

I am in full support of the Able AMEP application.

As the MP for Scunthorpe County Constituency I have worked closely with my colleagues from both political parties across northern Lincolnshire to support the process of proper consideration of this significant planning application. In particular I have been concerned to ensure that the issues raised by environmental groups were properly considered in the pre-application process in a way that allowed all parties to work through sensible ways of achieving their different objectives. I firmly believe that the needs of ecology and economy can be effectively balanced in taking this application forward. World class environment can coexist with world class industry in the modern age if all parties work hard to achieve that.

More than anything else the Scunthorpe area badly needs to have confidence about future job creation locally. This has been made more acute by virtue of the collapse in demand for construction steel in recent years which has led to 1200 job losses in the last 12 months from Tata Steel in Scunthorpe. This planning application is for a significant development that has the potential to reignite the area's industrial heritage and spearhead the renaissance in manufacturing (particularly heavy engineering) that UK plc needs. Such manufacturers need to be operating near deep water. The Humber is the widest estuary on the East Coast and we need to unlock the full potential of this national asset if we as a region, and as a country are to prosper. The Humber is ideally situated to give the off shore wind industry the ideal circumstances for success.

I believe AMEP has the potential to absorb previous / future job losses and thereby prevent 'generational' unemployment impacts in the Scunthorpe area. TATA clearly see themselves as part of a potential offshore wind cluster on the Humber and they fully understand that AMEP's success would provide market proximity for them making them more competitive as a supplier and allowing them to further prosper. TATA Scunthorpe's new investment in the 'wind turbine tower plate facility' was a decision made (and potentially sanctioned on that basis) that certainly reinforces that the South Humber Bank as a great location to service the offshore wind market from. TATA are a pivotal factor with regards to 'UK content' and a principal reason as to why the offshore wind sectors demand is closing in on the Humber.

Finally, as Chair of the Skills Commission of the Local Enterprise Partnership, partners across the sub-region are actively working to ensure that the skills will be there to support the jobs that the renewables industry will create. We have the right people in the Humber (not all places do) and with the provision of a robust training and skills strategy we can capitalise on the societal impact that these jobs could bring. In an area of relatively high unemployment this development represents a very real opportunity to eradicate the social impact of joblessness leading to less crime, depression and better quality of life. It is, therefore, crucially important that the any narrow interests of large corporations trying to protect themselves from competition on the Humber should not get in the way of the great opportunities that this application presents for both the people and the economy of the region.

Nic Dakin MP