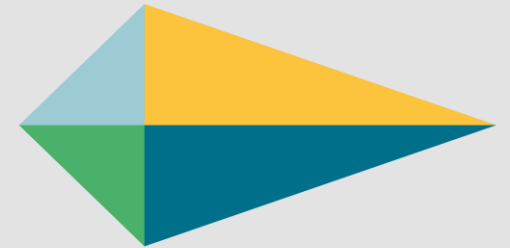


Energy Projects Update

Strategic Planning Committee

Cllr Daly – Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL

Planning Updates – Policy and Industry

Planning Policy

National Policy Statements

- New National Policy Statements (NPS) coming into force in early 2024. Energy NPSs provide planning guidance for developers of nationally significant energy infrastructure projects. Part of wider planning and national infrastructure reform.
- One notable omission from new suite of NPSs – new nuclear. Government intention is to designate a new NPS for nuclear power by 2025. Consultation on draft NPS expected soon.
- The new NPSs can be found here: [National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure)
- Getting Great Britain Building Again: Speeding Up Infrastructure Delivery (policy paper)
 - Published 22 November 2023, sets out need and scope of planning reform for infrastructure. [Getting Great Britain building again: Speeding up infrastructure delivery - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/getting-great-britain-building-again-speeding-up-infrastructure-delivery)

Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS)

- Sea Link (grid reinforcement), North Falls (offshore wind farm) and Five Estuaries (offshore wind farm) have been working together to explore the potential for offshore coordination as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Review Early Opportunities workstream.
- The projects acting together have received grant funding through the OCSS; an initial sum of <£1.7m with potential for <£11.7m of further funding in financial year 2024/25. The aim of the scheme is to develop and explore the feasibility of coordinated options for offshore transmission infrastructure.
- From the government: “This project will produce key lessons learnt on the practicalities of coordinating transmission infrastructure, which can be shared across the sector and be used for future policy work. These lessons will enable us to further understand how to deploy renewables while minimising the impact on communities.”
- [Offshore Coordination Support Scheme \(closed to applications\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-coordination-support-scheme-closed-to-applications)
- **OCSS Funding Award 5 December 2023 Update** - [OCSS funding award: update 5 December 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ocss-funding-award-update-5-december-2023)

Projects Overview

	Project	Status	
New Nuclear	Sizewell C	DCO granted July 2022	Judicial Review dismissed by High Court in July 2023. Court of Appeal dismissed Judicial Review in December 2023. Pre-commencement, commencement anticipated Q1 2024.
Offshore Wind	East Anglia One	DCO granted 2014	Operational
	East Anglia One North	DCO granted 2022	Pre-commencement
	East Anglia Two	DCO granted 2022	Pre-commencement
	East Anglia Three	DCO granted 2017	Commenced
	Five Estuaries (Galloper extension)	Pre-application	DCO submission expected Q1 2024
	North Falls (Greater Gabbard extension)	Pre-application	DCO submission expected 2024
Interconnectors	SeaLink	Pre-application	Statutory consultation held October – December 2023 DCO submission expected Q4 2024
	LionLink	Pre-application	Supplementary non-statutory consultation held September to November 2023. Statutory consultation expected 2024. DCO application expected to be submitted in 2025
	Nautilus	Pre-application	
Out of District Network Reinforcements	Bramford to Twinstead	In Examination	Examination open, expected to conclude March 2024
	Norwich to Tilbury	Pre-application	DCO application expected to be submitted in 2025

SeaLink – Statutory Consultation

- A proposed new 2 gigawatt subsea high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity connection, approximately 140 km in length and predominately offshore
- Statutory consultation held between 24 October and 18 December 2023.
- ESC sent a preliminary response, given the consultation deadline fell prior to Cabinet
- Statutory Consultation response taken to Cabinet on 2 January 2024 and passed.
- ESC held a virtual meeting with Town and Parish Councils on 27 November 2023, so that an understanding of their concerns could be heard and considered as part of the drafting of the Council's response. The views expressed have been included in ESC's response
- The response presented to and approved by Cabinet on 2 January set out ESC's current position. ESC currently objects to the Sea Link project as it would result in further unacceptable harm to the communities, environment and economy of East Suffolk and it is not yet considered that the timing of the need for the project is currently proven, and with Sizewell C potentially at least 10 years away from generation, it is requested further consideration of alternative offshore solutions is undertaken and considered that the project does not currently include sufficient levels of coordination in all areas of the NSIP process.

Town and Country Planning Act Applications – Ground Investigations

- [DC/23/4642/FUL](#) | Temporary retention of groundwater monitoring equipment for ground investigation purposes. | Land At Wood Farm Church Hill Sternfield Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 1XE
- [DC/23/4643/FUL](#) | Temporary retention of groundwater monitoring equipment for ground investigation purposes | Land To The South Of The B1119 Sternfield Suffolk
- [DC/23/4644/FUL](#) | Temporary retention of ground monitoring equipment for ground investigation purposes | Land East Of The B1121 Bigsby's Corner Saxmundham Suffolk

Letter to Rt. Hon Claire Countinho MP

20 October
2023

- East Suffolk Council wrote to Claire Coutinho as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on 20 October 2023, setting out ESC's concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of uncoordinated Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects on the Suffolk coast
- Three-fold request made to seek further discussions with the Secretary of State regarding the following:
 1. A full cost benefit analysis of the options for connecting all the currently proposed and consented offshore wind, multi-purpose interconnectors, and reinforcement projects to users in the UK, with prioritization being given to offshore solutions connecting the power directly to areas where the demand is needed and the utilisation of brownfield sites.
 2. Assistance to ensure that the consenting process related to the NSIPs proposed within East Suffolk is coordinated.
 3. A commitment to mandatory community benefits for communities directly impacted by hosting energy infrastructure.
- All letters to government can be found on ESC's website under Strategic Engagement:
 1. [Letter from ESC to Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero-201023.pdf \(eastsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)
 2. [Strategic engagement » East Suffolk Council](#)
- No response received yet

Sizewell C

- Judicial Review update: the Court of Appeal dismissed campaign group Together Against Sizewell C's challenge.
 - Full judgement can be found here: [Together Against Sizewell C Ltd, R \(On the Application Of\) v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero & Anor \[2023\] EWCA Civ 1517 \(20 December 2023\) \(bailii.org\)](#)
- Construction expected to commence in Q1 2024.
 - The Deed of Obligation requires Sizewell C Ltd to notify East Suffolk Council of the anticipated date of commencement at least 30 working days prior to the actual date of commencement. Notice of commencement of works pursuant to the DCO received by ESC on 16 November 2023.
 - The notice is on ESC's website and can be found here: [Microsoft Word - Notice of the anticipated date of Commencement of works - East Suffolk Council \(Nove\(82395945.1\)\)](#)
- Discharge of Requirements ongoing, akin to large planning conditions.
 - A list of all discharge of requirement applications can be found here: [Requirement discharge information and applications » East Suffolk Council](#)
 - 3 new discharge of requirement applications; water monitoring and management plans, surface and foul water drainage, and a soil management plan
- Recruitment to posts identified in the Deed of Obligation ongoing

Sizewell C Forums

Launching in 2024, there will be four main Forums to cover the construction period. Parish and town councils will represent the community at the Forums, and local people can attend the meetings as observers.

- Main Development Site Forum
 - First meeting: Tuesday 16 January 2024.
 - Through the Main Development Site Forum, representatives from communities located in the immediate vicinity of the Main Development Site of Sizewell C can raise and discuss construction progress and key issues affecting the local community
- Northern Transport Forum
 - First meeting: Tuesday 6 February 2024.
 - The Northern Transport Forum is where discussions on road and rail matters will be held with representatives from communities located in the immediate vicinity of the Northern Park and Ride Site, Yoxford roundabout and other highway improvement works sites, and Sizewell Link Road.
- Southern Transport Forum
 - First meeting: Monday 12 February 2024.
 - A focus on road and rail transport issues and opportunities with representatives from communities located in the immediate vicinity of the Southern Park and Ride Site, Freight Management Facility Site, and the Two Village Bypass Site.
- Annual Community Forum
 - First meeting: Tuesday 2 April 2024.
 - The Annual Community Forum meeting will be open to the East Suffolk community, to hear updates on the work of the Main Development Site Forum, the Southern Transport Forum, and the Northern Transport Forum. Open for discussion of key issues for local communities and ways to minimise impacts and maximise benefits to those living and working nearby.

Other Projects

East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two

- Discharge of Requirements ongoing.
- 6 current discharge of requirement applications live
- Pre-construction surveys and intrusive investigation works ongoing through 2024.

LionLink

- Supplementary non-statutory consultation held between September and November 2023.
- The supplementary non-statutory consultation focussed on an alternative landfall site at Walberswick and cable corridor to the north of Southwold, with the feedback received being used by NGV to refine proposals, before a statutory consultation is held in 2025 - ahead of the final proposals being submitted in a Development Consent Order (DCO) application.
- All ESC responses can be found on ESC's website. The most recent response can be found here: [LionLink \(formerly EuroLink\) Multi-Purpose Interconnector » East Suffolk Council](#)
- Developer website: [EuroLink consultation survey | National Grid Group](#)
- Town and Country Planning Act Applications:
 - Planning application for temporary retention of ground monitoring equipment for ground investigation purposes

East Anglia Three

- Discharge of Requirements ongoing.
- 17 current discharge of requirement applications live.

Looking Forward

Energy Projects Team Contact

- The grant of a Development Consent Order (DCO) is not the end of the planning process for NSIPs. Lots of work for officers remaining
 - Discharge of requirements (akin to planning conditions) to be undertaken in accordance with the DCO
 - Working closely with internal and external stakeholders, developers, statutory bodies, and communities
- ESC continues to engage government, take part in consultations, and engage with developers and communities
 - All responses to project and government consultations are published on the East Suffolk Council website: [National infrastructure and energy projects » East Suffolk Council](#)

The Energy Projects Team has two designated inboxes for all NSIP queries which is monitored, and the team are happy to help wherever possible

- Energyprojects@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
- SizewellC@eastsoffolk.gov.uk