

## **North Sea Transition Forum**

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

### **Opening Remarks**

Stuart Payne opened the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

Stuart outlined that the meeting would start with opening remarks from Minister Michael Shanks, followed by a discussion on the DESNZ consultation document. The meeting will conclude with updates on the seven task forces and the North Sea Transition Deal.

### **Minister Shanks**

Minister Shanks expressed gratitude for the valuable conversations with industry since assuming his role and encouraged continued engagement.

Over the next few weeks, the Minister will engage in discussions and roundtables to influence participation in the consultation, emphasising the importance of diverse viewpoints. The consultation is titled 'The Future of Energy in the North Sea' to reflect the Government's vision of a strong energy future, including decades of oil and gas production. Building future green industries is a serious priority for Government.

The Government is committed to addressing the challenging aspects of the transition and building confidence in a planned future for a stronger North Sea.

### **Consultation**

DESNZ officials advised the Forum that the consultation period for DESNZ consultation was open and that they hope to have a lot of engagement with the sector over the next few weeks.

There was an open discussion with Forum members sharing their initial views on the consultation documents, including a clear recognition that clarity on future fiscal (per the HMT consultation) and industry policy (per the DESNZ consultation) were important for the sector. The importance of maintaining focus on the supply chain was agreed.

Minister Shanks thanked contributors and emphasized the need for specific details in responses.

All were encouraged to participate fully in the upcoming consultation process, bring real examples and data into their submissions and take the opportunity to engage.

### **Task Force Update – Simon Roddy**

Simon noted that the taskforces provide a competitive advantage for both the industry and the UK. Participants contribute to task force activities in addition to their regular jobs. The focus is on finding common solutions to enhance value.

Simon shared with the Minister a brief update on the focus of the seven taskforces including work to publish guidance for industry including the Asset Stewardship

taskforce who had delivered best practice guidance for both JV hub strategies and ERAPs – Emission Reduction Action Plans.

Simon highlighted the role taskforces play in driving collaboration including the Wells taskforce regarding well abandonment and the Technology Leadership Board working in support of a new robotics centre of excellence for offshore inspections.

### **North Sea Transition Deal (NSTD) – David Whitehouse**

Dave Whitehouse presented an update to the Minister on delivery against key targets from the NSTD.

#### **Supply Decarbonisation:**

- Noted emissions reduction work on track to meet 2030 but with more work needed to achieve future targets

#### **Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS):**

- Government support for track 1 projects has been well-received
- Significant opportunities for the UK to decarbonize industries, and industry has a need for clarity about future funding

#### **Hydrogen:**

- Ongoing good work, looking for existing funding to be supported.

#### **Supply Chain Transformation:**

- Appointment of a new Supply Chain Champion
- Prompt payment task-finish group established

#### **People and Skills:**

- Implementation of the Energy Skills Passport launched, now in phase 2.
- Energy workforce supply and demand outlook is being prepared.
- Support for energy foundation apprenticeships, with positive industry feedback.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Minister Shanks thanked everyone for the work they do, he appreciates the time and commitment that goes into the work of the task forces, it is a real demonstration of effective stewardship, under the NSTD and the task forces. He asked that everyone participates in the consultation and continue to engage with him.