



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Industrial Strategy

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Dear Cllr Rout,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March, to the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, regarding community benefits for hosting energy infrastructure, including electricity generation and associated network infrastructure. The Secretary of State is grateful to you for having taken the time to write. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

The Government published the anticipated British Energy Security Strategy (BESS) on 7 April 2022, which sets out how Great Britain will accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. As part of this, increasing our domestic supply of clean and affordable electricity also requires accelerating the connecting network infrastructure to support it.

Communities that host network infrastructure are playing a vital role and within the BESS, we have committed to consult on options for how local communities can participate in and benefit from development of strategic onshore network infrastructure in their area. We would welcome your initial views on community benefits and any further feedback from Suffolk County Council on how this could best be achieved.

Furthermore, as we increase the deployment of renewable technologies to reach net zero, we want to ensure that developers continue to engage with communities. We want to make sure that communities can participate in and benefit from developments in their area. In the more densely populated England, the Government recognise the range of views on onshore wind. Our plans will prioritise putting local communities in control. We will not introduce wholesale changes to current planning regulations for onshore wind but will consult this year on developing local partnerships for a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure and benefit in the form of lower energy bills, investment in infrastructure, and the like. We will consult on the specifics of the scheme later this year.

For ground mounted solar, we will consult on amending planning regulations to strengthen policy in favour of development on non-protected land, while ensuring communities continue to have a say and environmental protections remain in place.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

J Morrison
BEIS CORRESPONDENCE UNIT