

EQUINOR: Prelim. Meeting – Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

General Statement from Oulton Parish Council

In relation to Item 3: Principal Issues

1. As this is the **fourth** Offshore Wind Farm project affecting Norfolk, **cumulative impacts of this project, taken in-combination with the construction of all the other consented projects, will have to be considered during the examination of every relevant issue.**

Examples of such issues are in sections: 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 21 and 22.

We would be grateful for clarification as to whether the ExA is intending to include such consideration of cumulative impacts of other consented DCOs in this examination.

2. In Principal Issue 1, we seek clarification on whether “viability of the grid connection” will include consideration of an alternative connection point e.g. at Walpole? Oulton PC and the Norfolk Parishes Movement have urged Equinor for well over 2 years to re-negotiate their grid connection – before they submitted for a DCO - to a less damaging site, closer to the coast, such as Walpole. But they have refused to consider this, without providing any compelling reason.
3. Further to the above, we believe it to be imperative now, in the interests of transparency, to compel National Grid to engage publicly with this NSIP process, to attend hearings and to be asked to explain, in open forum, why such a grid allocation cannot be re-negotiated, in the light of current circumstances, with the agreement of both sides. The stakes are too high now for local communities along a third 60 km cable trench, for this avenue not to be explored. It is the least these communities deserve.