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| **To:**  | Arun District Council  |
| **Date:** | 30 April 2024 |
| **Title:** | Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm – Briefing Note |

Context

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm is part way through the Examination stage, where the Examining Authority is considering the Development Consent Order (DCO). The Examination will close on 6 August 2024. After the Examination, the Examining Authority prepares a recommendation to the Secretary of State. It is the Secretary of State that makes the decision whether or not to grant consent for the DCO.

During the Examination stage anyone who has registered as an Interested Party can submit comments at the Deadlines set out in the Examination [timetable](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117/examination-timetable) and speak at Hearings.

The Examination is mainly a written process. Each document that has been submitted to the Examining Authority by any Interested Party can be found in the [Examination Library](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000419-Rampion%202%20Exam%20Library.pdf), which is updated periodically by the Examining Authority.

Submissions to Date

As a host authority, the Officers at Arun District Council (ADC) have been reviewing the Applicant’s submission documents (such as the Environmental Statement and subsequent additional documentation) and engaging with the Applicant, where necessary (see below), with regard subject areas that are within the primary planning responsibility of ADC. In addition, ADC’s legal advisor has reviewed the different iterations of the draft DCO received to date with comments incorporated into ADC’s written representations below.

To date, the following has been submitted by ADC to the Examining Authority.

* [Adequacy of consultation](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000399-Arun%20District%20Council%20AoCR%20-%20Rampion%202.pdf)
* [Relevant Representation](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000707-Arun%20District%20Council%20-%20Summary%20of%20RRs.pdf)
* [Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000464-Arun%20District%20Council%20Principal%20Areas%20of%20Disagreement.pdf)
* [Comments on Deadline 1 submission documents and Written Representation](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-001043-Arun%20District%20Council%20-%20Written%20Representations%20%28WRs%29%20including%20summaries%20if%20exceeding%201500%20words_Redacted.pdf)
* [Local Impact Report](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-001055-Arun%20District%20Council%20-%20Local%20Impact%20Report_Redacted.pdf)
* [Response to the Examining Authority Questions](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-001360-Arun%20District%20Council%20-%20Deadline%203%20Submission.pdf) (those questions directed to ADC)

Following submission of ADC written representations, the Applicant has provided to date responses to ADC’s:

* [Written Representation and Local Impact Report](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-001124-Rampion%20Extension%20Development%20Limited%20-%20Responses%20to%20LIRs%204.pdf)

In addition to written representations, ADC was represented at the Preliminary Meeting and Hearings held in February 2024. At the Preliminary Meeting, we requested a Hearing on economics, tourism and socio-economics.

The recordings and transcripts of the Preliminary Meeting and Hearings to date can be found below:

* Preliminary Meeting – [recording](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000807-Prelim.html) and [transcripts](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-000802-TRANSCRIPT_RAMPION2_PRELIM_SESSION1_060224.pdf).
* Issue specific hearings – [recordings and transcripts for each sessions](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117/documents?stage-4=Issue+Specific+Hearing+1+%28ISH1%29&date-from-day=&date-from-month=&date-from-year=&date-to-day=&date-to-month=&date-to-year=&searchTerm=&itemsPerPage=25). Issue specific hearings were held on environmental matters.

The environmental matters at the Issue Specific Hearings related to both onshore and offshore effects. The onshore effects allowed the Examining Authority to ask questions relating to traffic and access, effects of the proposed substation at Cowfold/Oakendene, construction effects, the South Downs National Park and landscaping effects. Where these related to ADC, the Examining Authority followed up with specific questions in its Response to the Examining Authority written questions (see link above). Offshore effects were addressed by relevant interested parties and not ADC.

ADC Officers for ecology and noise have recently attended expert to expert meetings directly with the Applicant to discuss biodiversity net gain and noise and vibration, respectively. The focus of the noise session was on the potential for impacts resulting from construction noise at compounds, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) locations, the nature of Section 61 agreements and working hours. We have also had a meeting with the Applicant to discuss economics, tourism and socio-economics.

ADC has also been engaging with the Applicant directly with regard to the Principal Areas of Disagreement and Statement of Common Ground, the latter is being led by the Applicant in consultation with ADC. The Statement of Common Ground is a written statement setting out any matters on which they agree (and conversely disagree). The Statement of Common Ground will be submitted by the Applicant at the relevant Deadline, however, in the meantime at the request of the Examining Authority, the Applicant has submitted a [Statement of Commonality of Statement of Common Ground](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010117/EN010117-001128-Rampion%20Extension%20Development%20Limited%20-%20Applicant%E2%80%99s%20first%20update%20to%20the%20Statements%20of%20Commonality%20of%20Statements%20of%20Common%20Ground.pdf).

Next Steps

Open Floor Hearing 2 (blended event) is scheduled for 13 May 2024 and Issue Specific Hearings (if required) on 15 May and 16 May 2024, with a further date reserved for an Issue Specific Hearing on 22 July or 23 July. The agenda has yet to be circulated by the Examining Authority and ADC is awaiting confirmation from the Examining Authority on its attendance at these hearings.

There are several Deadlines coming up between June and August where there is an opportunity for ADC (and other Interested parties) to provide comments to the Examining Authority on further updates to submission documents provided by the Applicant, including further legal reviews of the draft DCO. Based on the review of submission documentation, expert to expert meetings and discussions with the Applicant through the Statement of Common Ground process, ADC will also be submitting a final Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement before close of the Examination.