

# Energy Projects update

## Strategic Planning Committee

Cllr Craig Rivett

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development

06 June 2022



# NSIP Projects

**Sizewell C – Awaiting Decision**

**East Anglia ONE North and TWO – Post-Decision**

**Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm (Galloper extension) - Pre-application phase**

- Informal public consultation expected June/July 2022; Formal consultation expected Q4 2022; DCO submission expected Q3 2023.

**North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (Greater Gabbard extension) - Pre-application phase**

- Formal consultation expected Q4 2022; DCO submission expected Q4 2023.

**Nautilus Multipurpose Interconnector - Pre-application phase**

- DCO submission expected 2023
- Consultation summary following consultation held in 2021 expected soon

**Eurolink Multipurpose Interconnector - Pre-application phase**

- NGV discussing with BEIS s35 application, so project considered under DCO regime

**Sea Link - Pre-application phase**

- Currently working with NGV to look at coordination options with Nautilus and Eurolink.
- Non-statutory consultation expected in the summer.

# Sizewell C

## Sizewell C – Awaiting Decision

- Two post-examination information requests have been issued by the Secretary of State (SoS)
  - 18 March 2022 – ESC was not specifically asked to comment and so did not provide a response
  - 31 March 2022 - ESC responded on two points as directed by the SoS: point 5 (Statement of Common Ground) and point 8.12 (Habitats Regulations Assessment, Biodiversity, and Ecology). Response available at: [EN010012-010799-East Suffolk Council.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)
- 6-week delay to issuing of decision was announced 12 May – new decision date no later than 8 July
  - *"to ensure there is sufficient time to fully consider further information provided by the applicant and interested parties in response to the Secretary of State's post-examination consultation"*

# East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two - Post- Decision

**SoS approved EA1N and EA2 31 March 2022** (Examining Authority also recommended approval)

## **SoS Planning Balance**

- Need – Substantial weight attributed; limited weight accorded to OTNR
  - Flooding and Drainage – High negative weight
  - Landscape and Visual Amenity – Medium negative weight
  - Historic Environment – In light of public benefit – no justification not to make the order
  - Seascape – EA1N neutral weight, EA2 medium negative weight
  - Ecology – Low negative overall weight
  - Coastal Physical Effects – Neutral weight
  - Noise, Nuisance & Human Health – Noise – medium negative weight, air quality low negative weight, human health low negative weight
  - Traffic and Transport – Medium negative weight
  - Land Use – Medium negative weight
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- Decisions now subject to Judicial Review applications – awaiting outcomes

## **Links**

- Decision letters: [Microsoft Word - EA1N - Decision Letter \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010078/EN010078-010064-EA2%20-%20Decision%20Letter%20Signed.pdf) and <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010078/EN010078-010064-EA2%20-%20Decision%20Letter%20Signed.pdf>

# Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

- Ofgem's consultations on Early Opportunities and Multi-Purpose Interconnections are ongoing and close on 9 June 2022.
- Ofgem has also published the [Pathways to 2030 \(PT2030\) Minded-to decision and further Consultation](#). This sets out Ofgem's minded-to decision to apply a 'very late competition – generator build' model to non-radial offshore transmission systems in scope of the Pathway to 2030 workstream of the OTNR. The consultation runs until 15 July 2022.
- We are still expecting the Holistic Network Design to be published in June 2022.

# British Energy Security Strategy & Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

## British Energy Security Strategy was published in April

- **Onshore Wind** - New but limited support for onshore wind. Not introducing wholesale changes to current planning regulations but will consult this year on developing local partnerships for supportive communities.
- **Offshore Wind** - Ambition that 50% of renewable generation capacity will be wind by 2030, delivering <50GW by 2030, ambition for <5GW floating offshore wind by 2030 to utilise windiest areas. Reducing consent time from ~4 years to 1 year by establishing a fast-track consenting route for priority cases where standards are met, amending the Planning Act 2008, strengthening relevant National Policy Statements, making environmental considerations at a more strategic level and introducing strategic compensation environmental measures, reviewing how Habitats Regulations Assessments are carried out, implementing new Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package featuring nature-based design standards and Marine Recovery Fund, and working with Offshore Wind Acceleration Task Force; industry experts, National Grid, Ofgem.
- **Nuclear** - Planning to deliver <24GW by 2050, treble current capacity. Will deliver <35% UK electricity demand. Taking one project to FID this parliament and two to FID in next Parliament, including Small Modular Reactors (subject to funding and approvals). Ambitions to progress <8 more reactors across the next series of projects, delivering equivalent of one reactor a year.
- **Solar** - Expecting a 5-fold increase in deployment from current 14GW capacity to 70GW by 2035
- **Hydrogen** - Ambition for <10GW of hydrogen production by 2030, >50% from electrolytic hydrogen. Aiming to run allocation rounds for electrolytic hydrogen, <1GW in construction/operational by 2025.

## Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

- Published 11 May. Includes a commitment to progress Project Speed work to improve the performance of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process, future consultation on quality standards that NSIPs will be required to meet to be considered for fast track consenting and associated regulatory and guidance changes to improve performance in the NSIP regime - [Levelling Up and Regeneration: further information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

# End of Update

- ESC continues to work with our local councillors, local town and parish councils, local groups, happy to talk with anyone who contacts the Energy Projects Team – [energyprojects@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:energyprojects@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) and [sizewellC@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sizewellC@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)