

Please ask for: Iain Livingstone
Direct Line: 01843 577140
Date:15/01/19



Dear Mr Smith,

Application by Vattenfall Wind Power Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Thanet Extension Offshore Wind Farm

Formal Written Representation of Thanet District Council

This letter forms the written representations of Thanet District Council as the host authority for the Application for a Development Consent Order for an extension to the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm. The Council is separately submitting a Local Impact Review as a technical document setting out an evidence based assessment of the impacts of the proposal on the communities affected. This written representation will set out the administration's view on the application.

Thanet District Council strongly supports the development of technologies for the production of renewable energy as part of its vision to 2031 and the Council is committed to a proactive approach against climate change. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. Further expansion of the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm will assist in achieving these targets. Growth in the sector has the potential to reinforce Thanet as a hub for green technology, building on the success of Vattenfall's operation at Ramsgate Port in combination with solar farms, anaerobic digesters and other renewable sources of energy production particularly located around the former Richborough Power Station site. The continued use of Ramsgate Port as a base for assembly and maintenance of offshore wind farms will be further strengthened by the expansion of the Wind Farm, which is welcomed and supported by the Council.

The proposed expansion will result in a change to the seascape visible along Thanet's coastline, with the increased height and closer proximity of the new turbines when compared to the existing wind farm. This will have an adverse effect on Thanet's coastline, which is recognised in the application. In addition to this impact, the onshore development has the potential to result in harm to biodiversity, groundwater and human health unless adequately mitigated, and the Council welcomes the detailed consideration that these issues have been given within the submission. The Council also welcomes the recognition of previous concerns in relation to the infringement on the Harbour Limits and the licenced spoil ground for Ramsgate from the proposed cable location, which has subsequently been resolved in the final submission.

The Council would support further engagement between the project and the local population through the provision of a visitor centre within the Thanet District for use by the local population and visitors to the area, to access educational information about the Wind Farm and facilitate engagement with the project. All opportunities available should be sought by the applicant to ensure that the benefits from the increased production of renewable energy and associated economic activity are directly experienced by the Port and local population of Thanet.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written representation for the project under consideration.

Yours sincerely

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Cllr Bob Bayford
Leader of the Council
Thanet District Council