

## **Comhairle Chontae na Mí**

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,  
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

Web: [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)  
Uimhir Chláraithe: 00172770



## **Meath County Council**

Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan,  
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Web: [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)  
Registration No.: 00172770

Planning Department

26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Future Framework Consultation  
Offshore Environment and Future Development  
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications  
29-21 Adelaide Road  
Dublin 2  
D02 X285

### **Re: Draft Offshore Renewable Future Framework Policy Statement**

A Chara,

Meath County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Offshore Renewable Future Framework Policy Statement published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Our coastline is an important habitat and eco-system and is recognised as a key asset from which many sectors including trade, tourism, leisure and angling benefit. Meath County Council will seek to ensure the future use, protection and enjoyment of our sea/coastline, balancing the economic, social and ecological objectives.

The Draft Offshore Renewable Framework Policy Statement comprehensively sets out the key actions, future directions and intergovernmental dependencies that will be addressed through subsequent policy to develop and initiate the long-term, plan led approach to Ireland's ORE future. Meath County Council is satisfied that the policy statement in general has adequately identified the general key priorities for ORE delivery in Ireland and sets out a clear pathway for success.

However, it noted that 'Visual Impact' is not specifically referenced as a key consideration in the development of new ORE projects. Visual Impact Assessment is important to determine whether the seascape and coastal landscape can absorb the visual change resulting from the installation of wind turbines and associated infrastructure, without significantly affecting scenic quality or viewer enjoyment. There is a National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2021-2025 and Meath County Development Plan, 2021-2027 contains a Landscape Character Assessment, similar to other Local Authorities. These documents will be helpful in this regard. Meath

County Council therefore respectfully requests that Visual Impact is referenced as a key consideration when finalising the Future Policy Statement document.

In conclusion, Meath County Council request that the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications consider how our comments can be reflected the in final Policy Statement. We look forward to the publication and implementation of the final Policy Statement.

Mise le meas,



Meath County Council