

Paper 1



Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG)

**Friday 1 June 2012 at 2.00pm
Suffolk Coastal District Council Chamber**

Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Guy McGregor (SCC Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning) - Chair
Cllr Andy Smith (SCDC, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Coastal Protection) – Vice-Chairman
Cllr Andrew Nunn (SCDC, Portfolio Holder for Green Environment)
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft (SCDC, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economic Development)
Cllr Judy Terry (SCC, Portfolio Holder for Greenest County and Economic Development)
Cllr Rae Leighton (SCC, Blything)
Cllr Ray Herring (SCDC, Leader)
Cllr Richard Smith, MVO (SCC, Leiston/Aldeburgh)
Cllr Tony Cooper (SCDC & Leiston TC)
Cllr Tony Goldson (SCC, Halesworth)
Cllr Trevor Hawkins (SCDC & Leiston TC)

Supporting Officers:

Bob Chamberlain (SCDC, Principal Planning Officer, Major Projects)
Bryn Griffiths (SCC, Assistant Director for the Environment)
John Pitchford (SCC, Spatial Planning Manager)
Paul Wood (SCDC/SCC, Sizewell C Project Manager)
Viv Hotten (SCDC, Communications Officer)
Robert Prince (SCDC/Waveney, Head of Strategic Housing and Tenant Services)

Apologies:

Therese Coffey, MP; Cllr Andrew Reid (SCC, Wilford), Stephen Baker, Philip Ridley, Nicky Corbett

Summary of Action Points:

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- Chair and Vice-chair to liaise with Project Office to determine how notes can be made available more promptly through the website
 - Information about housing legacy legislation to Cllr Andy Smith, and this will be passed on to Dr Therese Coffey MP (BC)
 - SZC Project Team to approach EDFE for resources through the PPA to enable town and parish councils to respond to the consultation process in an informed and thorough manner
 - SZC Project Team to give the geographic scope of the SPLG some consideration as a means for engagement with Town and Parish Councils
 - SZC Project Team to discuss with EDFE the option of redacted documents which could be made available in the event of an FOI request
 - SZC Project Team to discuss EDFE/CEFAS input at the next meeting (Coastal Processes)
 - SZC Project Team agreed to discuss a tour of the proposed SZC site with EDFE colleagues at the next Core Project Team meeting on 20 June
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1. Welcome and Introductions by the Chairman, Cllr Guy McGregor.
2. Review notes of the last meeting (April 20th)

All actions from the previous meetings had been completed. The notes were agreed as a true record. It was agreed that in the interest of openness, the notes should be available on the website before the following meeting. Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to facilitate a means whereby this would be possible. **ACTION: Chair/Vice-Chair/SZC Project Office**

3. Update on Sizewell C Programme (Paul Wood)

The Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) Board met in early May. Key discussion points:

- i. Media speculation over EDF investment due to:
 - Energy Market reform negotiations between generators and government (decision later this year)
 - Negotiations between developers and govt over the Funded Decommissioning Plan
 - French Elections – perceived change of direction from new President

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- ii Delay in Civils contract at HPC: EDF are in the 'preferred bidder' stage – contract to be signed at end of year and press speculation about EDF stalling is unfounded
- iii EDFE/SCC/SCDC have an agreement on SZC work packages until end September 2012 and beginning of Stage 1 Consultation
- iv Transport work-package has been re-worked to include the option to work up consultation for the four villages by-pass (4VBP)
- v. Flamanville: EDFE remains bullish about delays and rising costs, accepting that there are lessons to be learnt and that issues will be ironed out. (Members agreed that delays were mainly due to the lengthy discussions on the design of the reactor the Generic Design Assessment process in the UK should avoid these delays)

Members discussed the merits of early engagement with EDFE on issues such as transport (road/rail/sea) in the early stages of the PPA work-packages.

Members were assured that early EDFE consultancy work focuses on road and rail as a major issue. EDFE has agreed to fund Suffolk County Council transport consultants as part of the PPA, to ensure that the local authorities scrutinise and challenge EDFE. Other nuclear sites do not have close access by rail, therefore EDFE wish to exploit the opportunity, although they are reluctant to transport high volumes of staff on the local branch line, partly due to the seven level crossings between Saxmundham and Leiston. It is recognised that the road infrastructure has to be improved before the build can start and EDFE are being pressed on this issue.

Tripartite Meeting with Planning Inspectorate (PINS)/EDFE: This meeting took place in April and the focus was on the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC), the Local Impact Report and the Statement of Common Ground. Advice is for local authorities to prepare well in advance - a key learning point from the 'ferocious' timetable in Somerset. Local Authorities (LAs) are challenged to test the adequacy of EDFE's consultation. The key message being that LAs should support and assist communities in engaging with the applicant, but not confuse them by complicating the engagement process. LA consultation with the public should cease just before and during the EDFE consultation stages. Tri-partite meetings will continue quarterly and the Planning Inspectorate welcomed the opportunity to present to JLAG in the autumn.

The Suffolk Constabulary is keen to agree some activity under the PPA and have met with the SZC Project Manager and others; their request for resources under the PPA is being considered.

The **Socio- Economic Work-package** has begun.

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Hinkley Point C (HPC) – Somerset LAs have submitted their Local Impact Report and EDFE will be responding next week. The Statement of Common Ground has also been submitted and Planning Inspectorate open hearings have taken place in Somerset. Earthworks are continuing. EDFE will declare their commitment to the HPC project by end of 2012. (Note: The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) has been subsumed into the Planning Inspectorate. Although still abiding by strict time guidelines, the submission to the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change could add up to three months to the decision process.)

4. Accommodation & Housing (Bob Chamberlain)

Robert Prince joined Bob Chamberlain to answer questions following the presentation. Before beginning, it was emphasised that discussions are still at a very early stage and that census data is also needed.

The following issues were raised for discussion following the presentation:

- Legislation determines that a developer cannot provide permanent housing legacy – could be over-scaled for employment after construction. **ACTION: BC agreed to send information about housing legacy legislation to Cllr Andy Smith, and this will be passed on to Dr Therese Coffey MP**
- EDFE will sub-contract for services on the campus sites; local economy will still benefit
- New purpose-built caravan/campsite?
- Three campuses are proposed for HPC (1 on-site/2 in Bridgwater)
- Housing mitigations at HPC include empty house grants and top-up grants to bring accommodation up to standard for rental
- The first accommodation sub-group meeting between SCDC/SCC/EDFE has just taken place within the Socio-Economic PPA work-package
- Operational phase workers will live within 25 miles of site and will build up gradually over the construction phase
- Stage 1 Consultation – sound evidence base needed (housing market intelligence) - impact on existing housing /campus options/legacy/latent housing/mitigation
- Accommodation above shops in market towns – grants from EDFE (fire safety etc) and also for housing associations would be desirable
- Council Housing Team can assist (as part of the PPA)
- Issue of campus sites has been contentious in Somerset - hopefully we can gain something beneficial by working up what we need well in advance

5. Community Engagement Event

The Chairman thanked the project team for arranging the event.

SZC Project Manager provided some feedback, which is available as a Power-point document on the Suffolk Coastal website:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/sizewell/JLAGmeetingnotes/

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Members reiterated that the event had broadly achieved what it set out to do, adding however, that it was disappointing that local businesses had not been well represented, or young people. This concern was noted and officers agreed that in future this would need addressing.

A key message will be sent back to EDFE, which will include the need for parishes to have access to resources enabling them to give an informed response to the consultation. Members showed concern that consultation documents will be many in number and will need a professional level of understanding. Officers agreed to try and seek this funding from EDFE through the PPA. **ACTION: Sizewell C Project Team**

School youth councils would be invited to future events which might be held out of school hours (early evening/weekend). (Members noted that the leaflets produced by the SC&H AONB on engaging 7 – 11 year-olds were excellent <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/downloads.asp?PageId=229>)

It was also noted that Rendlesham PC had not been invited as they were not members of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG). Members queried whether the scope of the SPLG should be questioned. (Two delegates from Rendlesham PC were accommodated at the event.) **ACTION: SZC Project Team to give the scope of the SPLG some consideration.**

Decision to not invite pressure groups

The Sizewell C Project Manager explained the background to the decision not to invite pressure groups to attend the event and asked members to consider whether this is still the preferred approach. Members agreed that the decision was right, bearing in mind the purpose of the event was to engage with stakeholders and focus on the impacts and opportunities of the proposed Sizewell C. Furthermore, this event represented one of a number of means of engagement with interested parties. JLAG also agreed that it had been important to avoid the discussion being diverted to the principle of nuclear power.

6. Communications Update (Viv Hotten)

An updated Media Strategy had been re-circulated. Members had no issues regarding the strategy but asked that press releases did not use the term 'senior members of JLAG'. It was agreed that in future this term would be avoided. All agreed that the Media Strategy should be adopted.

7. Freedom of Information

EDFE marks relevant documents as UK Protected and explains why; others are Not UK Protected. Members were asked to refer to the SZC project office if they are unsure about releasing information if requested. It was agreed that should a document be UK Protected, it would be useful to have a redacted version which

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could be made available to the public. **ACTION: SZC Project Office to discuss with EDFE**

8. Future Agenda Items

Members agreed that Coastal Processes should be addressed at the next meeting, although this might require some input from EDFE/CEFAS. Officers will discuss and feed back to the group before the next meeting. **ACTION: EDFE/CEFAS input at the next meeting to be discussed (SZC Project Team)**

Members requested a tour of the proposed SZC site. **ACTION: Officers agreed to discuss this with EDFE colleagues at the next Core Project Team meeting on 20 June**

It was agreed that links with council colleagues at Sedgemoor & West Somerset DCs and Somerset County Council should be strengthened. It is proposed that the next New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) meeting will be in Suffolk, where relationships can be further fostered.

9. AOB - None

10. Date of next meeting, Friday 6 July (2pm, SCDC Chamber)

Dates of future meetings:

Friday 17 August 2pm (subject to confirmation)
Friday 28 September 2pm
Friday 9 November 2pm
Friday 14 December 2pm

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27/06/2012