

<ADDRESS>

<DATE>

Dear <NAME>,

Bradwell B Stage One Consultation Response

Opportunity South Essex (OSE) is a private-public partnership whose vision is for South Essex to have one of the fastest growing and most sustainable economies in the UK, providing opportunities for businesses, attractive for inward investors and benefit local communities.

<OSE OUTLINE POSITION TO BE CONFIRMED>

We are focussed on the significant supply chain, employment and training opportunities a large project such as this would present to South Essex. Our response to the consultation will focus on these aspects as we believe others will be better placed to comment on the design and access aspects.

We are keen to make sure that local businesses and residents benefit from the significant investment being made at Bradwell. It is very important that the local supply chains are supported to be in the best position to support the project and I would like to point to towards excellent good practice from elsewhere in making sure this happens. The Lower Thames Crossing project are using the Supply Chain School to equip local businesses with the core requirements of being a supplier to major projects through a programme of workshops and on-line learning modules. We are also aware of a range of activity undertaken by the Hinkley Point Nuclear power Station with their supply chains. We strongly urge that these are explored and the best practice from these, and other relevant examples, is deployed on the project. Businesses may already be considering how they can contribute to the project, and how this could support their own growth, so there is a real opportunity to set the conditions for this now.

For employment, we are keen to avoid the import of labour nationally to serve the project. We would really like to see early work put in place to develop a range of training programmes that will enable local people to be ready to contribute to the project at the right time. We should make sure that contractors and their supply chains to look to fulfil their needs locally first, but also work from the outset to define what opportunities may exist for people. It is not often appreciated that a vast range of different roles will be needed to both support the project itself, and to also support the economic activity generated through the significant workforce that will be required to deliver the project. This in itself Would provide a significant opportunity for many local residents.

A skills pipeline takes time to develop, so an early start on this is essential. A full understanding of the skills requirements, both directly and within the wider supply chain, would be very helpful in identifying the scope of the requirement and enable providers to respond with the right offer. We need to start developing this now, and the reference to this in the stage 1 consultation is helpful. However, we would wish to see this much more fully developed as we move forward, and demonstrate that deep relationships are being developed with a range of providers are being established.

With all projects of this scale, it is vitally important that they leave a positive and enduring legacy. Some of the aspects we have spoken about in our response will support this, especially the employment opportunities, increased capacity in the training system and a strengthened supply chain businesses. As a project that will leave behind a large business in its own right we would wish to see this continue throughout its operational life.

With all of these areas, early engagement with a range of stakeholders will be essential. OSE has a range of links that will support this and are more than happy to help the project team to move forward. Our experience shows that you can never start this too early, and our experience also points to examples where initiatives across business, workforce and skills can often start too late. There is a real opportunity to get this right from the outset and deliver a real boost to the economy of the sub region.

Yours Sincerely,

Perry Glading
Chair