



## Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Andrew Bowie MP  
Minister for Nuclear and Networks

**Department for Energy Security  
& Net Zero**  
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Cllr Tom Daly  
Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change  
East Suffolk Council

Our ref: MCB2023/22236

Email: [Naomi.goold@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.goold@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

5 December 2023

Dear Cllr Daly,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects on the Suffolk coast. I am responding as matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio. I apologise for the delay in response, your correspondence has only recently been brought to my attention.

It is vital for UK energy security that we have a diverse mix of low-carbon sources, generated in and for the UK, to ensure a resilient, low-cost, low-emission electricity system. Large-scale nuclear is the only energy source that has been deployed at scale which provides firm low carbon power, which is required to complement variable renewable generation.

These advantages of nuclear power are particularly important considering the anticipated increase in demand for electricity you allude to. We have estimated that electricity demand is highly likely to double by 2050, and that to meet this demand whilst fulfilling our Net Zero ambitions would need a fourfold increase in generation from low-carbon electricity. This is why the British Energy Security Strategy set an ambition to deploy up to 24GW of civil nuclear power by 2050, meeting around 25% of the UK's anticipated electricity demand. Sizewell C would generate 3.2GW of electricity, equivalent to 7 per cent of UK electricity, or 6 million homes, for at least 60 years, and save an estimated 9 million tonnes of CO2 emissions in each year of operations.

On the concerns about water, sea defence, and other environmental matters, these relate to different aspects of the development consent order granted by the Secretary of State on 20 July 2022. In taking this decision, the Secretary of State considered all relevant matters. The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision can be found in the decision letter which has been published, alongside the Examining Authority's Report, on the Planning Inspectorate's website at: [infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/](http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/). Planning matters relating to Sizewell C are kept strictly separate from those relating to the Government's shareholding in the project.

As you will likely be aware, Sizewell C's plans for construction would also bring a host of wider benefits and provide a great boost to local and national prosperity. As well as creating and supporting thousands of jobs in the local area and nationwide. The project has a Memorandum of Understanding with the East of England, pledging to invest £4.4 billion in the East of England, including £2 billion in Suffolk, during Sizewell C's construction.

The project also has more specific initiatives in place, for example the Property Price Support Scheme and Neighborhood Fund. Sizewell C is also providing project management and seed funding to help launch Net Zero Leiston, a project aimed at working with the local community to turn the town of Leiston carbon neutral. As well as these specific initiatives, a recent agreement between the project and BT OpenReach is expected to result in 5,000 homes in Leiston and the area around the project site having access to ultrafast, ultra-reliable full fibre broadband.

I fully appreciate the questions of mitigating the impact of Sizewell C construction, and the potential cumulative impacts of other proposed and planned infrastructure projects in East Suffolk. My officials have also been working constructively with your council officers and colleagues across Government to better understand these issues.

I am planning to visit Suffolk soon to engage with local communities on these and related issues. I will meet with the leader of East Suffolk District Council when I visited the area in May, and subject to availability would welcome the opportunity to continue this engagement as part of my schedule.

I hope this assures you that the Government is committed to the continued expansion of renewable electricity as well as new nuclear. The Government's Powering Up Britain package included commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment in support of our existing ambitions for 50GW offshore wind by 2030, 70GW solar by 2035, and the development of onshore wind where it enjoys the backing of local communities.

Thank you for writing to highlight your concerns. I trust this information will be useful.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Bowie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andrew Bowie MP**  
**Minister for Nuclear and Networks**