

East Anglian Alliance of Amenity Groups

Ofgem OTNR consultation, September 2021

Changes intended to bring about greater coordination in the development of offshore energy networks.

The East Anglian Alliance comprises an informal association of amenity groups, countryside organisations and community representatives in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

While each has specific interests in relation to Ofgem's OTNR consultation, they share common concerns about the speed and shape of progress.

The list of recommendations below is by no means exclusive and community groups are providing detailed responses to the consultation, highlighting changes required to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts, while enabling long term benefits in terms of efficiency and coordination.

- The inclusion of local communities impact, along with environmental impact, in the network design objectives, is welcome.
- Time is of the essence for reforming the regulatory framework of the offshore and related onshore infrastructure regimes.
- Holistic planning for the longer term is required earlier than proposed in this consultation and the necessary incentives put in place to achieve the desired outcomes and financial savings.
- As previous regulatory change has not stimulated cooperation between developers, fundamental and visionary change is required.
- Without swift action and regulatory reform much of the benefit of subsequent reform and of changes to primary legislation could be lost.
- Given the advanced stage of some Early Opportunities projects, and the likely influence of these projects on subsequent design and development, it is essential consideration is given at the highest level to modifying current proposals so there is much greater encouragement to 'opt in'.

Failure to carry out such measures will inevitably negate the PM's promise that offshore energy would be brought onshore "in a way that has minimal disruption for local communities".

John Foster on behalf the East Anglian Alliance – 8 September 2021