

## Viking Link's Community Contribution Criteria

### Introduction

The Viking Link project is working to support the local community through a contribution programme. This is aimed at community organisations and charities in the local areas close to where our construction activities are taking place.

Viking Link is keen to be a good neighbour and build strong relationships with the local community. We are keen to support and contribute by volunteering our time to make a difference to charitable and non-profit community organisations. Viking Link may also consider donating goods and materials to charitable and non-profit community organisations where there is a clear community benefit in doing so.

Working with our main contractors Siemens and Balfour Beatty, Viking Link will engage with local stakeholders & identify opportunities to support the local community. We will ensure all community contributions complement each other and identify opportunities where we can work together on as many initiatives as reasonably possible.

Viking Link's community contributions programme falls under 3 areas:

- Education
- Environment
- Loneliness

### Education

Viking Link is keen to inspire school children to take an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) based subjects and to highlight to them that delivering a project like Viking Link takes more than just engineers.

Although we are doing amazing work in support of STEM initiatives and promoting STEM careers recruitment, the reality is that we must continue to make a bigger effort in ensuring that we are attracting the widest range of individuals and talent.

STEM education and STEM related job roles are critical for our continued growth and success of the continuously evolving energy industry. We aim to spark interest in pursuing further education and give children the confidence that they are all capable of having fantastic career opportunities in the energy sector.

Viking Link has established a three-year Schools Programme working with 10 local schools all close to the project's cable route. In addition, we have developed and designed an Educational work booklet for Year 4 pupils. This free resource will be available Spring 2021.

We are planning to mobilise a programme dedicated to support with CV writing and interview techniques for key stage 4 children along with mobilising a team of STEM ambassadors.

We will continue to seek out further education opportunities to support throughout the project.

### **Environment**

Delivering a sustainable environmentally friendly project is very important and at the heart of what we do. We are passionate about protecting and preserving the environment in which we work.

Along with our contractors, we are working hard to ensure, where possible, construction materials and methods are sustainable, they minimise impact on the environment and can be recycled.

As well as meeting our environmental obligations and sourcing sustainable materials, we are keen to identify non-profit environmental opportunities in the local community that we can support.

Some examples of the areas of interest are:

- Ground improvements - ponds, wildlife, ecology, sensory gardens, park walkways
- Environmental schemes - recycling, composting, water butts
- Reduction in car use – nature / health walks
- Biodiversity, species support - bird boxes, insect houses, wild flower planting
- Habitat creation - hedges, woodland, ponds

We are aware there are a wide range of existing non-profit charitable organisations in Lincolnshire that could provide our project and our contractors with volunteering opportunities and we aim to seek out those that we are able to support.

## **Loneliness**

As a project and company, tackling loneliness is high on Viking Link's agenda.

We all know the impact loneliness can have on people's wellbeing. Loneliness comes in all shapes and sizes and is something many people face, whether they are a single parent, living with disability or living on their own.

In a rural community such as Lincolnshire, loneliness can be a wide-spread concern and particularly for its largely elderly demographic.

We are already working with Age UK Lincolnshire and Age UK Lindsey and Viking Link is contributing to make a positive difference. We will continue to work with both organisations throughout the construction of the project.

We will continue to identify opportunities in the local community where we can support other non-profit charitable organisations that help tackle loneliness and isolation. Working with our contractors, we aspire to make a difference.

## **The Criteria**

Viking Link looks to support projects in the following areas:

- Initiatives that support hard-to-reach members of the community improving diversity and inclusion
- Initiatives which achieve improved educational attainment through building confidence and self-esteem of children and young people
- Education projects, especially those that upskill young people with STEM skills
- Activities that promote or support health and wellbeing in the local community, for example addressing energy efficiency
- Initiatives, such as conservation projects, that have a direct and positive environmental impact or, awareness raising projects that improve environmental behaviour or understanding, from recycling to water resource management

To be considered, all projects must fall under one of the above three focus areas (Education, Environment or Loneliness) and be located:

- within a three-mile radius of the converter station site
- within three miles of the cable route

## **Who can register their interest for support?**

- Not for profit organisations
- Not for profit community groups
- Registered charities
- Registered social enterprises

Your organisation, group, charity or enterprise must provide non-profit benefits to the community and must be in an area affected by Viking Link's construction activities.

In order to qualify for support, organisations must be able to demonstrate that they are financial solvent and have a system of governance in place.

## **Supporting Evidence**

Those registering will need to evidence that they are:

- pursuing objectives of demonstrable benefit to relevant local communities
- pursuing projects rather than seeking general purpose funding
- able to demonstrate evidence of community standing
- aiming to meet a defined objective rather than provide short-term relief from problems
- unlikely to attract funding from government sources

## **Registration process**

We prefer to receive registrations online by using the following email address [vikinglink@communityfeedback.co.uk](mailto:vikinglink@communityfeedback.co.uk)

If you are unable to email, please call our freephone on 0800 731 0561.

All enquiries will be registered and reviewed for consideration.

We will acknowledge your enquiry and you may be contacted by a representative to provide additional details.

We accept enquiries all year round and these are reviewed regularly. You will be notified of the outcome once a decision has been made.

**Organisations that will not be supported**

The Viking Link project will not support the following:

- Individuals seeking support for personal or business gain
- The advancement of religion, religious organisations, Political parties
- Medical research
- Activities of a hazardous or potentially illegal nature
- Projects which in our opinion fall within the normal operational responsibilities of National or Local Government agencies
- Core running costs
- People taking part in treks or expeditions
- Requests for contributions to organisations which are themselves grant awarding bodies, Statutory organisations such as local government or local councils, including parish councils irrespective of whether they have charitable status
- The production or distribution of films, radio or television programmes
- Works which would be a statutory responsibility
- Retrospective funding - money which has already been spent
- Individual study support or overseas travel for study purposes
- Improvements to land or building over which the applicant does not have tenure

This is not an extensive list and Viking Link reserve the right to refuse support to any organisations that do not align to our business ethics.

Ends