

Joint Local Authority Group - Agenda and Notes

Friday 18 May 2.00pm

Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House

ATTENDEES – Councillors and MPs: Cllr Geoff Holdcroft (Chairman), Cllr Tony Fryatt, Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Cllr Andrew Reid, Cllr Graham Newman, Cllr Russ Rainger.

Apologies: Cllr Richard Smith (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ray Herring, Cllr Andy Smith, Cllr Jane Storey, Dr Dan Poulter MP, Therese Coffey MP, Peter Aldous MP.

ATTENDEES - Officers: Lisa Chandler (Sizewell C Planning Project Advisor SCDC), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities SCDC), Nick Khan (Strategic Director SCDC), Bryn Griffiths (AD Infrastructure & Waste / SZC Senior Responsible Officer SCC), Michael Moll (SCC Sizewell C Programme Director), Jai Raithatha (Economic Development SCC, from 3pm), John Pitchford (Head of Planning SCC), Steve Merry (Highways Authority SCC).

Apologies: Philip Ridley (Head of Planning & Coastal Management SCDC), Paul Wood (Head of Economic Development SCDC), Sharon Bleese (Coastal Manager South SCDC), Stephen Baker (Chief Executive SCDC), Aidan Dunn (Interim Director Growth Highways and Infrastructure SCC, Graeme Mateer (Highways Authority SCC), Judith Mobbs (Assistant Director Skills SCC), Paul Warmington (Skills SCC), Michael Gray (Skills SCC)

SCDC staff work jointly for Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.

1	Welcome and Introductions	14:00
2	Notes of last meeting 16 February 2018	14:05
3	EDF Energy Update from Officers (Lisa Chandler / Bryn Griffiths)	14:10
4	NNLAG Conference Report (Michael Moll)	14:25
5	Reflections from the JLAG visit to Hinkley Point C - Views of/learning from Somerset's local authorities - Feedback on build scale and infrastructure implications - Reflections what this means for our strategy for Sizewell C Lisa Chandler (Intro presentation with photos) / All	15:00
6	Update on other energy projects in Suffolk (Lisa Chandler)	15:20
7	Economic Development Update (Jai Raithatha)	15:35
8	SCDC SZC Task Group update (Lisa Chandler)	15.45
9	AOB Next meeting: 15 June 2pm	15.50

Meeting Notes:

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.

Item 2: Notes of last meeting 16 February 2018

The notes of last meeting were agreed.

Item 3: EDF Energy Update from Officers

Bryn Griffiths updated the group that EDF Energy was due to commence their workshop programme with local authorities and other statutory consultees to prepare for Stage 3. This engagement is planned over the summer months.

The group was updated on the progress towards a new Planning Performance Agreement/ resourcing proposal between each of the Councils and EDF Energy.

Bryn Griffiths also noted that there will be a new political leadership of the Conservative administration at Suffolk County Council. The new Leader was due to be nominated Thursday 24 May, who would then nominate a Sizewell C lead for the Council.

[After the meeting it was confirmed that Cllr Matthew Hicks will be the Leader of the Council and Cllr Richard Smith will retain his Sizewell C Cabinet role].

Item 4: NNLAG Conference Report

Michael Moll provided an overview of the recent conference of the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) in Essex. The presentation and subsequent discussions focussed on reflections of the experience from other local authorities, in particular Somerset and to some extent Anglesey, and the learning Suffolk local authorities need to take from this experience when dealing with Sizewell C.

Bryn Griffiths also referred to Suffolk County Council setting up a formal relationship with Somerset County Council to enable the Council to fully draw on Somerset's experience working with EDF Energy on Hinkley Point C.

Item 5: Reflections from the JLAG visit to Hinkley Point C

Lisa Chandler gave an overview of the recent visit of JLAG members to Hinkley Point C, to remind members of some of the key issues seen during the visit.

JLAG members had a constructive discussion of their main learning points from the visit, and how these may play out in the Sizewell C context. This was recorded at the meeting to feed into the Councils' lessons learnt depository.

Item 6: Update on other energy projects in Suffolk

Lisa Chandler updated JLAG on Scottish Power Renewables and National Grid Ventures proposals for cable routing and substations in the Sizewell/Leiston area. Scottish Power Renewables had now commenced their Stage 2 public consultation around their search area for cable routing and location of substations. National Grid Ventures are not at the formal pre-application stage as yet.

The two Local Authorities had concerns around different consenting regimes, the in-combination assessment of impacts, the need for coordination between energy providers to obtain optimum locations for energy development, and community compensation packages. These concerns had been raised by the two local authorities with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in a letter, and so far a meeting with the Energy Minister has been offered by BEIS.

Actions: Officers to follow up on setting up meetings with BEIS and MHCLG.

Further discussions to take place about the forum for the two local authorities to discuss these matters, and whether JLAG's Terms of Reference should include these matters in the future.

Item 7: Economic Development Update

Jai Raithatha explained that Suffolk Coastal District and Suffolk County Council Economic Development officers had met with their counterparts in Essex, to discuss areas where Essex could work with Suffolk.

The two Councils had now commissioned their own Economic Impact Assessment Study for Sizewell C. Consultants are due to report in September to JLAG.

Item 8: SCDC SZC Task Group update

Lisa Chandler gave a brief overview of the recent District Council's Sizewell C Task Group meeting, where officers provided an update on the Sizewell C timetable, the JLAG visit to Hinkley Point C, the other energy projects in the vicinity of Sizewell, as well as on the national proposals for a Geological Disposal Facility.

Item 9: AOB

Bryn Griffiths updated about the SEGway proposals, that the Department for Transport (DfT) has delayed a decision on the proposal until later in the year.

Actions: Suffolk County Council officers to talk to DfT as to why the Segway decision is being postponed, and the Leader of Suffolk County Council to send a formal letter to the Secretary of State for Transport emphasising the need for an early decision on funding.

Cllr Holdcroft mentioned that he and Cllr Smith had met with "Together Against Sizewell C" (TASC) in private meeting.

Next meeting: Friday 15 June, Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House.

Meeting closed at 16:15.