

---

**From:** Clare.Flowers@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk [mailto:Clare.Flowers@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:30 PM  
**To:** Rampion Wind Farm  
**Cc:** Martin Randall  
**Subject:** < \*\*NECSECURE\*\* > Section 55 - Rampion Offshore Windfarm (EN010032): Adequacy of Consultation Request UNCLASSIFIED

F.A.O. Ewa Sherman

Dear Ewa

Further to your e-mail dated 1 March 2013, please find Brighton & Hove City Council's Adequacy of Consultation response for the Rampion Offshore Windfarm proposal under Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008, as amended. This is on behalf of Martin Randall, Head of Planning and Public Protection.

Kind Regards

Clare Flowers

**Clare Flowers MRTPI**  
Senior Planning Officer  
Planning Projects Team  
**Brighton & Hove City Council**  
Room 414, 2nd Floor  
Hove Town Hall  
Norton Road, Hove  
BN3 3BQ  
[clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01273 290443  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**Planning & Public Protection**  
Hove Town Hall  
Norton Road  
Hove BN3 3BQ

Rampion Offshore Windfarm  
Case Team  
National Infrastructure Directorate,  
The Planning Inspectorate,  
Temple Quay House,  
Temple Quay,  
Bristol,  
BS1 6PN

Date: 8 March 2013  
Ref.: EN010032  
Phone: (01273) 290443  
Fax: (01273) 292350  
e-mail: [clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Rampion Offshore Wind Farm: Adequacy of consultation under Section 55 of the 2008 Planning Act**

I am responding on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council to your email communication of 01/03/2013 regarding the above.

Having had regard to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Planning Act, I am of the view that E.ON Climate and Renewables have carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

The applicant commenced early engagement with Brighton & Hove City Council by meeting with a contingent of officers from BHCC and surrounding local authorities on 30 November 2010 for the purposes of explaining the preliminary survey work and meeting key stakeholders. Chris Tomlinson and Andrea Sidford from E.ON also visited colleagues Liz Hobden and Katie Rasdall at BHCC on 26 July 2011 to introduce themselves informally and provide information on the project, timescales and process regarding consultation. Further to this, early concerns were raised about the visual impact of the wind farm from sensitive viewpoints. The applicant engaged their seascape consultant and key consultees from the region, including BHCC Conservation Manager, at a meeting on 21 October 2011 to discuss and agree how the visual impact should be assessed through the Environmental Impact Assessment and potential mitigation measures.

E.ON produced a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) which the council responded to on 1 September 2011 which supports E.ON's approach to consultation. The main points that BHCC raised in response to the SOCC were:

- Ensuring that the public were aware of the distinction between the determining body and local authorities
- The extent of influence by local authorities on the project
- Recommending that the language in the public consultation documents was easily accessible and that any technical language was explained

Telephone: 01273 290000  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
Printed on recycled, chlorine-free paper

- To take account of BHCC Statement of Community Involvement including tailoring consultation techniques
- Requesting that photomontages were available of the potential turbine array so the public could understand the visual impact
- Ensuring sufficient information was available during consultation for the public to understand the potential environmental impacts in their vicinity
- Advising on exhibition times and locations and ensuring that consultation events did not conflict with other major consultations

E.ON allowed 42 days from the 22 July 2011, rather than the statutory 28 days, to respond to the SOCC, to take account of the summer holidays. A meeting was also held with local authorities where there was an opportunity to respond to the SOCC.

During the 12 week consultation period from 13 February to 6 May 2012, the applicant was able to accommodate suggestions and advice in the SOCC including extending advertising to a number of local publications, radio stations and social media websites. E.ON representatives also engaged with local Councillors by holding a presentation and Q&A session as well as undertaking a geographically extensive mail out across the region as far afield as Eastbourne.

I have also read the applicant's Consultation Report and associated Addendum of March 2013 and am satisfied that they have undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation programme in support of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. In this respect, BHCC considers the applicants consultation to be adequate in line with Section 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Planning Act.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Randall  
Head of Planning and Public Protection