

# Norfolk Vanguard development consent decision announced

Press release

Today, Friday 11 February 2022, the application for Norfolk Vanguard has been granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



The Order grants development consent for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project comprising a proposed offshore windfarm with an approximate capacity of 1800MW off the coast of Norfolk. The application was originally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration by Norfolk Vanguard Limited on 26 June 2018 and accepted for examination on 24 July 2018.

Following an examination during which the public, Statutory Consultees and Interested Parties were given the opportunity to give evidence to the Examining Authority, recommendations were made to the Secretary of State on 10 September 2019. The Secretary of State initially granted development consent for the application on 01 July 2020.

However, following an Order of the High Court made on 18 February 2021, the decision of the Secretary of State to grant development consent for the application was quashed and the Secretary of State subsequently re-determined the application.

The decision, the recommendations made by the Examining Authority to the Secretary of State and the evidence considered by the Examining Authority in reaching its recommendations are publicly available on the [project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

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## The Programme and Project Partners announce winners of new multi-million pound framework

The partners are celebrating the appointment of their second key delivery partnership contract, as part of a pioneering new way of awarding long-term work packages at the Sellafield site.

NG Bailey Ltd and Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick Ltd have been appointed to deliver the electrical and instrumentation (E&I), a framework agreement worth £485 to £600 million over the life of the programme – the largest framework to date.

The E&I package is the second of several to be awarded by the partners over the coming months as part of a major framework spanning the next 18 years. The previous award announced was the heating, ventilation and air conditioning work package.

The framework has been procured under a new Multi Project Procurement (MPP) model which encourages long-term collaboration throughout the supply chain, enhanced project delivery, and paves the way for greater economic and social impact in the West Cumbria region.

The MPP model will see the appointment of key delivery partners to deliver work packages covering everything from building fit out, groundworks and general civils to steelwork and cladding.

Craig Jowett, on behalf of the Programme and Project Partners, said:

This is the largest MPP framework to be awarded to date, the responses from all tenderers were of the highest calibre and the level of commitment shown by the successful companies and those who have supported this package during the last 9 months shows the enthusiasm this framework model is creating.

We now move forward into the construction phase and start delivering against the critical success factors.

Will Smith, managing director, Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick, said:

As a leading mechanical and electrical engineering provider, Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick is perfectly positioned to support in the decommissioning of Sellafield over the next 18 years.

Having been appointed to both the heating, ventilation and air conditioning and electrical and instrumentation frameworks, we will strive to leave a lasting positive legacy across the region, providing numerous employment and local supply chain opportunities.

Matt Hare, operations director (North West) at NG Bailey, said:

NG Bailey is incredibly excited about becoming a key delivery partner within the Sellafield Programme and Project Partners.

The opportunity to deliver works that will assist the decommissioning programme over the next 20 years while also contributing to the local economy and increasing employment opportunities in the West Cumbrian area is remarkable.

The team looks forward to working with all project stakeholders to ensure that Sellafield Ltd's mission is successful and recognised in the industry as leading the way in adopting Project 13 principles.

The Programme and Project Partners will work closely with all key delivery partners to deliver its ambition to create a clean and safe environment at the Sellafield site for future generations, improve sustainability and better outcomes for the local economy and communities.

As part of its pioneering approach to project delivery and local impact, Programme and Project Partners has engaged with the 'Swimming with the Big Fish SME Matchmaker Service', which brokers introductions and develops relationships between those bidding to become key delivery partners and high performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) willing to invest in West Cumbria.

These SMEs plan to create additional jobs, recruit apprentices and invest to expand/create new facilities in the West Cumbria as a result of the work they do with their respective key delivery partners.

The partnership is made up of lot partners:

- KBR (integration partner)
- Jacobs (design and engineering partner)
- Morgan Sindall Infrastructure (civils construction management partner)
- Doosan Babcock Ltd (process construction management partner)

Sellafield Ltd is the 5th partner.

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## TCUK dinner Speech 2021 – John Glen

Good evening everyone. Thank you to Miles and Sir Adrian for those words of welcome.

I'll also echo that tribute to Sir Adrian as he comes to the end of his term as Chair of The City UK's Leadership Council.

Over the years we've worked together, I've seen how you've been a tireless advocate for financial services, as well as a galvanising force...encouraging the industry to use its full strength to change society for the better.

So, thank you for all you've done and I wish you the very best for the future. And may I say it's a pleasure to speak to you all tonight. Naturally it's even more of a joy to do so in person instead of from behind a computer screen. When I saw The City UK dinner was going to be held in Leicester Square this year, I couldn't help but take a moment to reflect on this place's history. While today we think of the Square largely as a location for film premieres...back in the 18th century it was something of an artists' enclave. In fact, Sir Joshua Reynolds and William Hogarth both had homes here. While Sir Joshua painted portraits of near photographic quality of his aristocratic subjects... Hogarth specialised in depicting, the let's say, rather less refined side of London life. No-one escaped his piercing satirical gaze – and I'm afraid to say that included politicians. And I'll leave it to you to decide whether any of my Westminster colleagues would have given him any inspiration... But I do think the fact that these two extraordinary artists, with such different styles and approaches, could be found living so close to one another at roughly the same time...illustrates in microcosm, the originality, ingenuity and diversity of thought that has for so long been a characteristic of this country... ..and that is ingrained in our cultural and commercial life to this very day.

And financial services is no exception, because there can be no doubt that creativity and dynamism is in your DNA. You're integral to this country's prosperity and economic well-being. But more than that, you're also masters of innovation.

As I've said before, financial services is so much more than skyscrapers and the Square Mile. From levelling up to the journey to net zero – you have a part in overcoming some of the biggest challenges facing this country and the world.

Equally, you have an important role in helping this country seize the opportunities that will emerge over the years ahead.

That's why, the Chancellor and I have been very much focused on ensuring your industry doesn't only shine, now we're outside the EU...but is at the vanguard of a new era of economic growth for this country.

## **New Chapter update**

As you might recall at Mansion House last year, the Chancellor set out his vision for turning the UK into the most dynamic financial services sector on the planet. A sector that is open, at the forefront of technology, a global leader in green finance and that is competitive.

We're fast turning this vision into reality. Over the past months we've implemented a whole host of measures:

We're achieving our goal of a more open sector, with the ground-breaking mutual recognition agreement we're negotiating with Switzerland – in fact a fortnight ago I was pleased to meet with His Excellency Ambassador Leitner, who is here tonight, to keep up the momentum. And we've also signed an agreement in principle on a Digital Economy Deal with Singapore.

Our ambition had been, of course, to reach a comprehensive set of mutual decisions with the EU, but this has not happened.

Nonetheless, as I've said in the past, the EU will never have cause to deny us access to its markets because of poor regulatory standards.

We're also moving apace on our work to put the UK financial services at the forefront of technology. We've announced a series of policies that will make our fintech industry the most advanced in the world, including new visas, so businesses can attract and secure the very best of global talent.

And while all this work is underway, my Treasury team has been busy preparing the legislation we need to change the rulebook we inherited from the EU.

I'm told that between the Chancellor's Mansion House Speech and the end of this quarter we will have published no less than 30 consultation and review documents, covering the whole spectrum of financial services. Though, having reviewed them all, it feels at least double that!

To maintain our impetus here – from this Summer – we're going to publish an annual review of UK financial services competitiveness, with the City of London Corporation.

This will monitor progress across a host of metrics – and will reflect feedback from businesses on what's going right and where we can make improvements.

Of course, much thanks must go to you all for supporting our work. Because whether you've shared your thoughts on access to cash, payments or on capital markets, it's your informed contributions that are helping us to maintain our world-leading edge.

## **FRF Review**

However, tonight, I want to shine a light on a specific policy area: Our efforts to develop a regulatory framework for life outside the EU. In November we set out a series of major proposals, explaining how we would do this. The consultation closed yesterday and I am pleased to say there were over 100 hundred responses – which the Treasury will be considering in detail.

And I want to briefly talk about three key areas of focus for us in this space.

### **Regulatory independence and accountability**

First, I'll turn to independence and accountability.

In the almost four years I've been in this job, I've seen the world of financial services change dramatically. There's been the growth of AI, the take-off of quantum computing, while the cryptoasset industry has hugely expanded. And the attitudes of consumers and businesses' alike towards Green Finance have transformed. Clearly, in future, the way we regulate needs to adapt to reflect this rapid pace of change.

As I've said previously, this doesn't mean endlessly tweaking rules, or making changes for the sake of it.

But we should also remember that better regulation gives us a competitive advantage in itself. Therefore, we shouldn't hesitate to remove or reform those rules that aren't working.

In addition, we should empower our regulators to act creatively and purposely, when necessary, within a framework and guardrails set by government and Parliament.

Regulatory independence must, of course, be at the heart of this model. But it is critical that this independence is balanced with clear accountability, appropriate democratic input and transparent oversight.

Quite frankly it wouldn't make sense for the UK to take back control of our regulatory framework, simply to replace the European Commission with regulatory bodies that are not subject to suitably democratic scrutiny or primed and proactive – ready to address evolving market needs. And that's why, in our consultation, we proposed enhanced mechanisms to support Parliament in its role of holding the regulators to account. As the regulators take on their new responsibilities, we believe their relationship with the Treasury must be strengthened too.

This is something that will help make sure that wider public policy considerations are factored into decision-making, where this is appropriate and consistent with their regulatory independence.

In addition, to complement the regulators' existing consultation requirements, we've proposed extra measures to boost transparency. These will ensure our regulators are informed by a diverse range of voices, allowing for

greater consideration of any proposed reform's potential costs and benefits.

## **Competitiveness**

Secondly, as well as giving our regulators more rule-making powers, we've also proposed providing them with a new secondary objective.

This will require them to advance long-term UK economic growth and competitiveness, including for the financial sector.

Our focus on competitiveness and long-term growth is nothing new.

When we were part of the European Union Ministers and MEP colleagues would regularly bang the drum in Brussels for the EU to consider these issues.

There were many long hours at EU Summits, seeking to restrain regulations which risked stifling innovation or adversely impacting our financial markets. Our views didn't always win out. But we did succeed in making sure these factors were at least properly considered.

Now, as the regulators take on responsibility for setting rules once we repeal retained EU law, we think it's right that their objectives reflect financial services' critical role in supporting the economy. I should point out that many of our global counterparts, like Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Switzerland have embedded similar approaches in their frameworks.

However, I am very clear that this new objective must not conflict with the regulators' primary focus: the need to ensure safe and sound firms, well-functioning markets and to protect consumers and promote competition. Because make no mistake. The UK will never compromise on standards or our reputation as a global financial centre. Our competitiveness is based on strong regulators, high standards, and reliable interventions.

That's why we have taken a balanced approach and chosen to introduce this new objective as secondary.

This provides clarity – you might say a clear hierarchy – when there may be a tension between regulators' various objectives.

## **Agility**

The Chancellor and I believe that transferring responsibility for rule-making for retained EU law to our regulators should enable a newfound nimbleness, that will ultimately benefit financial services.

And this brings me to my third point – agility.

Our proposed approach will enable our regulators to become increasingly responsive, with greater capacity to respond quickly to new challenges and effectively tailor rules to better fit an evolving markets' needs.

Let me give some examples: First, this new agility will allow a reduction

in the regulatory burden faced by smaller banks and building societies – institutions that are a mainstay of our financial system but pose less systemic risk.

Right now, the PRA is developing Strong and Simple – its new regime that will introduce a more proportionate regulation for these organisations. Second, this newfound nimbleness will also support the work underway to reform our wholesale capital markets regime, so that these regulations work for our sophisticated financial sector. Third, greater agility for our regulators will help us take forward the recommendations from the Listings Review, carried out by Lord Hill, who I'm delighted to see here tonight.

This will enhance our position for IPOs, attract the world's most innovative and successful businesses, and help firms access the finance they need to grow. And finally, this nimbleness will allow us to build on the success of our world-leading asset-management industry: Our UK Funds Regime Review has already supported the introduction of the Long Term Asset Fund and reforms to the tax treatment of asset holding companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts.

And this morning, we made more progress when we set our intention to take forward proposals that will build an even stronger asset management sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen...

As I've outlined tonight, we're at the cusp of a new future for your industry.

But we know that if that future is going to fulfil its true promise we need to act swiftly. So, we are doing just that, as we focus on adding colour, detail and life to our plan for financial services.

I can assure you that there will be no complacency. My work will never be complete.

Be under no illusion. These are genuinely transformative changes. They will remodel the way we regulate and govern our world leading financial services sector. They will cement our reputation as one of the safest and most competitive places for this industry on the planet. And ultimately, they will propel our sector ahead of its global peers.

But, of course, we cannot do all this without you. As I said earlier, your wisdom and insight is going to be critical, so please do continue the conversation with me and my Treasury team.

So it only remains for me to thank you for listening to me tonight and for all you do for this country. Thank you very much.

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# All you need is...Marriage Allowance

Married couples and people in civil partnerships could receive extra cash this Valentine's Day as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) encourages those eligible to sign up for Marriage Allowance to reduce their tax bill.

Marriage Allowance allows married couples or those in civil partnerships to share their personal tax allowances if one partner earns an income under their Personal Allowance threshold of £12,570, and the other is a basic rate taxpayer.

Eligible couples can transfer 10% of their tax-free allowance to their partner, which is £1,260 in the 2021 to 2022 tax year. It means couples can reduce the tax they pay by up to £252 a year. Couples can apply any time, backdate their claims for any of the 4 previous tax years and receive a payment of up to £1,220 at a time when they need it most.

Marriage Allowance is free to apply for, and customers who claim directly via HMRC's online portal will receive 100% of the tax relief they are eligible for. Visit GOV.UK to find out how to apply for [Marriage Allowance](#).

Marriage Allowance is one of the ways the government is helping couples to receive extra money back in their pocket each month. The financial support could help couples where they need it most, including household bills.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, said:

Couples could be sitting on a tax relief worth up to £1,220 that could provide vital financial support at a time they need it most. To find out if you are eligible and how to apply search 'Marriage Allowance' on GOV.UK.

More than 2 million couples have applied for the tax relief since it was launched in 2015 but there could be thousands more who are eligible to claim.

Married couples may have experienced a change in their circumstances which could now mean they are eligible for Marriage Allowance, including:

- a recent marriage or civil partnership
- one partner has retired and the other remains working
- a change in employment due to COVID-19
- a reduction in working hours which means their earnings fall below their Personal Allowance
- unpaid leave or a career break, or
- one partner is studying or in education and not earning above their

## Personal Allowance

If a spouse or civil partner has died since 5 April 2017, the surviving person can still claim by contacting the [Income Tax helpline](#).

Marriage Allowance claims are automatically renewed every year. However, couples should notify HMRC if their circumstances change.

Marriage Allowance is 10% of an individual's tax-free Personal Allowance. The maximum amount that can be transferred to their husband, wife or civil partner is dependent on the Personal Allowance for that tax year.

### **Tax Year    Marriage Allowance Amount**

2021 to 2022 £252

2020 to 2021 £250

2019 to 2020 £250

2018 to 2019 £238

2017 to 2018 £230

If you cannot apply for Marriage Allowance online, you can apply to HMRC in writing or via your Self Assessment tax return.

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## [Treasury Minister sees how Midlands skills hub is building the future with apprenticeships](#)

- Exchequer Secretary Helen Whately tours innovative training hub in Birmingham to mark 15th National Apprenticeship Week
- Minister meets apprentices learning skills for future infrastructure projects including HS2 and Crossrail
- Follows announcement that up to 1,500 apprentices are to be recruited on flexi-job apprenticeship scheme, boosting recruitment in key sectors

To coincide with National Apprenticeship Week, Helen Whately toured the Balfour Beatty Flannery Operator Skills Hub in Birmingham where she met some apprentices and discussed how they were benefiting from the training opportunities.

The Minister also had some practical experience of her own, trying out one of

the state-of-the-art training simulators and tested her skills on a digger.

The purpose-built facility, which opened a year ago, offers innovative programmes to train people to work on major infrastructure projects such as HS2 and Crossrail.

It comes as the Government announces up to 1,500 apprentices are to be recruited on new flexible apprenticeships by 2023, creating opportunities for more people to earn while they learn in industries that boost the economy. The scheme forms part of plans to increase apprenticeship numbers in key sectors such as healthcare, construction, and the creative industries, with the BBC and NHS among employers awarded a share of almost £5 million to support the drive.

**Following her visit, Exchequer Secretary Helen Whately said:**

Our Plan for Jobs is giving people the skills they need to find work and build careers and apprenticeships are a great way to gain qualifications while working and earning.

It's been fantastic to see for myself how the Balfour Beatty Flannery skills hub is training up the next generation in the construction industry. Their innovative approach means they are training up apprentices with the technical skills they'll need on modern construction sites and building on the job experience.

It's great to see them attracting women into the construction industry too. As I saw for myself, operating a digger can be women's work just as much as it is men's.

**Andy Ormerod, Managing Director of Balfour Beatty's Plant and Fleet Services business, said:**

The Operator Skills Hub is truly one-of-a-kind; a state-of-the-art facility that not only harnesses the spirit of collaboration but embodies Balfour Beatty's commitment to develop our own future diverse workforce, and inspire the next generation of highly competent and digitally capable Plant Operators".

As we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, it was a pleasure to welcome Helen Whately MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to the Hub, to see first-hand our pioneering approach to combatting the construction and infrastructure industry's skills shortage and to showcase the range of exciting opportunities available for young people.

This year, Balfour Beatty is training 50 apprentices through the skills hub, and since opening last year it has had more than 1,000 people receiving upskilling and training in all aspects of safe plant operation and

construction skills.

At the Autumn Budget and Spending Review, the Government confirmed the first increase to employer-led apprenticeships funding since 2019-20 – with funding growing to £2.7 billion by 2024-25.

This week marks the 15th National Apprenticeship Week, a national celebration of apprenticeships and the impact they are having on individuals, businesses, and communities up and down the country.

### **Further information**

About Balfour Beatty:

- Balfour Beatty is a leading international infrastructure group with 26,000 employees who finance, develop, build, maintain and operate complex local and national infrastructure projects
- These projects include road and rail, airports, seaports, tunnels, bridges, health and education facilities, and water, light and power networks