

Energy Projects update

Strategic Planning Committee

6 March 2023

Cllr Craig Rivett

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development



Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

New Nuclear

- **Sizewell C** – **consented**, pre-commencement. Judicial Review in progress

Offshore Wind

- **East Anglia One** – **operational**
- **East Anglia One North** - **consented**, pre-commencement - Judicial Review in progress
- **East Anglia Two** - **consented**, pre-commencement - Judicial Review in progress
- **East Anglia Three** – **consented**, commenced
- **Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm** (Galloper extension) - **pre-application**. DCO submission expected autumn 2023
- **North Falls Offshore Wind Farm** (Greater Gabbard extension) - **pre-application**. DCO submission expected summer 2023

Interconnectors

- **Nautilus Multipurpose Interconnector** - **pre-application**
- **EuroLink Multipurpose Interconnector** - **pre-application**
- **Sea Link** - **pre-application**

Network Reinforcement Projects (out of district)

- **East Anglia Green** – **pre-application**. DCO submission expected late 2024
- **Bramford to Twinstead** – **pre application**. DCO submission expected 2023

Sizewell C

- DCO granted July 2022, but lots of work for officers remaining
 - Discharge of requirements (akin to planning conditions) to be undertaken
 - Close work with internal and external stakeholders
 - 5 discharge of requirement applications consented January 2023
- Early works consented under Town and Country Planning Act applications (ecological works including marsh harrier wetland habitat and artificial badger setts, other works including geotechnical ground trials)
- Early works consented under the DCO commenced early February 2023, including reedbed management/cutting, woodland clearance.
- Judicial Review ongoing, High Court hearing scheduled for 22-23 March (rescheduled from December 2022)

NSIPs Reform Action Plan

Published 23 Feb 2023

- Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system is 'better, faster, greener, fairer and more resilient'.
- The Plan identifies five key areas for reform
 - Setting a clear strategic direction for infrastructure planning
 - Through reviewing the NPSs and updating planning guidance
 - Operational reform to support a faster consenting process
 - Legislative change, introduction of new 'fast track' consenting option, enhancing PINs role
 - Realising better outcomes for the natural environment
 - New Environmental Outcomes Reports, Biodiversity Net Gain, Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package
 - Recognising the role of local communities and strengthening engagement
 - Incentivising early engagement to reduce burden at examination stage
 - Improving capacity and resilience in the system
 - Requiring developers to contribute towards the costs of PINs and statutory consultees.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsip-reforms-action-plan>

NSIPs by numbers...the story so far

Strategic Engagement

- 25+ letters sent to government ministers and departments, MPs, and other stakeholders since 2018 on energy projects/NSIPs. Including responses to national consultations on policy and process reform
- ESC has engaged with 17 NSIPs within and adjacent East Suffolk from pre-application consultation, Examination, through to post-decision discharge of requirements
- Multiple meetings with MPs, Ministers, government departments
- Offshore Transmission Network Review announced in 2020 to look at concerns highlighted by ESC engagement
 - Offshore Coordination Support Scheme - Provides grants to offshore energy projects to develop coordinated options for offshore transmission infrastructure, announced in the British Energy Security Strategy in April 2022

Hundreds of officer hours spent in hearings, reviewing documents, working with key stakeholders and developers

Sizewell C

- 56,000-page original submission to PINs. 5,666 documents submitted into the examination by the date of the decision, including 1290 Relevant Representations, 207 Written Representations
- ESC made 136 written submissions into the Examination, attended 15 Issue Specific Hearings, 9 Open Floor Hearings, 1 Compulsory Acquisition Hearing
- 19 changes introduced by developer in Examination – higher than average
- Written questions round one alone totalled 2,229, a record number!

EA1N and EA2

- 4,592 (EA1N) and 4,565 (EA2) documents submitted into the examinations by the date of the decision, including 878 (EA1N) and 833 (EA1N) Relevant Representations and 159 Written representations
- ESC made a significant number of submissions to the examination, attended 17 Issue Specific Hearings, 7 Open Floor Hearings, 2 Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Examination extended by three months