

Jake Rigg
National Grid ESO
Director of Corporate Affairs

Date: 15 December 2023
Enquiries to: Phil Watson - Strategic
Energy Projects Manager
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BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Rigg,

On the 12th December 2023, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet considered the Council's response to the s42 Statutory Consultation on the Sea Link transmission project, and approved recommendations in relation to that matter.

Furthermore, following recent announcements relating to the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme, and the Review of East Anglian Connections, an additional recommendation on the Cabinet report was also tabled¹. Therefore, I have been asked by cabinet to write to you about the Review of Connections.

The recommendation is as follows:

that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, writes to National Grid Electricity System Operator, setting out a range of potential options, that the Council wishes to see the review of East Anglian connections consider, in particular, proposals developed by the Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP and Suffolk's communities for the coordination of offshore wind and interconnectors, connecting to the onshore transmission network, via Bradwell and the Isle of Grain.

In addition to the consideration of options, for what have been called, by the amenity group Suffolk Energy Action Solutions, *pilot 1 and pilot 2*², it would also be essential for the review to consider, and demonstrate publicly, what an offshore network would need to consist of to provide a comprehensive solution for the eastern side of the UK.

The Council recognises that there may be issues of scale and complexity for the delivery of an offshore grid in the UK, but it is keen to see these examined, and

¹ [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-12-2023\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-12-2023),%20The%20Cabinet)

² <https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk/letters/>

overcome. With European neighbours, such as Belgium³ and Denmark⁴, pursuing such an approach, it is essential that the feasibility of an offshore grid for the East of England is properly investigated and established.

It is understood that these matters are likely to be outside the current scope of the Review of East Anglian Connections. However, the Council considers that it is essential to take this opportunity to address these issues, and to produce publicly accessible information setting out what may, or may not, be possible in this respect, for the avoidance of further doubt, and to build public confidence and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Richard Rout

Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council
and Cabinet Member for Finance &
Environment

³ <https://www.offshorewind.biz/2023/11/30/abl-wins-work-on-belgian-energy-island/>

⁴ <https://www.offshorewind.biz/2023/06/28/danish-government-postpones-tender-for-north-sea-energy-island-current-concept-found-to-be-too-expensive/>