

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (the Council) confirms that it wishes to be identified as an Interested Party to take part in the examination of the Mona Offshore Wind Farm application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

This representation provides an overview of the key matters of interest to the Council in relation to the proposed project and provides an initial outline of our current position with respect to the matters of interest.

- **Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts**

Having reviewed the Environmental Statement (ES), the Council is concerned that the assessment of significance and its reporting, differs from the main EIA methodology used by other disciplines and LVIA best practice.

The Council has requested further clarification from the applicant to justify the choice of methodology and its application. Until then, the Council cannot confirm if it agrees with the assessment of potential effects on the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Wales Coast Path.

- **Socio-Economic Opportunities and benefits**

The ES confirms that the project has the potential to stimulate beneficial economic impacts to North Wales by creating jobs and supply chain opportunities.

Throughout its pre-application engagement with the applicant, the Council has confirmed the need for the DCO application to identify and confirm how local and regional job, skills and supply chain opportunities are to be maximised and secured.

Discussions have underlined the importance of engaging early and proactively with key stakeholders, including higher education providers and the local and regional supply chain to define the projects' skills and supply chain requirements and to be proactive in ensuring alignment to ensure opportunities are capitalised upon to realise maximum socio-economic benefits.

The Council welcomes the submission of an Outline Skills and Employment Plan that forms part of the DCO application that outlines the applicants proposed approach to working with local and regional stakeholders to maximise the opportunities associated with the project. The Council also welcomes the requirement (requirement 19 of the draft DCO) that requires the approval of a final detailed Skills and Employment Plan.

The Council intends to provide comments on the Outline Skills and Employment Plan directly to the applicant and will update the Planning Inspectorate at the appropriate time in relation to its position regarding the Plan.

It is welcomed that Holyhead Port is included on the long list of potential ports for the construction/decommission and operations and maintenance phases. The Council recommends that engagement continues with the Port operator to ascertain how the Port can support the development and delivery of the project, which in turn will secure additional and meaningful local benefits.

A joint Freeport Bid between the Council and Stena Line has recently been successful. The Council is confident that the Freeport status¹, through its anticipated economic facilitations and regulatory easements, will create a business environment that is appealing for potential investors and businesses within the energy sector.

The Council confirms that it wishes to continue to engage with the applicant to identify how the Anglesey Freeport can benefit the project and secure long term and worthwhile socio-economic benefits for the Island and the wider North Wales region.

¹ [Home-E – Anglesey Freeport](#)