

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL / MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION - NO SPECIFIC POWERS

SERIAL NO.

ACTION FOR WHICH CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS DELEGATED POWERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMAN

SUBJECT MATTER:

East Anglia Offshore Windfarm:
Response to Consultation under Section 56 of the Planning Act, 2008

COMMITTEE TO WHICH MATTER RELATES:

Executive Committee and Strategy Committee

REASON FOR ACTION BEING TAKEN OUT OF MEETING:

The Planning Act, 2008 has created a separate regime for the determination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Under the regime local authorities are provided with 40 days to respond to consultations under Section 56 of the Act. In order to meet the deadline imposed of 6 March 2013 it has been necessary to submit a summary representation to the Planning Inspectorate. (See Attached).

BACKGROUND:

East Anglia ONE Limited has submitted a Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate for the construction of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which will involve the construction of an underground cable and additional cabling ducts from Bawdsey to the Bramford Sub-Station. Under the Planning Act, 2008 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are consultees in relation to the project. In order to ensure that the interests of local residents are safeguarded representations have been made.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):

None

ACTION AUTHORISED:

That the Strategic Director (Place) be authorised to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

DATE ACTION AUTHORISED:

1 March 2013

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL / MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Section 56 - Planning Act 2008
East Anglia ONE Limited

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

- The District Councils welcome the potentially significant socio-economic benefits that the East Anglia ONE proposal and future phases are likely to bring to the area but consider East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited should:
 - strengthen its commitment to working with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership in order to deliver the wider initiatives for the area,
 - engage on an ongoing basis with business organisations, such as the Federation of Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce, and,
 - work closely with local authorities and other agencies to ensure that as many local people as possible secure employment during the construction and operational phases of the development.
- The District Councils note that East Anglia ONE has engaged with the promoters of the Sterling Suffolk Greenhouse development at Great Blakenham but consider that a binding agreement should be reached on the routing of the cables and ducts within the vicinity of this scheme before the commencement of the preliminary hearing to ensure that both projects can coexist.
- The District Councils consider an early resolution of the highway issues identified by Suffolk County Council should be made in order to ensure that any disruption to the road network is minimised.
- The District Councils have considerable reservations in relation to the height and scale of the proposed converter station at Bramford sub station and strongly consider that:
 - the structure should be lowered into the ground as much as possible, and
 - extensive landscape mitigation measures should be undertaken and secured via a planning obligation.
- The District Councils are of the view that further consideration is required to the potential landscape and ecological impacts arising from the proposed cabling and ducting arrangements and that greater use should be made of Horizontal Directional Drilling. If this is not feasible additional mitigation should be provided.
- The District Councils consider further archaeological evaluation is required on the proposed converter station site and along the cable corridor route to safeguard heritage assets.
- The District Councils have identified issues in relation to noise, vibration and air quality which require resolution.
- The District Councils request that footpath diversions and closures be kept to a minimum during the construction stage.

Dated: 4 March 2013