

Paper 1



Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG)

**Friday 20 April 2012 at 2.00pm
Suffolk Coastal District Council Chamber**

Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Andrew Reid (SCC, Wilford)
Cllr Andy Smith (SCDC, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Coastal Protection) – Vice-Chairman
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft (SCDC, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economic Development)
Cllr Judy Terry (SCC, Portfolio Holder for Greenest County and Economic Development)
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)
Nicky Corbett (SCDC/SCC, Sizewell C Project Support Officer)
Peter Holborn (SCC, Landscape and Biodiversity Team Leader)
Paul Wood (SCDC/SCC, Sizewell C Project Manager)
Philip Ridley (SCDC/WVY, Head of Planning Services)
Stephen Baker (SCDC/WVY, Chief Executive)

Apologies: Peter Aldous, MP; Therese Coffey, MP; Cllr Guy McGregor; Cllr Andrew Nunn; Cllr Rae Leighton

Action Summary

Kevin Rodger will be providing the group with supply chain information in the near future

Therese Coffey's office to be contacted re District Council attendance at 4 parishes meeting (GH)

Draft media strategy and press release will be emailed to members at a later date for comment (NC)

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Mitigation and Community Benefit at Hinkley Point C; Slides to be emailed to members (NC)

Introductions

The Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and opened the meeting, introducing Peter Holborn from the County Council who would be providing the group with a Landscape and Ecology update.

1. Review of the notes from the last meeting and actions arising

- Letters in connection with the proposed Business Rates Retention for renewable energy to the CLG and DECC have been circulated to members.
- Press Releases to be discussed under agenda item 6.
- Kevin Rodger will be providing the group with supply chain information in the near future.
- NNLAG meeting and Engagement Event to be discussed under agenda items 3 and 5.
- Draft media strategy to be discussed under agenda item 6.

After minor amendments, the notes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

2. Update on Sizewell C (SZC) Programme

Four Villages By-pass meeting

Members and senior council officers from Suffolk Coastal District Council have met with the 3 local MPs to discuss proposals to lobby EDFE for funding towards the Four Villages By-pass (4VBP). Their discussion was summarized. The 3 MPs were largely in support of the need for the 4VBP in the light of the extra traffic from the construction of the proposed SZC power station. Therese Coffey said they would be meeting the parishes in late April. (The county council member for Wilford ward has been invited to the meeting with parishes. It was agreed that Therese Coffey's office should be contacted to suggest that a District Councillor is also invited. **ACTION: GH**)

SPLG

Senior officers and members have met with representatives from the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG) to discuss community benefit and mitigation. The meeting was very productive for both parties and it was agreed to meet regularly when the need arose.

Other current activity

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- Skills workshop was held by EDFE on 18 April at Copdock. Approx 50 delegates attended. Presentations were given by Angela Pearce (Head of SZC Nuclear New Build), Jenny Chapman (Skills) and Chris Squires (Supply Chain) from EDFE, and Andrew Hunter from QUOD (who are working for EDFE on the Socio-Economic impact studies)
- The SZC Project Team will be visiting EDFE at their headquarters (The Qube, London) for a tri-partite meeting with the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) which has subsumed the Infrastructure Planning Commission
- The next SZC Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) Board Meeting will be held at Suffolk Coastal on 2 May 2012
- SCDC officers will be meeting Suffolk Police to update them on SZC progress, on 25 April
- Community Engagement Event on 28 May 2012

Hinkley Point C (HPC)

A paper was distributed detailing the PINs examination process which indicates a very tight timetable for the next 9 months. The Hinkley experience highlights the need for local government responses to be in-depth and of the highest quality when making representation to PINs and emphasizes that LAs must be prepared in advance. Personal representation at the preliminary meeting is prohibited and submissions cannot be made once the enquiry is underway, which has led to frustration amongst groups in Somerset. It was suggested that a guide in the form of brief bullet-points could be produced to advise the community that representations must be made to the DCO in writing (max 500 words) within the six-week window provided.

Flamanville, France

The build programme for EDF's new nuclear plant in Flamanville is predicted to be twice as long as anticipated, at twice the cost. It will come on line in 2016 instead of the predicted 2012. Members suggested that EDFE might be challenged for some answers to the delay and the increased cost.

New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

Officers and members have recently attended the NNLAG meeting in Anglesey. The emphasis for discussion was the HPC submission, the NNLAG Community Benefit paper and Skills and Supply Chain.

3. Landscape and Ecology (Peter Holborn)

Following a presentation, members of the group were asked whether they agreed with the priorities stated:

- Maintaining access to public amenity throughout the build and operation of SZC
- Maintaining green space between Leiston and Sizewell
- Compensatory habitat

Members expressed their agreement that the right priorities had been identified and recognize that sterling work is already being done to protect the AONB and SSSI should the new build be approved; they also noted that the first consultation

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phase will guide EDF Energy in their landscape and ecology vision before presenting firmer plans at Stage 2 consultation.

EDF Energy will also be key partners in the implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan; and have met on a number of occasions with the Minsmere Levels User Group. EDF Energy would be legally bound to compensate designated habitat loss at a ratio of 2:1.

In conclusion, members of the group added that input from key landowners surrounding the site would be crucial. Officers were able to re-assure members that the RSPB and SC&H are already actively involved with discussions. There was also eagerness from the group to ensure the design of the build would be as sympathetic as possible with its surroundings, given that it was placed within the AONB. It was suggested that SZC could be an exemplar in its field due to its placement within the AONB; this should be the local authorities' aim.

4. Engagement Event (Paul Wood)

Key aims and draft agenda were summarized. Draft agenda was approved by members.

Members agreed that mixed workshops discussing the same issues would be the preferred choice; they would also like to see young people represented and asked organizers to ensure this would be the case.

The event will demonstrate a united front from the two authorities and will show a commitment to stay engaged with the local community throughout the process. Feedback from the delegates will inform JLAG as to how often events of this kind should occur.

5. Communications

SCDC Press Officer was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. Therefore the draft media strategy and press release will be emailed to members at a later date for comment. **ACTION: NC**

6. Mitigation and Community Benefit at Hinkley Point C

A brief presentation to members summarized the monetary value apportioned to mitigation and community benefit at HPC. They give an indication of what might be expected for SZC but as the two sites vary geographically and economically, there is bound to be a variance. The presentation will be emailed to members. **ACTION: NC**

8. Future Agenda Items

Suggestions were tabled and following discussion, it was agreed that a de-brief following the Community Engagement event and Housing should be on the agenda at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Emergency Response Centre: Members were alerted to the public consultation events at Sizewell Sport and Social Club in connection with the planning

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application for an Emergency Response Centre in Leiston. Copies of the invitation were circulated.

FOI/EIR

There was some discussion on the release of JLAG presentation material to the public. While information shared at JLAG meetings is often available publically, some is still in draft and will not be available before public consultation. The local authorities strive to be as open and transparent as possible but if members are asked for information and are unsure about its confidentiality, it is advisable to contact the SZC Project Office before releasing it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:45pm.

Date of next meeting:

Friday 1 June at 2pm, Suffolk Coastal District Council Chamber

Suggested dates for future meetings:

Friday 6 July 2pm
Friday 17 August 2pm
Friday 28 September 2pm
Friday 9 November 2pm
Friday 14 December 2pm

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13/06/2012