

Sizewell C update 27 February 2019

- 1. Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have published a report in response to the Sizewell C stage three consultation. The report, which draws upon the feedback from the town and parish councils' event, is to be considered by both Councils' Cabinets' and explains why both councils are disappointed by EDF Energy's lack of detailed proposals and calls upon the energy firm to work collaboratively to demonstrate the value of the proposed development for Suffolk. The joint proposed response will be considered by the councils' respective Cabinet meetings on Tuesday 12 March and Monday 11 March.**
2. The joint report makes it clear that whilst the authorities continue to support the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognise the significant benefits that such a development would bring, both councils are disappointed that EDF Energy's plans have not evolved as much as they had hoped between consultation stages 2 and 3. This means both councils are still not yet able to fully support the proposals.
3. The scale of investment surrounding development of a new site at Sizewell would be similar to the London 2012 Olympics, believed to be worth around £14 billion. The construction site would take up to 300 hectares of land, largely within the Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The development's construction workforce would be 5,600 workers at its peak, plus another 500 in supporting roles. Once in operation, the power station would create 900 permanent jobs. EDF Energy expects the development to generate £100m for the regional economy during construction and £40m each year during its operation.
4. With a project of such size and scale, the two local authorities need to be absolutely clear that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages before they offer their full support. Both authorities currently believe that a number of the impacts identified in EDF Energy's proposals are still not yet developed or evidenced sufficiently, so Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council are calling for EDF Energy to be collaborative and share more detail and information to satisfy current concerns. The offer is there to work with EDF Energy to help them develop their proposals and to resolve the necessary mitigation, in advance of their submission of an application to the Planning Inspectorate. It is in all parties' interest that the Sizewell C development becomes a proposition which can work in and for Suffolk.
5. Proposals for Sizewell C will be considered under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process which is part of the Planning Act 2008. The planning application will be examined by the Planning Inspectorate who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It will be the Secretary of State who makes the decision on whether the proposal will be approved.
6. Based on the nature of this planning process, both Suffolk councils have an important role to play in putting forward the views of the local community. As consultees, the councils are committed to doing all they can to make sure the development can work for the people of Suffolk as well as significantly contributing to the nation's energy needs. There will also be a key role for the councils in providing a Local Impact Report for the examination of the application by the Planning Inspectorate. The new East Suffolk Council will, as the local planning authority, be responsible for discharging the requirements (planning conditions) on the Development Consent Order and be responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of any DCO made.
7. EDF Energy's stage 3 consultation closes on 29 March 2019. We urge you to visit their website and take part in the consultation at: sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/ The reports can be found here [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-03-2019\).%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-03-2019).%20The%20Cabinet) and <http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=23397> Please can you share a copy of your Parish Council's submission with us at sizewellc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk