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Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG)

**Friday 9 March 2012 at 3.15pm
Suffolk Coastal District Council Chamber**

Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Andy Smith (SCDC, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Coastal Protection)
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft (SCDC, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economic Development)
Cllr Guy McGregor (SCC, Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning)
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)
Kevin Rodger (SCC, Policy Manager, Skills for the Future)
Nicky Corbett (SCDC/SCC, Sizewell C Project Support Officer,)
Paul Wood (SCDC/SCC, Sizewell C Project Manager)
Philip Ridley (SCDC, Head of Planning Services)

Also in attendance for Item 2 on Agenda:

Angela Pearce (EDFE, Head of Off-site Developments, Sizewell C Nuclear New Build)
Tom McGarry (EDFE, Communications Manager, Sizewell C Nuclear New Build)

Apologies: Peter Aldous, MP; Therese Coffey, MP; Stephen Baker; Andrew Nunn

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Action Summary

1. Letters in connection with the proposed Business Rates Retention for renewable energy have been sent to the CLG and DECC. Members asked to have copies of the letters **(NC)**
 2. A Press Release in connection with the formation of JLAG will be drafted for consideration before the next meeting **(VH/DC)**
 3. Kevin Rodger agreed to provide the group with additional information on the number and type of companies that might benefit from the SZC supply chain **(KR)**
 4. New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) meeting is on 17/18 April. Suffolk Coastal will offer to host the autumn meeting **(PW)**
 5. Engagement Event: Paul Wood agreed to work up a more detailed proposal and consult members of the group **(PW)**
 6. SCDC Press and Communications Officer, Viv Hotten invited comments on the draft media strategy. Following comments, a revised draft will be presented at the next meeting. **(VH/DC)**
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1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves. The Chairman welcomed Angela Pearce and Tom McGarry from EDF Energy.

2. EDFE Presentation – Angela Pearce

Angela Pearce gave a comprehensive presentation, bringing members up to date with the progress towards the proposed new build and detailing some of the statistics arising from the consultation exercise at Hinkley Point C (HPC).

Following the presentation, members were invited to debate the issues arising.

- It was agreed that the proposed build would give the community the opportunity to maximise the benefits to the local economy and develop a skills base. However, EDFE would need to address the negative impact on the area with a series of mitigation plans
- Engagement with schools and FE/HE establishments is crucial at an early stage: EDFE responded by saying that a Skills & Employment workshop was due to take place shortly after Easter
- Could the community benefit package mirror the French model?
- Businesses need to be encouraged to become 'fit for nuclear' and negotiations need to take place with the offshore wind sector, to avoid duplication in the skills development required across both projects. Officers in the Waveney District have begun discussions with offshore wind companies

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- EDFE need to engage with the Port of Felixstowe when studying rail options; the County Council is in the process of producing a Rail Strategy for Suffolk
- EDFE need to work closely with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- In light of the failure to date to find a suitable site for a national spent fuel repository, the Sizewell B (SZB) spent fuel legacy was wrongly predicted and members are hopeful that there will be an enlightened view on spent fuel from Sizewell C (SZC)
- Members were keen to question EDFE about the possibility of legacy housing: EDFE responded by saying that accommodation around HPC will not be suitable for family housing but would be akin to student campus accommodation
- EDFE Community Forum: this group will be set up about one month ahead of the Stage 1 consultation period, which is likely to be towards the end of this year

The Chairman thanked Angela Pearce and Tom McGarry for their presentation.

(Angela Pearce and Tom McGarry left the meeting at this stage.)

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

Letters in connection with the proposed Business Rates Retention for renewable energy have been sent to the CLG and DECC. Members asked to have copies of the letters. **ACTION: NC**

Transport presentation slides have been sent to members.

An Engagement paper will be discussed at this meeting (circulated previously)

A draft Communications Strategy will be discussed at this meeting (circulated previously)

A Press Release in connection with the formation of JLAG will be drafted before the next meeting. **ACTION: VH/DC**

The Chairman suggested that invited observers at future meetings might be Cllr Graham Newman (SCC, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools, and Young People's Services) and Cllr Colin Spence (SCC, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection).

4. Economic Impact Presentation (Item 6 on the agenda)

Kevin Rodger and Paul Wood gave a presentation on the likely economic and skills impact, based on studies in connection with HPC.

Members of the group agreed that urgent action is needed to raise awareness of the employment and supply chain opportunities that will be created by the

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construction. Companies should be encouraged to aim high and gain licenses to supply the UK nuclear industry.

Kevin Rodger agreed to provide the group with additional information on the number and type of companies that might benefit from the SZC supply chain.

ACTION: KR

EDF Energy has committed over £20m to the skills infrastructure in Somerset, with a large proportion invested in Bridgwater College. In comparison, none of the colleges in Suffolk are on the doorstep of SZC or dominates the local training offer in engineering. Both local authorities are committed to supporting EDFE in understanding and negotiating the county's training provider landscape.

5. Programme Update (Item 4 on the agenda)

- Meeting on 30 March with MPs, to debate A12 issues in light of SZC
- Meeting with members of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG) and Suffolk Coastal members and officers on 26 March at Suffolk Coastal
- New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) meeting on 17/18 April (Suffolk Coastal will offer to host the autumn meeting) **ACTION: PW**
- EDFE will be holding a modest skills event after Easter
- The next Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) Project Board meeting will be on 2 May

6. Engagement Event (Item 5 on the agenda) – paper previously circulated

Provisional date 28 May 2012 at Snape Maltings Britten Studio: All day, or finish early afternoon.

It was widely agreed that this event should be as inclusive as possible and that invitations should be extended across the District and represent a socio-economic balance to include education, skills, businesses, environment groups (e.g. RSPB) and community groups. The economic benefits will need to be articulated and a 2-way dialogue encouraged. EDFE will be invited to present at the event.

Paul Wood agreed to work up a more detailed proposal and consult members of the group. **ACTION: PW**

7. Media Strategy (draft paper previously circulated)

SCDC Press and Communications Officer, Viv Hotten invited comments on the draft paper.

It was agreed that key members/officers need to see Press Releases before they appear in the press (list to be compiled of who needs advance notification). EDFE should be made aware of press releases in advance and this practice should be reciprocated by EDFE. Factual accuracy must be checked.

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An extra bullet point on how to deal with reactionary press releases should be added; as should the intention to formulate a Communications Strategy.

Website information must be clear and accessible.

Following comments, a revised draft will be presented at the next meeting.

ACTION: VH/DC

8. Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that a regular agenda item should be Progress on Hinkley Point C. Next meeting should primarily be planning for the Engagement Event.

9. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Date of next meeting:

Friday 20 April at 2pm, Suffolk Coastal District Council Chamber

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25/04/2012