



Date: June 2022

Greg Hands MP  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email

### **Energy development in the eastern region**

Dear Mr Hands,

We are writing to you as the leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, respectively, to add the weight and support of our councils to the concerns raised by MPs and residents across the eastern region regarding the number and scale of energy infrastructure developments that will result in significant and potentially devastating impacts on our communities, businesses and environments.

Whilst we recognise the import of the government's net zero agenda, '50 by 30' ambitions and the need for ongoing energy security for our communities, we have serious concerns at the seeming lack of strategic coordination of the delivery of energy generation, transmission and distribution development proposals across the region.

We are concerned that transmission projects continue to come forwards in our districts, premature of the findings of the offshore transmission network review and other relevant work, with seemingly little coordination with, or consideration of, the cumulative impacts of the various other projects affecting the region. We think that there is a need for greater clarity around the options for delivering the outcomes of such energy transmission projects, including East Anglia GREEN, into the wider framework of strategic offshore coordination.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' overriding preference is for a coordinated, offshore approach to deliver the transmission network reinforcement objectives of the various projects in the region and elsewhere in the UK in order to minimise onshore infrastructure and the associated impacts on our communities, businesses and environment.

Additionally, our communities are becoming increasingly overwhelmed by the number of energy generation and associated development projects, particularly solar and battery storage system proposals. We consider that there is a similar lack of coordination and policy at national level which adds significantly to the challenge our residents, officers and councillors face in dealing effectively with such proposals, especially given the cumulative impacts of co-located proposals.



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The councils urge ministers to urgently pursue effective dialogue and cooperation between relevant stakeholders to address the concerns raised.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Suzie Morley, Leader of Mid Suffolk  
District Council



Cllr John Ward, Leader of Babergh District  
Council



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