

# Local Authority role in the DCO process

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# Local Authority Role in the DCO Process

- The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will determine the application.
- Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council are statutory consultees.
- Our primary role is to evaluate, challenge and comment on the proposals.
- To get the best possible outcomes for the people of Suffolk.



Aerial image SZCA and B

## 4 Key milestones:

1. Stage 1 Consultation – COMPLETE

Joint response by SCDC and SCC issued.

2. Stage 2 Consultation – AWAITED

Should provide greater detail on all aspects of the development.  
Expected in 2015.

3. Stage 3 Consultation – 2015/2016

This is likely to be the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)  
complete with Environmental Statement.

4. Submission of DCO to the Planning Inspectorate – 2016/2017?

# Where are we now?

- JLAG – Joint Local Authority’s Group – Suffolk Coastal District Council & Suffolk County Council – Members from each Authority:-
  - Officers update Members on emerging issues;
  - usually meet monthly;
  - agendas and minutes published;
- PPA – Planning Performance Agreement:-
  - Original version on website;
  - EDF currently seeking an update – current version limits financial support to Towns and Parish Council’s – JLAG are against this.
- Officers regularly meeting with EDF Energy to discuss proposals for SZC BUT have not seen a comprehensive package of proposals. Update JLAG where possible in accordance with PPA.

# The application process.

## The six steps

The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has **28 days** to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.

You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Inspectorate has **6 months** to carry out the examination.

There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

Pre-application

Acceptance

Pre-examination

Examination

Decision

Post-decision

Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project, such as your library. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult widely.

You can now register as an interested party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within **3 months**. The Secretary of State then has a further **3 months** to issue a decision on the proposal

# Local Authority progress since Stage 1 consultation



EDF Energy image, Stage 1  
consultation – proposed SZC

# EDF Energy's Current Position

- Hinkley Point C – has a Development Consent Order **BUT** no final financial investment decision
- Government strike price for future electricity generation has been agreed
- Sizewell C progress is dependent on Hinkley
- Last EDF newsletter October 2014 – advised Stage 2 of 3 stage consultation process to take place in 2015
- Creation of wetland habitat area in Leiston given planning permission (work not started on site)

# ENVIRONMENT

- We want Sizewell C (construction phase and finished buildings) to be an environmental exemplar project
- Unlike Hinkley Sizewell C is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on a highly sensitive coastline
- EDF must manage environmental issues to *avoid, minimise, enhance* and *offset* their environmental impact (mitigation hierarchy)
- Working with environmental organisations we have published principles covering:
  - *Ecology, Access, Design, Estate (published on website)*

# DESIGN OF SIZEWELL C

- We want the design to be fitting with the coastal location and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- We want high standard at least as good as Sizewell B
- Design principles
  - Number of buildings on the site – domes, turbine halls, support buildings
  - Temporary development as well – campus, park and ride buildings

# TRANSPORT

- The two Councils are committed to arguing for a 4 villages bypass
- Recognise that EDF may not be the sole contributor to the scheme
- Approaching Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and Government Ministers to seek financial support
- We want to see some proposals for the B1122 from EDF and a response to those in the community calling for the D2 “by-pass”
- Seek mitigation for any significant impacts elsewhere such as park and ride sites
- Highway Authority pushing EDF to improve its mitigation proposals

# CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY

- Very large scale construction operation;
- Significant period of time for disruption to the Suffolk coast;
- Disruption of visitor patterns, damaging to the appearance;
- Links to transport issues – hierarchy for material delivery to site – Sea, Rail, Land;
- Significant mitigation required;
- Where mitigation inadequate – compensation;
- Park and Rides preferred sites – north of Wickham Market and Darsham (1000 car spaces at each);
- No freight management centre on A14.

# ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

- It needs to be demonstrated that a single campus option is less damaging than alternatives;
- Require appropriate mitigation and compensation for impacts on host communities;
- Robust measures required to mitigate any impacts on wider housing market.

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRATEGY

- Potential to deliver significant local education and employment benefits;
- Working with EDF and Government to lever maximum benefit for Suffolk;
- Negative economic impacts – impact on tourist trade, wider business community;
- Impacts linked to other areas such as transport proposals not being up to scratch.

# COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- Impacts on the local host communities – during construction and operation;
- EDF to minimise negative effects;
- Appropriate mechanism to ensure quality of life is maintained and enhanced;
- Continuing to lobby Government to ensure we get a fair deal on community benefits if SZC is consented.

# Next Steps

- Stage 2 consultation – Summer 2015?
- 8 weeks long – tricky if July/August?
- PPA update – likely to be less money available from EDF for engagement.
- [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) – Sizewell pages – dedicated to the project.
- Dedicated email address: [sizewellc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sizewellc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk)
- Regular newsletters proposed by joint local authorities.
- Team of officers supporting Members.