

National Planning Framework 4 Team
Scottish Government
Area 2F South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
(Letter sent electronically to scotplan@gov.scot)

30th April 2020

Dear National Planning Framework 4 Team,

Letter of support for the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework: Scotland's Energy Transition Zone

I am writing as a lead partner in the above-mentioned project proposal for consideration as part of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). The proposal is attached for reference.

The content of this proposal was prepared by Opportunity North East (ONE); Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Harbour Board with input from other stakeholders including Scottish Enterprise. This proposal builds on Aberdeen Harbour South Extension which is included in NPF3 and outlines a major transformational project for Scotland which will help accelerate the energy transition and the drive to net zero, as well as playing a major role in the economic recovery required post Covid 19.

The ambition is to create a world leading Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) to accelerate the delivery of net zero solutions and secure a strong economic future built on offshore wind; hydrogen; carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS).

The Energy Transition Zone will strengthen North East Scotland's position as a global integrated energy cluster and make a significant contribution to Scotland's international reputation as a major energy player and leader in climate change. The Zone prepares the necessary sites and infrastructure required to support future offshore development. It will:

- Harness the region's natural assets, physical infrastructure, business investment and expertise to help deliver the transition to net zero
- Fast track the development and deployment of offshore wind and hydrogen
- Increase the pace and scale of investment into existing, fast growing integrated energy cluster

The ETZ will lever the significant investment in the new Aberdeen South Harbour, which as a new deep water port is in a unique position in Scotland to offer offshore wind assembly, deep water transit facilities and to lead on innovative marine transport energy solutions. It will create a place to attract and develop green energy related R&D, innovation and manufacturing, and the businesses and skills that are needed to support energy transition activities. Engaging the local community in the ETZ development and ensure they benefit from it through reskilling, upskilling and job creation is a key element of the proposal.

The Energy Transition Zone is focused on using land and infrastructure to bring together the industries, assets, businesses and people that will help deliver a sustainable, fair and inclusive transition to net zero and play a major role in economic transition and recovery.

The ETZ is complimentary to and will support other key strategic energy transition projects, including Acorn CCS at St Fergus, Acorn Hydrogen project, the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub project and investments by the private sector such as Equinor's Hywind Floating wind project, Vattenfall's European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, Kincardine Floating wind project and the offshore floating hydrogen production systems being pioneered by the ERM Dolphyn project.

For the reasons outlined above, Opportunity North East is pleased to present this proposal and hopes that it will be endorsed in the new national planning framework.

Yours faithfully,



Jennifer Crow
Chief Executive