

From: [Rachel](#)
To: [Norfolk Boreas](#)
Subject: Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale
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Dear Planning Inspectorate

REF: Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale

As a Norfolk coastal business working with companies involved in offshore wind development, we are dismayed to hear about a potential delay to Vattenfall's Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farm examination process. The reason for the delay is cited as the COVID-19 crisis, but we can't understand why the current situation should have an impact on the timescale of the statutory written process.

Vattenfall's Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas developments - like the other offshore wind developments off our coast - are key projects for the future economy of Norfolk and Suffolk, as well for the nation's energy transition and green energy targets, bringing multi-million-pound investment, jobs, skills training, community benefits and education opportunities that will last for many years.

The 25 year-plus Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas' projects represent the biggest offshore investments currently planned for Norfolk and Suffolk. As a communications and media company working in the industry and with supply chain companies, we share their pride at being part of a burgeoning UK hub in a world-leading industry. Now is not the time to press pause.

Businesses have been working closely with Vattenfall from the outset of the planning process, four years ago, as have companies looking to invest and relocate or open new premises in the county. Vattenfall has forged strong relationships at all levels of the supply chain and is helping them plan how to bring new business, jobs, skills development and prosperity to the local economy.

Behind all this preparatory work is to ensure Vattenfall's investment here has a lasting effect for the people of Norfolk and Suffolk for decades - that the money spent in Norfolk stays in Norfolk for the benefit of its businesses, communities and people.

With four years of business planning behind us, any delay at this stage to the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process would not only cause difficult decisions for businesses already working with Vattenfall, but the level of uncertainty could impact negatively on investor confidence and the region's entire socio-

economic strategy. It would also impact on the widespread skills, education and community work Vattenfall is already delivering across Norfolk and north Suffolk.

The NSIP timetable is a statutory one, and the extraordinary measure of extending it now, so very close to the end of the examination process, when all issues have been examined robustly sends all the wrong messages to the business community locally, nationally and globally.

To be clear, a delay of a few months, to any business, can mean the difference between success and failure.

The energy sector is supported by Government, because we all need energy, and there are set times in the energy sector calendar that companies rely on for planning to achieve a minimal level of certainty. The 12 months of an NSIP planning process is one, and the bi-annual Contracts for Difference (CfD) competitive bidding round is another. The CfD mechanism is how Government supports new innovation in the renewable energy sector, and it has been responsible over the last 8-9 years in the cost of offshore wind energy being reduced by two-thirds. A delay to the examination process would likely mean Norfolk Boreas will not be ready to bid for the Government's support mechanism in 2021, and would likely mean an additional two-year delay, possibly longer, before the projects could proceed.

Vattenfall's Norfolk projects are technically innovative and include measures to minimise social and environmental impacts, thanks to its robust planning system, local involvement and strong environmental and suitability. People want more green energy, more sustainable jobs, and they like the way Vattenfall operate, so it would be extraordinary to delay the process now.

Businesses believe in Vattenfall's commitment to Norfolk. It is not walking in for five years, creating a mini economy during construction of its windfarms then walking away.

It is engaging now to build a long-term ethos and strategy.

As one company explained it to us: When Vattenfall brings a wind project to an area, it creates an industry and a specialisation area like pottery in the Stoke area. That is what they are trying to do with Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas on the East Coast and East Anglia.

The country needs big infrastructure projects, it needs energy that is generated in the UK, and it needs jobs. So, let the process go ahead and run its proper course, for the

environment, but also for businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk and the region's economy.

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