

SZC OVERSIGHT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Title of Meeting:	SZC Oversight Partnership		
Date:	07/11/24		
Place:	Meeting Room 7, Suffolk Police Headquarters – Martlesham		
Time:	10:00 – 11:30		
Attendees:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Suffolk County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Cook (Executive Director of GHI) (Chair) • Michael Moll (Head of Programme Management Office) • Isaac Nunn (Senior Planning Officer (NSIPs)) • Andrew Rutter (Development Manager) • Clara Peirson (Graduate Project Officer) (Minutes) <p>Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Gordon (Corporate Manager - Economy & Business) <p>East Suffolk Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Bally (Chief Executive) • Naomi Hayes (Energy Projects Manager) </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Ipswich Borough Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Fairclough (IBC, Director – Operations and Place) <p>West Suffolk Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Wilson (Strategic Director) <p>Suffolk Constabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Cutler (Chief Superintendent) <p>East of England Ambulance Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig King (NILO/Resilience Manager) <p>Suffolk and North East Essex ICB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Hardwick (Deputy Director of Partnerships) <p>SALC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Lewis (SALC Board Member for East Suffolk / SALC Chairperson) </div> </div>		
Apologies:	Jemma Varela (East of England Ambulance Service); Philip Ridley (ESC, Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning); Kate Watson (SCC, Project Manager); Craig Boyles (Norfolk and Waveney ICB)		

Glossary			
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load	HPC	Hinkley Point C
ACA	Ancillary Construction Area	IBC	Ipswich Borough Council
DoO	Deed of Obligation	MRN	Major Road Network
DoR	Discharge of Requirements	NNLAG	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
EEAS	East of England Ambulance Service	SCC	Suffolk County Council
ESC	East Suffolk Council	SNEEICB	Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care Board
FID	Final Investment Decision	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
GHI	Growth, Highways & Infrastructure	SZC	Sizewell C

Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale	Action
1.	Welcome and introductions	<p>Please see above for attendees and apologies.</p> <p>14 attendees.</p> <p>Welcome and introductions around the table were completed.</p> <p>The purpose of this Partnership was discussed. It was noted that these meetings do not involve formal decision-making, but provide an opportunity to scrutinise the project and raise concerns.</p> <p>Action points for these meetings will be published on East Suffolk Council's website. It was agreed that minutes will be published under the 'Chatham House Rule' to facilitate open sharing of information.</p>	
2.	<p>Sizewell C update, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated development • Road schemes: what's coming in 2025 	<p>Drone footage, shared with SCC by SZC, was shown to facilitate discussion of progress that has been made with the project. SCC noted that there are opportunities available for tours of the site to be arranged for Partners, and if this would be of interest, to let SCC know.</p> <p>It was noted that SZC have so far been willing to explore options to coordinate their own works with works that have been considered in the location, helping to contribute to the project's legacy effect.</p> <p>A discussion was had regarding the ways in which local communities can most easily access information about the works that will impact their local area. Minutes of community forums are seen to be a good resource. SZC offices in Leiston can share information, and SZC have also been open to meetings with local parish councils and are exploring ways to effectively communicate with communities (e.g. parish notice boards). There are also working groups at the local level with parishes.</p> <p>The project programme was discussed, with a focus on the highways schemes commencing in 2025. There are a large number of highways schemes commencing in Q1 and Q2 of 2025. It was noted that community forums have shown communities are surprised by the nature of the pre-commencement (e.g. archaeology) works, which are often mistook as construction work. There are also a number of other minor road schemes beginning in Q2 2025 and beyond, which can be more visible for the public (compared to the main development site which is more out of the way). Most of these schemes involve some temporary traffic lights, and work is being done to try to manage and coordinate these schemes to</p>	<p>2.1 – SCC to clarify escalation routes relating to highways works with SZC and subsequently inform Partners of the appropriate procedure.</p>

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		<p>minimise disruption. It was also noted that much of this work is being done in parallel with other non-SZC highways works, which creates a cumulative effect which must be managed. The opportunity to learn lessons from the A14 improvement works, including strategies to prevent rat-running, were noted.</p> <p>Methods for raising and addressing issues that arise in relation to the highways works was discussed. A direct contact within SZC would be ideal for addressing issues that need to be rapidly dealt with, for example impacts on emergency services. It was acknowledged that SZC have so far dealt with issues raised promptly. SCC also agreed to communicate points of contact within SCC for escalation of issues to SZC, although noted that they do not have the capacity to deal with non-urgent issues. SCC will confirm with SZC that they are happy with the escalation routes in place. Where there are areas of disagreement, referral to the Delivery Steering Group is an option.</p> <p>Partners discussed potential issues relating to a number of roadworks schemes happening at the same time and how these could be managed in the event of flooding or other widespread impacts on the roads network. Local authorities confirmed that mapping work had been undertaken in response to Storm Babet to better understand the highways impacts, which may be useful to cross-refer to areas potentially affected by traffic management as a result of the Sizewell C road schemes.</p> <p>An update on the project's funding situation was provided. The Budget committed a further £2.7bn to the project, but FID will not be until after the Spring Budget Review.</p> <p>The question of when the scheduled works will be visible on the one.network website was raised. This will be after highways technical approval (approximately six weeks before construction), although delays can be caused by associated DoR.</p>	
3.	Governance Groups and Forums	<p>All groups are now established and up and running. Partners reported that their experiences in working groups have so far been positive, with SZC keen to engage, and Partners feel they are being heard.</p> <p>It was noted that dates of community forums are shared on the SZC website, with a full year's worth of dates posted at once (those for 2025 should be posted soon). These can be found at: https://www.sizewellc.com/community/forums/</p>	

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		<p>Experiences at the Community Safety Working Group have been positive. SZC have been keen to engage and have been proactive. EEAS has had visits and exercises on the SZC site which have been useful. There have been visits to HPC to learn from how things are done there.</p> <p>A Health and Wellbeing Officer has been appointed for SNEEICB by SZC. Health and wellbeing conversations with the public have largely been related to transport issues at this stage.</p>	
4.	Deed of Obligation funding	<p>The DoO funding for the councils totals £80m over 12 years, index-linked. At commencement, £9m of this was received by SCC. SCC has distributed all of these monies internally or with external services. The processes in place for managing monies is working, and a recent internal audit provided positive feedback. EEAS mentioned that they had not yet received any of this funding. SCC confirmed that SZC informed them that the Deed of Covenant was completed on 4th November 2024. EEAS's receipt of these monies will be followed up.</p> <p>The Sizewell C Community Fund has recently awarded its first round of funding. Although this Fund is not in the Council's control, the DoO specifies that the Suffolk Community Foundation, which runs the Sizewell C Community Fund, 'shall have regard to any reasonable advice provided by the Oversight Partnership in respect of the provision of Strategic Grants'. A discussion was therefore had regarding whether the Partnership would like to exercise this right.</p> <p>Partners shared their findings that local voluntary organisations have had issues with resourcing applications for the Fund, resulting in unsuccessful applications. The bar for funding was considered to possibly be too high, and the effectiveness of the two-stage approach taken by the Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder was highlighted. It was agreed that there was a role for the Partners to play in supporting these organisations with their applications, for example via mentoring, coaching, or a workshop with the Community Foundation. SCC mentioned that they had plans to regularly meet with the Foundation, and it may be useful if involvement extended to other Partners. It was also agreed that</p>	<p>4.1 – SCC to follow up on EEAS's receipt of DoO funding</p> <p>4.2 – SCC to contact Suffolk Community Foundation regarding their attendance at the next Oversight Partnership Meeting</p> <p>4.3 – SCC to reschedule next Oversight Partnership meeting for March 2025</p>

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		<p>the Suffolk Community Foundation be invited to the next meeting of the Oversight Partnership. As applications for the third round of funding close in April, in order to share lessons learned from the first round funding decisions, the next Oversight Partnership meeting will be scheduled for March.</p> <p>It was raised that there may be some resistance towards making applications for the Fund due to objections to the Sizewell C project itself. Partners agreed that it was important to tackle this and positively promote the funding opportunity, irrespective of views on the project itself. An advert for the Fund has been included in ESC's latest biannual magazine.</p>	
5.	Police update	<p>Suffolk Police provided an update. They are currently building a SZC community team, with a sergeant and PC currently in place and plans to grow the team further. AIL movements are the main area of involvement at the moment. Attempts to get accurate forecast information regarding AIL movements from SZC is proving difficult. It was noted that the potential for coordination of AIL movements with other projects, including Norwich to Tilbury, is being looked into. Overall, there are some issues to be addressed, but progress is being made from a Police perspective.</p>	
6.	<p>Ipswich Borough Council update, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ransomes Europark 	<p>Planning permission has been granted for temporary use by SZC of the front forecourt of No. 2 – 6 Central Avenue Ipswich (Ransomes Europark) for a period of up to 24 months as a bus depot for its fleet of hydrogen buses. Permission has also been granted for works including the installation of a temporary hydrogen refuelling facility and the erection of a temporary maintenance building.</p> <p>Ipswich Borough Council's driver academy, and the potential for an agreement with SZC to scale this up for the provision of drivers for SZC buses, was discussed. A wider conversation around human resourcing and the impacts of Sizewell C on Partners' workforces was had. It was agreed that beginning to generate and share data with Partners on this matter would be useful. A standing agenda item on this matter will also be included for future Oversight Partnership meetings.</p>	6.1 – SCC to include the impact of SZC on Partners' workforces as a standing agenda item for future Oversight Partnership meetings

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7.	Planning update	<p>Work has begun at Orwell Logistics Park, which will be the new site for SZC's Freight Management Facility (previously planned to be in Levington). This will provide options for how SZC wish to use the ACA.</p> <p>Matters in terms of SSSI crossing have been discharged, and landscape discharges for Yoxford roundabout and earth works on site are currently being worked through.</p> <p>Given that communities have often mistook pre-commencement works for construction work, the possibility of better signage to indicate the works being carried out was discussed. Information boards outside each site, stating that the works are being completed by SZC and are archaeology works (for example) was one option discussed. This matter has been discussed in community forums, with information on parish notice boards being explored.</p>	
8.	Health services update	<p>Updates from the health services were generally provided during discussion of other agenda items.</p> <p>The only additional point made was that SNEEICB only have responsibility for matters south of Leiston. There has therefore been communication between SNEEICB and Norfolk and Waveney ICB.</p>	
9.	AoB	<p>SCC will be publishing a report on the findings of the NNLAG study to better understand the impacts and mitigation of HPC.</p> <p>The next Oversight Partnership meeting will try to be arranged for March 2025, rather than 30 April 2025 as scheduled, to allow for more productive conversation surrounding applications for the Sizewell C Community Fund to be had. Suffolk Community Foundation will be invited to the meeting for this purpose. The impact of Sizewell C on Partners' workforces will be included as a standing agenda item, from the next meeting onwards. It was also agreed that the Environment Agency should be invited to future meetings of the Partnership.</p> <p>Meeting concludes 11:32.</p>	9.1 – SCC to arrange for invitations to future Oversight Partnership meetings to be sent to the Environment Agency

Next meeting: TBC