

Energy Projects Update

Strategic Planning Committee, 12 January 2026

Cllr Daly – Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change

Role of ESC

- ESC as the Local Planning Authority is not the decision-maker for NSIPs, however, it has an important role to play in the consenting process from pre-application engagement, consenting, delivery, and throughout the lifetime of these projects
- The grant of a Development Consent Order is not the end of the planning process for NSIPs. Ongoing work includes:
 - 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 engages with government, primarily in the form of consultations.
- ESC responses to project and government consultations are published on the East Suffolk Council website: [National infrastructure and energy projects](#)
[» East Suffolk Council](#)

Energy Projects Overview



	Project	Stage	Project Headlines
New Nuclear	Sizewell C	Post Decision	DCO granted 2022. Formally commenced January 2024, now in second year of construction. Discharges of requirements are ongoing.
Offshore Wind	East Anglia One	Post Decision	DCO granted 2014. Operational
	East Anglia One North	Post Decision	DCO granted 2022. Works commenced in July 2025
	East Anglia Two	Post Decision	DCO granted 2022. Works commenced in July 2025
	East Anglia Three	Post Decision	DCO granted 2017. Commenced works on the cable route 2025
	Five Estuaries (Galloper extension)	Post Decision	DCO granted 17 December 2025
	North Falls (Greater Gabbard extension)	Recommendation	In decision period with Secretary of State. Request for further information from parties issued 26 November, deadline of 16 December.
Interconnectors	LionLink	Pre-Application	Statutory Consultation expected Q1 2026 DCO application expected to be submitted late 2026
Reinforcement Projects	Sea Link	Examination	Examination started 5 November 2025, expected to close early May 2026
Out of District Network Reinforcements	Bramford to Twinstead	Post Decision	DCO granted by the Secretary of State 12 September 2024. Pre-commencement
	Norwich to Tilbury	Pre-Examination	DCO application accepted for examination on 26th September. Relevant Representations period closed 27 November. Awaiting Examination timetable

Sizewell C Update

Post Decision

In Construction

- Formal commencement occurred 15 January 2024, project is now in its second year of construction, of an anticipated 9–12-year construction period.
- Governance groups are meeting regularly as required by the Deed of Obligation. ESC engages with all required working groups – including planning group, transport review group, accommodation working group, ecology working group and many others
- Discharge of requirements ongoing (akin to planning conditions); working closely with stakeholders including Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, and others

Q4 2025 Construction Headlines:

- First of the three SSSI Crossings was installed, ahead of schedule. In mid-November, the Bailey Bridge was completed.
- Partial operation of the Northern Park and Ride commenced in early November, soon to be followed by phased operation of the Southern Park and Ride
- On the Temporary Construction Area, works to install the foundations of the water desalination plant have almost completed. Foundations for the nearby concrete batching plant are also being poured
- Earthworks for the Green Rail Route are well progressed, preparing for the laying of tracks

Staying up to date: The Sizewell C works tracker ([Sizewell C related Traffic Management & Road Closures - Sizewell C Works Tracker](#)) and One Network [Causeway one.network](#) are guides to works in the area

Sea Link Update

Examination

- The formal 6-month Examination period started on 5 November, beginning with the preliminary meeting
- Additional hearings will be scheduled for January onwards.
- The Examination is expected to close in early May and will be followed by a three-month period for the Examining Authority to make a recommendation on whether to grant development consent or not, and a subsequent three-month period for the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to make the final decision.
- A 6-week period for legal challenge will follow.



LionLink Update

Pre-Application

- LionLink is a new subsea electricity cable (known as an interconnector) proposed to run between Great Britain and the Netherlands, being developed by National Grid Ventures (NGV) and Dutch partner, TenneT.
- LionLink's statutory consultation will launch on Tuesday 13 January 2026 and run until Tuesday 10 March 2026.
 - Will include the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The PEIR is a key document that provides an early, preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- Officers will review the information and prepare a response in line with ESC's agreed scheme of delegation

LIONLINK

Other Energy Projects Updates

Consultations

East Suffolk Council will submit a response to the Methodology Consultation for the upcoming Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)

The consultation opens 17 November - 16 January

What is the RESP?

- RESPs are whole energy strategic plans to create a consistent and aligned energy plan across distribution and transmission, methane, hydrogen and electricity for the whole of Great Britain.
- They will be developed locally and collaboratively by teams living within regional contexts, East Suffolk Council will be situated within the East Region.
- The RESPs are designed to provide long-term certainty, promote economic growth and investment, and support the development of the supply chain, skills, and capabilities needed for the energy transition.

Consultation

- This consultation focusses on the draft methodology by which the RESPs will be developed. The final methodology will be published in summer 2026, subject to approval by Ofgem & DESNZ.

