activity in accordance with the objectives of the MoU.
- 6.7 SCC strongly resists the Applicants' preferred fallback position, which is to revert to the requirement for a skills strategy as included for the EA1 project, if this returns us to a binary relationship with the applicant as opposed to the collaborative relationship we currently have.

