

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State
Department for Business, Energy, and
Industrial Strategy

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Your ref:
Our ref: EP/PJR/PW
Date: 03/02/2022
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Rt Hon Greg Hands MP; Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change

Many thanks for meeting with us on 1 February. We were grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you, both, how it will be possible to achieve substantive outcomes from the Early Opportunities Workstream of the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), and how the offer to communities might be improved; such that they receive substantive community benefits, in addition to the necessary mitigation and compensation, for adverse impacts of energy developments. This is of particular importance for those communities that do not gain from the socio-economic benefits of the new infrastructure, that they are required to host.

We welcome the recognition, that further work is required to secure the benefits of coordination in East Anglia before 2030. Evidenced by the renewed focus of the OTNR, in collaboration with project promoters and Renewables UK, to deliver substantive early outcomes, as announced on 31 January at the OTNR webinar.

The Councils' officers would be pleased to work with your officials to support this renewed effort, to try and ensure that it is, for the reasons we discussed at our meeting, successful in delivering tangible outcomes.

It remains our view, that the forthcoming publication of the Holistic Network Design (HND) and revised Network Options Assessment (NOA) in June 2022, is an important point to set out a wider vision. Firstly, of how communities will be able to engage with the strategic planning, and consenting, of the network, both on and offshore. Secondly, how the adverse impacts on communities and the environment, will be mitigated and compensated, and how, in addition, community benefits will be provided.

In terms of community funding, which is outside the planning balance, we believe that it would be

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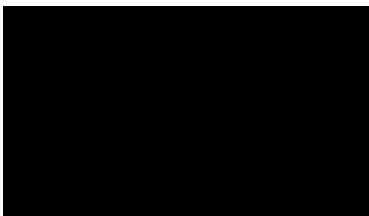
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appropriate for this to consist of both, strategic funding, based on a model such as the *Shale Wealth Fund*, and, project specific funding, based on a requirement, placed on project promoters, in the revised Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, (EN-1).

We consider that the approach we discussed at our meeting, and have outlined here, is necessary to establish greater community consent for these projects, and support the acceptance of the wider changes required, to decarbonise the economy, deliver levelling up on the Suffolk coast as identified in the White Paper¹, and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

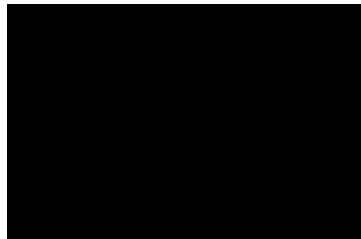
Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council remain committed to working with you, and your officials, to secure a fair transition for Suffolk and East Anglia, that builds the necessary community support. The Councils believe this is essential, if these energy infrastructure projects are to be delivered, and the wider challenges of climate adaptation, are to be effectively addressed.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Craig Rivett
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
for Economic Development

East Suffolk Council



Cllr Richard Rout
Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member for Finance &
Environment

Suffolk County Council

Cc. Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP (Chair OffSETT)
Jerome Mayhew MP (Vice Chair OffSETT)

¹ pp40-41 [Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#) - 2nd February 2022