



Date: 27 July 2023

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email

Energy development in the eastern region

Dear Mr Shapps,

On the day of the publication of the updated Offshore Network Transmission Review (ONTR), as the Chairman of Babergh District Council, I wish to reiterate the Council's concerns raised previously regarding the number, scale and uncoordinated planning and delivery of energy infrastructure developments in East Anglia.

Babergh District Council considers its role of protecting and promoting the interests of the district's communities, businesses, heritage and environment to be of utmost importance and we are proud of the contribution Babergh makes to the unique character and quality of Suffolk and the wider eastern region.

Whilst the Council acknowledges the national importance of strategic energy infrastructure in enabling the transition to net zero, it is imperative that development is carried out in the least damaging manner for host communities and environments. Recognising the significant and potentially devastating impacts on our communities, businesses, heritage, tourism and environments of these developments, such as the Norwich to Tilbury overhead line project, we have previously stated a preference for a coordinated, offshore approach to the delivery of transmission reinforcement, import and export objectives.

We welcome the ONTR recommendations for a Future Framework, including Multi-Purpose Interconnectors to ensure coordination and consolidation of offshore connection and transmission infrastructure. We look forward to outcome of the Holistic Network Design (HND) follow up exercise and welcome the commitment to avoiding and minimising community and environmental impacts.

While the Council will be making a formal response to the non-statutory consultation on the Norwich to Tilbury overhead line project (formerly East Anglia Green) in due course, at the Babergh full Council meeting on 18th July, councillors voted in favour of a motion to re-state publicly, on behalf of our communities, our objection to the proposed pylon line, and our strong preference for an integrated offshore approach to electricity transmission.



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Yours sincerely

CLlr Elizabeth Malvisi,
Chairman of Babergh District Council



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