

Paper 1



Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG) 3 February 2012 at 2.00pm, Lindos Centre, Melton

Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Andrew Nunn (SCDC Portfolio Holder for the Green Environment & Leiston TC)
Cllr Andrew Reid (SCC Wilford)
Cllr Andy Smith (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Coastal Protection, SCDC)
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 (Portfolio Holder for Greenest County and Economic Development, SCC)
Cllr Ray Herring (SCDC, Leader)
Cllr Richard Smith (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)
John Pitchford (SCC, Spatial Planning Manager)
Nicky Corbett (Sizewell C Project Support Officer, SCDC/SCC)
Paul Wood (Sizewell C Project Manager, SCDC/SCC)
Stephen Baker (Chief Exec, Suffolk Coastal/Waveney)
Bryn Griffiths (SCC, Assistant Director for the Environment)
Suzanne Buck (SCC, Transport Team)
Dave Watson (SCC, Transport Team)

Observer

Therese Coffey, MP

Apologies: Peter Aldous, MP; Philip Ridley

1. Introduction

The Leader of SCDC opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves.

Paper 1

2. Agree Chairmanship

Andy Smith proposed Guy McGregor as Chair until June 2013 after which the first term of office would expire and there would then be a further election for Chair. Andy Smith was nominated as Vice-Chair. Tony Goldson seconded this proposal. All agreed.

3. Review the notes of the January 9th Meeting

All agreed the notes were a true record of the meeting and matters arising were covered on the agenda.

4. Agree Revised Terms of Reference (ToR)

The agreed changes to the draft ToR were highlighted and members were invited to make any comments. All agreed to adopt the revised version.

5. Update on Sizewell C Programme

EDFE are anticipating that lessons learned from Hinkley Point C (HPC) will assist in the smooth running of the SZC project. EDFE Executive has now signed off the go-ahead for the SZC Stage 1 consultation to take place during 2012 and a draft Stage 1 content paper has been drawn up. There are ongoing discussions around Business Rates Retention being applicable to renewable energy but not to nuclear. Leaders and Chief Execs of New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) will be receiving a letter from the Chair of the group asking for assistance with lobbying parliament. EDFE are in support of NNLAG on this subject.

Comments re Business Rates Retention:

It is the view of central government that IPC applications being of national significance, the local area should not solely or part benefit from business rates. However, there is still time for further discussion.

No business rates would be payable during planned and unplanned outages; this equated to several months last year.

Ed Davey MP has been appointed as Energy Secretary, following the resignation of Chris Huhne MP.

Charles Hendry MP is very engaged with this issue.

Paper 1

Action: PW/Chair/V-Chair

The Chair supports the belief that business rates should be retained, in whole or in part. A letter to this effect from the Chair and Vice-Chair using the NNLAG template, will be sent to DECC and CLG

EDFE are continuing to engage with the community through the Leiston office prior to publishing their Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) which is likely to be late summer. The EDFE Community Forum will be set up 1-2 months ahead of Stage 1.

The PPA Board will be presented with a Key Issues paper at the 8 February board meeting; the SZC Project Manager gave a précis of the content.

6. Transport Issues

Members of the Suffolk County Council Transport Team, Suzanne Buck and David Watson, gave a presentation on discussions to date and data received. EDFE will be contracting a new transport consultant in the near future, as the present company are fully engaged with HPC. It is hoped that the new appointment won't cause any duplication of work.

Action

Presentation to be emailed to members (SB/NC)

Questions/ Comments

Concerns about the capacity of the rolling stock will be addressed if there is increased use by the workforce.

Concerns about workforce mostly travelling by road will be considered.

The Chief Exec of SCDC assured members that EDFE have been made aware of the relatively large number of major developments in Suffolk while the SZC build is taking place. There is insufficient data to make a judgement at present on how this might affect the SZC build.

EDFE have been asked to consider all ports along the east coast, especially if Lowestoft is under pressure from the renewable energy sector. A Marine Offloading Facility (MOLF) is being considered for Sizewell.

There will further traffic surveys in May 2012 (following those carried out in May 2011) and a scoping report will be delivered before Stage 1. Members requested that traffic surveys be carried out during SZB fuel outage (every 18 months for approx 8 weeks) and during the summer period; this has already been raised with EDFE.

Paper 1

Material being excavated from the HPC site will be used to fill the redundant turbine hall at HPA. Discussions of a similar nature have not taken place with SZA – although trials for the peat to be used at Wallasea Island (RSPB) are imminent.

There was some discussion around the proposal for a Northern access road which is likely to be affected by the discovery of a protected bat species found on the Sizewell Belts. Rumours were allayed about a dual carriageway in Lovers Lane.

Concerns around the railway track from Ipswich – Westerfield will be picked up by the transport team and reported back at a future JLAG meeting.

7. Engagement with town and parish councils

A paper was distributed illustrating options for engaging with the community. There was some discussion around the options with none being the preferred way forward. It was agreed, however, that an event should take place to allow town and parish councils, the business community and skills/ training providers to understand the impacts and opportunities arising from the proposed development. Furthermore this event would be an opportunity to ask interested parties how they would like to be engaged as the process progresses.

It was noted that a number of organisations e.g. skills/ training providers, Suffolk Chamber, RSPB, Natural England are/ will be engaged in specific work packages.

Members agreed that it is the role of JLAG to engage with the wider community but not to an extent where they are overwhelmed with information.

The way forward

Members agreed that a general meeting inviting community stakeholders, business representative organisations and skills/ training providers would be useful. Once this first meeting has taken place, the group will be able to decide the format of regular engagement.

Action

PW to produce a paper for the next meeting setting out the scope of the proposed event in terms of attendees, themes to be covered and anticipated outcomes

8. Determination Route Map

The chart was distributed and explained; all accepted the content as correct. (The next meeting of the Sizewell Task Group is 5 March at 4pm.)

Paper 1

9. Communications Strategy

The document is still being drafted. Likely to suggest a clear strategy leading up to Stage 1 and then become reactive with a joint response from two authorities.

Key messages will be released at an early stage. It was suggested that the formation of JLAG and the first public event would warrant a press release.

Action: PW/Press & Comms

Press Release about the formation of JLAG ahead of the Sizewell Task Group Meeting on 5 March

10. Future Agenda Items

- Press & Communications
- Meeting with key people at EDFE
- Jobs & Skills
- Coastal Flooding issues

It was therefore proposed that the next meeting agenda contains:

EDFE Presentation; Economic Impact Presentation; Press & Communications

Action: PW

To request that representatives from EDFE attend the next meeting of JLAG

11. Any other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.30pm

12. Date for next meeting

Friday 9 March at 2.30pm (Venue to be determined)