



**NORTH
NORFOLK
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm (EN010087)

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION REQUEST

NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

24 JUNE 2019

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. North Norfolk District Council (**NNDC**) has been notified by way of email dated 11 June 2019 from the National Infrastructure Planning Team that an application has been submitted by Norfolk Boreas Limited (**NBL**) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norfolk Boreas Project.
- 1.2. NNDC has been invited to comment as to whether the developer has complied with the following duties:
 - Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42
 - Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – section 47
 - Duty to publicise - PA2008 – section 48
- 1.3. NNDC has considered the contents of the Norfolk Boreas Consultation Report (Document Reference: 5.1) version 1, dated June 2019 and associated Appendices.

2. North Norfolk District Council comments of Adequacy of Consultation

- 2.1. Norfolk Boreas Limited (**NBL**) have positively engaged with NNDC over the last couple of years, initially as part of the sister project Norfolk Vanguard (**NV**) and, as NV has developed and progressed through the Development Consent Order process the NBL team have undertaken briefings with NNDC Officers outlining the potential scope of the Norfolk Boreas project.
- 2.2. Many of the issues and concerns over the approach to public consultation adopted as part of the Norfolk Vanguard project have informed the approach to Norfolk Boreas and the decision to adopt the use of High Voltage Direct Current (**HVDC**) across both projects has removed the need for onshore cable relay booster station sites within North Norfolk, which were the source of significant

public concern in an area of open landscape with reliance on tourism income, when the proposals for the wind farms and cable routes were first announced.

- 2.3. In Sept 2018 NNDC provided comments to NBL in relation to the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (**SoCC**). Within its response NNDC recognised the difficulty in conveying technical information regarding major developments, such as Norfolk Boreas, to a lay audience and recognised the challenges around understanding of the public given that the two associated projects of Norfolk Boreas and Norfolk Vanguard have overlapping elements set out in the two different scenarios.
- 2.4. In December 2018 NBL undertook Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 11 of Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 comprising a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and supporting consultation materials placed on Norfolk Boreas PEIR website dated October 2018. NNDC were consulted and provided a comprehensive response to NBL dated 06 Dec 2018.
- 2.5. In Mar/April 2019, NBL provided NNDC with an opportunity to review and comment on draft DCO documents prior to finalising for submission to the National Infrastructure Planning Team. NNDC provided comments on 17 April 2019.
- 2.6. At the time of submission of this DCO it will be recognised by all parties involved in the sister Norfolk Vanguard project that the Norfolk Boreas submissions are unlikely to reflect the latest positions agreed at Deadline 9 in relation to Norfolk Vanguard. The District Council believes that some early amendments will be required to bring these two related projects in to conformity.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Notwithstanding the issue of conformity with the final positions set out at Deadline 9 in relation to Norfolk Vanguard, NNDC is happy that the Norfolk Boreas Team has complied with the relevant duties set out at para 1.2 above and concludes that adequate consultation has been undertaken.

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