



**Norfolk County Council**

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**via e-mail**

Secretary of State for the Department for  
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**Application by Equinor New Energy Limited ("the Applicant") for an Order granted development Consent for the proposed Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects ("the Proposed Development")**

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing on behalf of Norfolk County Council ("NCC") in its capacity as the promoter of the Norwich Western Link scheme, in response to your letter of 22 November 2023 requesting further information in relation to the above referenced application for development consent.

As you will be aware, NCC in its capacity as promoter of the Norwich Western Link scheme, objected to the Applicant's Proposed Development and as such requested (on 7 July 2023) the inclusion of the protective provisions which were appended to its Position Statement (Examination Library reference REP7-086 and REP7-087).

By way of update, the Outline Business Case for the Norwich Western Link scheme has now received the Department for Transport's approval and the related planning application and statutory orders for the project are at an advanced stage of preparation.

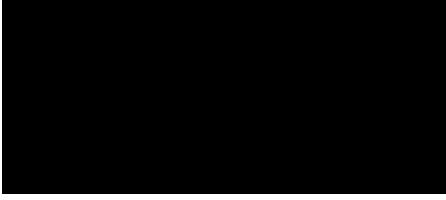
Since the close of the examination of the Applicant's Proposed Development the parties have continued to progress the negotiation of the terms of a Co-operation Agreement. Through that engagement, NCC understands that the Applicant proposes to submit in response to the Secretary of State's request for information a set of alternative protective provisions for the benefit of NCC in its capacity as the highway authority promoting the Norwich Western Link scheme. NCC is grateful to the Applicant for providing it with a copy of the Applicant's proposed protective provisions in advance of its submission.

Having reviewed those draft protective provisions, NCC is of the view that they do not adequately protect its interests. NCC remain of the view that the protective provisions requested in [REP7-087] are appropriate for the reasons set out in [REP7-086].

Negotiations between NCC and the Applicant on the terms of a Co-operation Agreement which is intended to make provision for both the NWL and the Applicant's projects and related statutory powers to co-exist without conflict are progressing well and have reached an advanced stage. It remains NCC's intention to complete the

Co-operation Agreement prior to the end of the determination period and the completion of the Co-operation Agreement would enable NCC to withdraw its objection and its request for protective provisions.

Yours sincerely



Mark Kemp

Interim Assistant Director Infrastructure Delivery