

Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities Group meeting

9 November 2012

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Meeting Notes

In attendance:

- Cllr Andy Smith – **Vice-Chair** SCDC Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Protection
- Cllr Trevor Hawkins SCDC & Leiston TC
- Cllr Geoff Holdcroft SCDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development
- Cllr Andrew Nunn SCDC Cabinet Member for Green Environment
- Cllr Tony Cooper SCDC for Leiston
- Cllr Judy Terry SCC Cabinet Member for Economic Development
- Cllr Tony Goldsmith SCC for Halesworth
Assistant to Cabinet Member for Roads & Transport
- Cllr Andrew Reid SCC for Wilford
- Cllr Richard Smith MVO SCC for Leiston & Aldeburgh

Supporting Officers:

- Stephen Baker SCDC/Waveney Chief Executive
- Philip Ridley SCDC/Waveney Head of Planning Services
- Graham Saward JEPU District Emergency Planning Officer
- Bob Chamberlain SCDC Principal Planning Officer, Major Projects
- Joanna Jones SCDC Project Support Officer
- Paul Wood SCDC/SCC Sizewell C Project Manager
- Bryn Griffiths SCC Assistant Director for the Environment
- John Pitchford SCC Spatial Planning Manager
- Suzanne Buck SCC - Transport

From Planning Inspectorate (PINS)

Mark Wilson

Planning Inspectorate Manager (PINS) Sizewell C Case Team

Katherine Chapman

Planning Inspectorate Officer (PINS) Sizewell C Case Team

Observing

Dr Therese Coffey, MP

Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal

Apologies:

Cllr Ray Herring

SCDC Leader of Council

Viv Hotten

SCDC Communications Manager

Cllr Guy McGregor - **Chair**

SCC Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning

Cllr Rae Leighton

SCC for Blything

Dr Daniel Poulter MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

Peter Aldous MP

Member of Parliament for Waveney

Summary of Action Points:

1. *Agreed by consensus best fit date to visit Associated Development Sites is 12th December 2012 starting at 9:00am. Project Office to confirm detail*
2. *AS agreed to take away action to discuss with Ray Herring Leader SCDC, regarding actions required if dedicated Cabinet Meeting necessary to discuss Stage 1 consultation response*
3. *PW/JJ to load link to Sizewell Internet Site to allow SCDC/SCC/JLAG and MPs to access the Public Exhibition venues/dates through Stage 1*
4. *PW to discuss with EDFE as to whether they will be issuing Stage 1 documentation at the pre-Briefing event for District and County Councillors on the 20th November 2012*
5. *JLAG agreed that a paper copy of the 28 page summary will be sent to all District and County Councillors. Project Office to Action*
6. *JLAG agreed that the Group would receive paper copies of the Summary, Main and Transport Documents. Project Office to Action*
7. *JLAG agreed that the Environmental Information would be available via the Web, and that paper copies would be available in key areas. Project Office to Action.*
8. *To use the meeting of the chair and vice-chair in early December to determine a clear approach to achieving the four villages by pass and understanding the blockages to achieving this objective*
9. *Priority to obtain an assessment traffic levels during the construction period*
10. *4 Village By Pass meeting now scheduled for 5th December 2012 between chair vice chair and supporting officersw*
11. *AS requested that JT prepare a paper on accommodation and tourism legacy to be forwarded to the Project Office ahead by 14 Jan*

NB: Post Meeting Note:

EDF will be sending the Summary and the Main Document to all SCDC, SCC and WDC Councillors on the launch day for Stage 1 Consultation.

Item 1: Welcome & introductions by Vice Chair, Cllr Andy Smith

Item 2: Presentation on the National Infrastructure Planning Process

MW/KC both leading members of the PINS Project Team at Hinckley, provided an overview of the PINS consenting process and to outlined lessons learnt from their experiences at Hinckley, as Sizewell starts its journey with Stage 1 Consultation.

PINS gave an extensive review of the consenting process which can take upwards of 3+ years, is designed through 6 core headlines with key timelines &/or milestones set, running to calendar days and often with statutory maxima set to a particular stage of the process. (See table over).

Six Stage of Consenting Process		Timeline/Milestone
1	Pre-application	c.2 years
2	Acceptance	*28 days
3	Pre-Examination	c. 3 months
4	Examination	*6 months
5	Recommend/Decision	*3 + 3 month
6	Post Decision	*6 week window
*calendar days/statutory maxima		

Sizewell C is entering into the Pre-application stage which can take up to two years. During this phase EDFE are the Developer lead. PINS overviewed their view of the role for Local Authorities as Statutory Consultees', which includes:

- i. Design of SOCC, negotiation of s106 agreements, advice on adequacy of consultation, Local Impact Report, enforcement, advocacy, assistance, information source, local voice, negotiations of Planning Performance Agreements
- ii. Utilise the Section 55 Checklist to ensure that all the requirements and conditions of the pre-application stage have been satisfied adequately and fully i.e. documents, plans, consultations, have views been gathered, what was undertaken to action or mitigate the views of the Consultees
- iii. Parish Councillors/Council Members will need to be clear on when they are representing a local group or expressing their personal view. Must engage with the developer during this stage, as it is opportunity to influence the proposals
- iv. Policy Context it is critical to identify what hasn't been agreed upon, keep members engaged throughout and ensure briefing and communications are constant
- v. PINS were clear that it is important to register as an interested party and receive all information in regards to process and meetings
- vi. PINS will not comment on the developer's consultation until the acceptance decision is issued and pre-examination commences
- vii. The Examination Stage is inquisitorial, led by the (Panel of) Inspectors

- viii. PINS stressed at this point that they have absolutely no power to change the application and that it is LA responsibilities to ensure that both engagement and consultation has been robust through the process of pre-application
- ix. Phase 2, Acceptance phase, LA's then have 14 working days in which to review and comment on the adequacy of the consultation response and report from the Developer (EDF)
- x. PINS expressed that the whole process is "open" with no closed door meetings, it is subject to an overall statutory timeline, and PINS are available to support and answer any questions arising out of the process

Item 7: Stage 1 Consultation – Key Dates

At request of Councillor Reid, Item 7 was agreed to be discussed as the next Agenda item.

PW distributed updated Stage 1 Consultation Timetable and printout of EDF Public Exhibitions Schedule available at (<http://www.edfenergy.com/media-centre/press-news/Sizewell-C-Time-to-have-your-say.shtml>) to all members of JLAG.

PW took JLAG through the timetable now that Stage 1 dates are confirmed from 21st November 2012 and concluding 6th February 2013. This was a significant increase to the timeline from the original 8 weeks proposed by EDFE.

PW only outstanding event is JLAG visit to the proposed C site and 15 AD sites, which needed to be organised for December.

PW confirmed that Community Forum had commenced on 8th November 2012, informal networking session where EDF discussed S1 and introduced Brian Stewart, the Forum's Independent Chair.

PW overviewed process, and initial response for EDFE by 14th December and response then moves to Cabinet as follows:

Deadline for SCC: 4th January 2013 to go to Cabinet on 29th January 2013
Deadline for SCDC: 23rd January 2013 to go to Cabinet on 5th February 2013

Action: Agreed by consensus best fit date to visit Associated Development Sites is 12th December 2012 starting at 9:00am. Project Office to confirm detail.

Action: AS agreed to take away action to discuss with Ray Herring Leader SCDC, regarding actions required if dedicated Cabinet Meeting may be necessary.

Action: PW/JJ to load link to Sizewell Internet Site to allow SCDC/SCC/JLAG and MPs to access the Public Exhibition venues/dates through Stage 1.

Item 3: Review Notes from 6 July meeting

It was agreed that the notes of the 28 September 2012 were a true reflection of that meeting, and all Action Points outstanding were now closed.

GS updated Group on Item 5 of the Meeting Notes that Emergency Arrangements Consultation had been rescheduled from 7th January 2013 to 8th April 2013.

Item 4: Sizewell C Programme Update

PW confirmed that the Stage 1 consultation documentation will comprise the following:

- i. Executive Summary
- ii. Main Document
- iii. Preliminary Environmental Information
- iv. Transport Document

Action:

- i. PW to discuss with EDFE as to whether they will be issuing Stage 1 documentation at the pre-Briefing event for District and County Councillors on the 20th November 2012*
- ii. JLAG agreed that a paper copy of the 28 page summary will be sent to all District and County Councillors*
- iii. JLAG agreed that the Group would receive paper copies of the Summary, Main and Transport Documents*
- iv. JLAG agreed that the Environmental Information would be available via the Web, and that paper copies would be available in key areas*

NB: Post Meeting Note:

EDF will be sending the Summary and the Main Document to all SCDC, SCC and WDC Councillors on the launch day for Stage 1 Consultation.

Item 5: Transport Mitigation Timelines

Suzanne Buck SCC – presented brief report to group outlining the differing timelines by normal lines or ipc process.

Focus was on transport volumes and four village by pass. Different approaches to mitigate the timeline constraints, SB confirmed that component parts have already been undertaken in regards to the issues, but currently any further investment is cost prohibitive and requires the Stage 1 Documentation to be released in order to understand the impact to East Suffolk, that it is EDF's responsibility to mitigate the impact of vehicles.

Action:

- i. To use the meeting of the chair and vice-chair in early December to determine a clear approach to achieving the four villages by pass and understanding the blockages to achieving this objective*
- ii. Priority to obtain an assessment traffic levels during the construction period*
- iii. 4 Village By Pass meeting now scheduled for 5th December 2012 between chair vice chair and supporting officers*

Item 6: JLAG Engagement Event (Paper 2)

PW outlined proposals for the Event booked for 15th January 2013, at Snape Maltings

- EDF to set out their S1 proposals
- Breakout workshops facilitated by officers
- Breakout Groups consider proposals relating to : Main Site; AD Sites; Overarching Issues – Environment; Transport and Socio-economic impact

Discussion on invitee's to the Event, and Group voted to follow last event format

Item 8: Future Agenda Items

Members agreed that the following items should be covered at forthcoming meetings:

14 Dec meeting:

1. Stage 1 consultation
2. Site Visits
3. Transport & Four Village By Pass (feedback from meeting of chair & vice-chair)
4. Associated Development sites

21 Jan meeting: (Monday)

1. Feedback from engagement event
2. Housing Legacy
3. Final opportunity to comment on Stage 1 response before report goes to Cabinet

Action: AS requested that JT prepare a paper on accommodation and tourism legacy to be forwarded to the Project Office ahead by 14 Jan.

Item 9: Any Other Business

Dealt with Future agenda items as above.