

Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG) Update

October 2021



Cllr Craig Rivett, ESC

Chair of JLAG



Cllr Richard Rout, SCC

Vice-Chair of JLAG

1. The Examination into the Sizewell C project closed on Thursday 14 October, following Deadline 10 on Tuesday 12 October which was the last date to make submissions into the Examination. This was the end of an intense 6-month Examination period during which the Examining Authority, led by Wendy McKay, held 15 Issue Specific Hearings, issued 3 sets of Examiner questions, and had ten deadlines.
2. We would like to thank you for your involvement and representations to the Examination, as it is the combination of the submissions and representations from all councils (county, district, town and parish) and other local stakeholders that made such a big difference in improving the proposals during the examination. We appreciate how challenging it has been particularly for town and parish councils to consider the large amounts of paperwork and find the time to prepare submissions and attend hearings.
3. Our Councils have worked extremely hard during this six-month period, in preparing submissions, attending hearings, and engaging with the Applicant. A joint Statement of Common Ground was submitted at three different deadlines (2, 5 and finally the signed version at 10), a Deed of Obligation was agreed and signed by the three parties and submitted at Deadline 10, and both Councils achieved amendments and revisions to the proposal and draft DCO in order to agree the final positions at Deadline 10.
4. All documents submitted into the Examination will remain available on the Planning Inspectorate website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/Eastern/The-Sizewell-C-Project/>
5. The Deed of Obligation includes future funding and governance procedures for the Councils during the construction period and mitigating measures including:
 - a Housing Fund, which includes funding for 4 posts at ESC to boost resilience in the housing market pre-peak construction;
 - a Tourism Fund, including 2 posts, to promote East Suffolk during and the immediate years post-construction;
 - a Skills and Education package that includes 2 posts at SCC during construction;
 - an Economic Development package that includes 2 posts at ESC during construction to support the local economy and local businesses;

- a Public Services Resilience Fund, to mitigate for impacts on e.g. community safety, social care, and schools;
 - a Natural Environment Fund which includes 1 post at ESC and 1 at the AONB during and the immediate years post-construction;
 - A Public Rights of Way fund to improve public rights of way and cycling provision; and
 - there are specific transport related pots for Leiston, Wickham Market and Marlesford and Little Glemham, a highways maintenance contribution fund and a Transport Contingency Fund that can be accessed during the construction period.
6. The Councils are also responsible for forwarding payments to other authorities and bodies including Suffolk Constabulary, the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG, RSPB and National Trust.
 7. In parallel to the Deed of Obligation, and outside of the Examination, the Councils welcome that SZC Co. has legally committed to establishing an independent environmental charity, with the two Councils and SZC Co. appointing the founding trustees. SZC Co. will provide substantial annual funding to this charity during construction and throughout operation of Sizewell C should it be consented. The objectives for this charity will be to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in East Suffolk.
 8. At Deadline 10, as well as making final responses on previously submitted documents at Deadlines 8 and 9, both Councils submitted our final positions in relation to the Sizewell C project.
 9. East Suffolk Council has maintained its position from our original relevant representation in that we are neutral in relation to the proposal, however, we welcome the package of mitigating measures for East Suffolk and our communities with regards to economic and education opportunities arising from the project and the ability to appropriately mitigate adverse impacts arising from the development with the other Funds that will be available.
 10. Suffolk County Council sets out in its final position that it is pleased to report that positive progress has been made on many (but not all) matters of concern to SCC since the start of the examination, including mitigation measures secured through the Deed of Obligation... Notwithstanding this, Suffolk County Council highlights that there still remain important matters that have not been satisfactorily resolved in the Applicant's formulation of the proposals. However, the Council considers that the unresolved matters could still be addressed at this late stage in the process, as set out further in our submission. (see [SCC Final Position Statement](#))

11. The next three months will be spent by the Examining Authority drafting their report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). That would take us to mid-January 2022. The Secretary of State for BEIS, would then have a further 3-months to consider the proposal and make a decision (mid-April 2022), unless this period is extended.
12. Should the Secretary of State for BEIS consent the project, SZC Co. would then have to make a Final Investment Decision. Should this timeline be followed accurately it is anticipated that the earliest start-time for the project would be late-Summer 2022.
13. There are a number of requirements that would have to be discharged by the Councils prior to works commencing on site.
14. As always please do continue to contact us on sizewellc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.