

101402891

Revision 01

## SOCIAL REVIEW GROUP

### NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Meeting:	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, 13:00-15:00
Location:	MS Teams
Chair:	Anna Crispe (AC) - SCC
Attendees:	SZC – Rebecca Calder (RC), John Davies (JD), Mike Humphrey (MH) – (Observer), Darren Benford Brown (DBB) – (Observer) ESC – Fern Lincoln (FL) – (Observer) SCC – Anna Crispe (AC) SNEE ICB – Chris Lawson (CL) – (Observer)
Apologies:	Nicole Rickard (ESC)

#### Meeting Notes:

#### INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS

#### Actions raised during the previous meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
26/01/2024	SRG_001	RC to amend Terms of Reference to update the reporting timetable and specify a reporting template for sub-groups to use.	RC	For next meeting
26/01/2024	SRG_002	RC to create a standing agenda to use for each Social Review Group meeting.	RC	Closed
26/01/2024	SRG_003	NR to share ESC's mental health leaflet with JD and RC.	NR	Closed
26/01/2024	SRG_004	RC to share meeting minutes from the three sub-groups when available.	RC	Closed

Action 1: will be amended, and reference will be made to the reporting template.

Action 2: will be included as a standing agenda item.

Action 3: closed.

Action 4: minutes are published on the ESC website.

#### PROJECT UPDATE (RC)

- Since the last meeting, there has been a significant change in government, which brings increased support for the project and additional funding schemes. The government is now the majority shareholder and is fully committed to moving forward at full speed. As a result, there will be an expansion of work, including the development of rail

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routes, site access improvements, early archaeological mitigation on AD sites, and archaeological and ecological clearances. Starting early next year, construction activities will commence. Additionally, there is a substantial amount of procurement activity underway to onboard contractors.

#### **FEEDBACK FROM THE ECONOMIC REVIEW GROUP**

- RC highlighted local concerns, particularly from the Chamber of Commerce, regarding the impact on local supply chains. Community groups have also raised issues about the availability of rental flats and losing staff to the project. There is a concern about the affordability of local accommodation, which affects staffing for local businesses like pubs and restaurants. Although these effects are not evidenced, the community is worried about the accommodation situation.
- AC reported receiving positive queries about funded apprenticeships and specific funding categories. RC noted that the first round of skills funding has been approved, and investments are being made in additional skills facilities in Leiston.
- Supply chain have had issued regarding not releasing information early enough for local and regional suppliers to maximise project opportunities.
- The first round of tourism funding has been approved. While there are no obvious effects yet, local groups are concerned about potential labour market churn (workers moving from hospitality to work on the project) and the economic impact of the build. However, the influx of workers is anecdotally reported to be positively affecting accommodation and facility usage during off-peak periods.
- DBF mentioned that the ESC at the Northern Transport Forum is promoting accommodation, with grants available for renting out houses and rooms. The main opposition feedback is about the availability of additional parking spaces. AC emphasised the need to monitor this issue. JD pointed out that parking availability will vary by property - property owners need to consider available parking when listing properties to ensure they are fit for purpose.

#### **UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUPS**

##### **Accommodation Working Group**

What is going well:

- RC announced that the project will no longer develop a caravan park at LEEIE. Instead, they will use a mix of chalets at Pontins Pakefield, approved in July 2024, and additional third-party caravans, likely also at Pontins.
- FL reported strong investor interest from outside the area. A new project manager will soon be in post to focus on these opportunities. Collaboration is ongoing with social landlords in East Suffolk to identify under-occupied properties for potential use.
- For homelessness, East Suffolk Lettings is working with the Empty Homes Team to provide lodging facilities and financial incentives like deposits and rent in advance. Progress is being made in private sector housing and grants.
- FL mentioned ongoing discussions with local landlords about potential development opportunities. They are in constant communication with the planning team, although not all developments are deemed suitable for investment.

Concerns:

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- RC expressed concerns about balancing accommodation needs with planning logistics. Leiston Town Council has raised concerns about not wanting all grants concentrated in their area. The goal is to balance site accessibility whilst not overburdening local communities.

Next steps:

- JD noted that Pontins is an option for caravans, and through consultation with ESC they are also considering bringing Kings Avenue Caravan Park back, which is on outskirts of Leiston. Other potential sites are in the pipeline (but not as far advanced), and the aim is to quickly generate critical mass.
- Chalets to be opened in Pontins on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, exclusively for SZC use
- RC mentioned the tourist accommodation plan, which aims to streamline the process for changing licenses or planning conditions for longer stays or year-round operation. East Suffolk has a framework to handle these requests systematically. A consultant is working with the tourism group, and the plan should be signed off early next year.
- Regarding the Private Housing Supply Plan, RC noted discussions about monitoring grant effectiveness and interest levels. The plan may be adapted if it is not working well, or additional funds may be released if successful.

#### **Community Safety Working Group**

What is going well:

- RC announced that community safety funding requests have been approved. SCC will draw down funds to expand domestic violence support schemes, ensuring they are properly set up if needed.
- ESC has requested resources. Initially, they asked for funding for the entire construction period but have now scaled back to the first year. They will present a plan at the next meeting detailing how the funds will be used. The goal is to ensure that efforts complement existing services rather than duplicate them or leave gaps.
- Currently, there is minimal involvement from the police, and they have reported very little demand. Similarly, EEAST has not had a significant number of call-outs, and none of the services report being impacted in their ability to serve the local community.
- There is regular engagement between the involved parties at the working level.

Concerns:

- The CSWG is concerned about distinguishing between real and perceived issues, and addressing community concerns regarding road safety and driver standards. Investigations into traffic and HGV complaints often reveal they are not related to SZC vehicles.
- There is a need for clarity in reporting. For example, increased Traffic Offence Reports from the AIL team are not specifically related to SZC workers but result from road policing using the AIL team. Communicating this effectively is important as it is a positive community safety initiative. Care must be taken in disseminating information to avoid the automatic assumption that issues are SZC-related and negative when they are not.
- DBB commented on meetings with the police about the AIL teams conducting speed enforcement. He noted that implementing average speed cameras would address concerns about driver standards and prevent automatic blame on SZC. There has been increased reporting around road safety, driver standards, antisocial behaviour, and speeding, but investigations often trace these issues back to SZB outage works. This needs to be considered for future project impacts.
- AC suggested considering the timing of future SZB outage periods, as community pressure might be high during these times. RC noted that SZB tries to plan outages outside of the tourism season.

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- From a community safety perspective, parish councils are questioning why representatives from Scottish Power and National Grid are not present at these meetings, given their concurrent work. Although forums were set up primarily for SZC, there is a desire for a joint forum for the three major projects in the area.
- DBB mentioned that there has been very little SZC-related crime or antisocial behaviour from a policing perspective.

#### Next steps:

- Next steps include implementing average speed cameras in 2025 to improve road safety. The main actions are to determine which concerns are real and valid, and identify issues that can be addressed, such as workforce safety and targeted safer driving campaigns. This will ensure community safety funding is used effectively and complements existing efforts without duplication.
- DBB highlighted that there has been very little online reporting of speeding on the B11 22 towards Leiston. Suffolk Constabulary has received few reports in recent months. It seems people are waiting to raise these issues in forums instead of reporting them. Reporting problems to the police is crucial, otherwise SZC cannot address them. AC emphasised the importance of continuing to encourage reporting and maintaining a positive message about it.
- DBB also noted that there is no policing representative at the forums to provide statistics from Suffolk Constabulary, with the SZC security team presenting on their behalf. This should be resolved moving forward.

#### **Health and Wellbeing Working Group**

##### What is going well:

- CL reported a low incident record on site and minimal call-outs to EEAST.
- There has been strong local engagement with local services and charities that may support the project. Interest across the county is linked to the Sizewell Community Fund, with potential for scaling up existing provisions to the local area.
- Monthly meetings are held between SNEE ICB, the SZC Health and Wellbeing Officer, and the SZC Occupational Health and Wellbeing Manager to address primary care concerns. They aim to align their efforts with primary care networks (PCN) and patient participation groups (PPG).
- No significant themes have emerged from primary care yet. Initial concerns about workforce recruitment have been raised in previous updates, but there are no major issues to escalate at this time.
- Presentations have been made to PPGs within the immediate catchment area, and recent meetings with practice managers and PCNs have taken place. While concerns were not directly health-related, there were some workforce concerns from surgeries, however, the clear communication was appreciated. The next steps involve ensuring consistent communication through quarterly or biannual meetings with practice managers and PPG representatives to maintain consistent messaging.

##### Concerns:

- Community perceptions of SZC remain a challenge. Often, when concerns are raised and due diligence is conducted, they are found to be unrelated to SZC. The focus is on reassuring the community about the mitigations in place. Frequent conversations are helping to manage these perceptions more effectively. Efforts to tackle negative perceptions are ongoing, with patient participation groups, PCNs, and primary care colleagues playing a role.

##### Next steps

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- A board meeting was held with practice managers within the immediate catchment area of SZC, including Leiston, Saxmundham, Wickham Market, Framlingham, and Alderton. The next step is to ensure these meetings occur more consistently.
- Monthly integration meetings are in place with ICB and Norfolk and Waveney Primary Care colleagues. The main concern for Norfolk and Waveney is Pontins accommodation. Many concerns have been addressed, and follow-up actions are based on these conversations.
- Ongoing communication with PPGs, PCNs, and local councillors is to be maintained.
- AC raised a point about the sexual health contract, which is not yet finalised, but dialogue continues.
- CL emphasised the importance of ensuring that conversations across working groups are well-coordinated.

#### **REPORTING OUT – SOCIAL REVIEW GROUP**

- Currently, there are no evidenced effects on community safety, emergency services, or public services, and no significant matters have arisen. Additionally, funds are being spent as planned.
- It was noted that future reports should include what is going well, any concerns, and what needs to happen next. This information needs to be consistently added to the reporting going forward.

#### **AOB**

- RC raised the issue of the Community Fund, noting that there have been more bids from large charities and fewer from local groups. When large charities bid, there is often pushback about whether they have considered existing local provisions and how they would collaborate with local organisations. The Community Foundation is prepared to support local groups in making bids and understanding the benefits they can receive. Groups that could benefit from this support should be directed to the Community Foundation.
- CL brought up a question from a meeting with Ceri Bryant and Norfolk and Waveney colleagues regarding the patient pathway into James Paget Hospital. There was a discussion about whether A&E could identify if a patient is from the SZC workforce and whether this data could be provided. AC noted that A&E does not routinely capture this information, but they could try to match postcodes to SZC accommodation. This method might catch some people from larger accommodation places but not everyone. AC suggested it might be worth discussing with Paget Hospital to see if they could do anything to capture this data and recommended keeping the conversation open. RC mentioned that there are assumptions in the residual healthcare fund calculation about the additional services that might be required for incoming workers or their families.
- RC also noted that they would have some information on ambulance call-outs or self-conveyances to A&E, which will be monitored through the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- Meetings to be organised on a bi-annual basis. More can be added if necessary.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- RC to re-circulate the Terms of Reference for approval. Feedback to be provided by group before the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

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### **Actions raised during the meeting:**

<b>Date Raised</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
11/11/2024	1	Future reporting from working groups into the Social Review Group should include sections on what is going well, any concerns, and what needs to happen next.	Working Groups	Next meeting
11/11/2024	2	Discuss with James Paget hospital to determine if it is possible to capture SZC A&E data	Social Review Group	Next meeting
11/11/2024	3	RC to re-circulate the Terms of Reference for approval. Feedback to be provided by group before the 15 <sup>th</sup> of November.	Social Review Group	November 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024

**Author: Caitlin Murphy (SZC)**