

SZC OVERSIGHT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Title of Meeting:	SZC Oversight Partnership		
Date:	27.03.25		
Place:	Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk Council, Riduna Park, Melton, IP12 1RT		
Time:	10:00 – 11:30		
Attendees:	East Suffolk Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Khan (Strategic Director) (Chair) • Philip Ridley (Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) • Bethany Rance (Energy Projects Manager) • Joanna Jonas (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive and Leader) (Minutes) Suffolk County Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Hancock (Assistant Director, Planning, Housing and Growth) • Andrew Rutter (Development Manager) Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Gordon (Corporate Manager - Economy & Business) Ipswich Borough Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Fairclough (IBC, Director – Operations and Place) West Suffolk Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Pursehouse (Director, Housing, Communities and Regulatory) 		
Apologies:	Chris Bally, Andrew Cook, Alex Wilson, Clara Peirson and Jemma Varela		

Glossary			
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load	HPC	Hinkley Point C
ACA	Ancillary Construction Area	IBC	Ipswich Borough Council
DoO	Deed of Obligation	MRN	Major Road Network
DoR	Discharge of Requirements	NNLAG	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
EEAS	East of England Ambulance Service	SCC	Suffolk County Council
ESC	East Suffolk Council	SNEEICB	Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care Board
FID	Final Investment Decision	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

GHI	Growth, Highways & Infrastructure	SZC	Sizewell C
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Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale	Action
1.	Welcome and introductions	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received as above. Introductions around the table were completed.</p> <p>The Chair reminded attendees of the purpose of the meeting. In essence, this is a forum for sharing information with the ability to escalate matters up if necessary. This group was established as part of the Deed of Obligation when it became clear there was no conduit in place for joining up the various organisations involved in the SZC project.</p> <p>These meetings are conducted under the 'Chatham House Rule' to facilitate the open sharing of information.</p>	
2.	Minutes of the meetings held on 11.03.24 and 07.11.24 and Matters Arising	The minutes of the meetings held on 11.03.24 and 07.11.24 were approved. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Feedback and lessons learned from the first round of the SZC Community Fund	<p>Sarah Mortimer presented on progress of the SZC Community Fund.</p> <p>Brief overview of the Fund given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will distribute £23m over the next 10 years to East Suffolk's communities – approximately £2m per year. For communities significantly affected by the impacts of SZC. Projects must benefit communities closest to the development/activity sites including Leiston, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Aldeburgh, Snape and Wickham Market. Woodbridge and Lowestoft are not currently deemed as sufficiently close. Projects must help reduce the longer-term effects of SZC construction activity and provide a positive and sustainable legacy. SCF has a team of three working on the Fund supporting organisations with their projects and to apply for funds. <p>Fund priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects should be supported by those living in the wider community. Projects must address the impacts of SZC (or making the most of the opportunities it creates). Many bids do not sufficiently demonstrate impact. Working closely with other organisations to make sure everyone can benefit. Demonstrating value for money. Sustainability beyond the funding duration. <p>Awards Panel:</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 x Panel meetings per year. The Panel has chosen to consider all applications received and has not yet taken the option to establish sub-committees. Terms of Reference in place. 12 members (4 x independent members, 2 x local residents, 2 x organisations (Community Action Suffolk + University of Suffolk), 2 x ESC, 2 x SCC, 3 x SZC and 1 x Foundation Trustee. The Chair will always be a trustee of the Foundation. <p>Grant programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Grants = up to £10k per year (£30k max). Large Grants = over £10k per year (no maximum). Multi-year projects = maximum 3 years. Applications accepted from Not for Profit groups and town/parish councils. Can apply for more than one grant but can only hold one grant at any one time. Can apply for Small Grants via the website but not Large Grants – prior discussion with SCF required before applying. The Panel see the applications which have been turned down. 4 x funding rounds per year. Due diligence checks are carried out on organisations. 90% of organisations require a degree of governance support. Scoring matrix used with applications scored and assessed prior to Panel meetings. Applicants are informed of the outcome within 10 weeks of the closing date. <p>Year 1 successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fund opened in July 2024 and two funding rounds were held in 2024 with the remainder of the funding transferred to 2025/26. 21 awards made totalling £1.5m. Set up and mobilisation – Panel is taking its time to build confidence and good foundations. Pre application conversations actively encouraged. Engagement and outreach including drop-in sessions, online bookable slots, targeted work in Leiston, 2 x large scale Meet the Funder events, online meetings etc. Examples of the types of awards made given ranging from £6k up to £201k. All projects have measurable outcomes. <p>Learning and focus for Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring balance between quality applications that provide sufficient information for the Panel to make decisions on and accessibility for smaller organisations. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application needs to be robust given the amount of funding involved – can be challenged on some of the awards made. SCF has become more confident in giving advice - want people to speak to them before making a submission. 18 applications rejected in the first round and 23 in the second. Main reasons for rejection include applications from outside of the priority areas (mainly Lowestoft), tourism related applications and applications which look too far ahead (beyond 12 months). SCF support those who are not successful with a view to them reapplying in the future where possible. Discussion around those who do not apply because they are ethically opposed to SZC. SCF encourage them to take a step back and consider who is missing out/being affected by their decision not to apply. Although there is an expectation that the Fund will be publicised by successful recipients, it is possible to negotiate to what extent. There are also other funds available and SCF signpost to these. Staying on top of an ever-evolving construction project and the local funding environment to ensure the Panel has accurate and up to date information. This is a challenge given the activities that go beyond the scope of the Fund. SCF make a point of understanding what else is being funded by linking in with other funders to avoid duplication. There is significant data available in terms of demographics, housing, living standards, education, earnings, skills etc to help target the Fund. Now starting to follow up the first awards made. The impact of Local Government Reorganisation will need to be taken into consideration in terms of the Deed of Obligation. Currently the Fund only relates to East Suffolk but it may have to be widened to, say, Ipswich who are already starting to see the impact of the project, particularly in terms of housing. Agreed that this should be a topic for a future discussion – accommodation and wider impacts and opportunities. 	Future agenda item
4.	Sizewell C update, including discharge of requirements from the DSG/accommodation challenges	Drone footage shown including footage of the freight management facility on Ransomes Europark which will also include a huge management centre. The Southern Park and Ride site (north of Wickham Market) – contracts are in the process of being awarded. The two-village bypass (Farnham and Stratford St Andrew). The new roundabout at Yoxford with works to start in May. A new link road between Saxmundham and Yoxford to bypass Theberton and Middleton which is already under construction. Rail works into the construction site will see the reopening of the Saxmundham to Leiston branch line which will operate at night. Concrete batching plant. Desalination plant – the Suffolk family need to work together in terms of the impact on water resources. SZC are not part of the restrictions	

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		<p>being put in place by Anglian Water and Essex and Suffolk Water. Beach landing facility and pier plus coast defence works.</p> <p>SCC is working its way through significant detailed designs for road construction as part of the DCO requirements.</p> <p>IBC would welcome further information for residents in relation to the rail movements to start in 2026.</p> <p>The level crossing at Melton and on the A12 at Darsham will require overnight closures for upgrade works which will need managing. Contact will need to be made with the Prison Service in terms of the impact on their staff and prisoner transport.</p> <p>Discussion around how to provide effective public communication. The SZC Communications team has undergone a steep learning curve over the last year. They are providing monthly town/parish council updates.</p>	<p>Philip Ridley</p> <p>Philip Ridley</p>
5.	<p>Any issues arising from Governance Groups and Forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport Fora - Community Fora - Review Groups (and their Working Groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Environment • Transport • Social • Economic 	<p>Transport Fora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police representation on the Northern and Southern Transport Forums would be welcome over the next 18 months following a difficult meeting of the Southern Forum where residents feel they are not being heard. Supt Chapman confirmed that conversations had taken place following the last Southern Forum which has helped but the reality is that they are unlikely to be able to field a representative and their presence could detract from other business on the agendas. <p>Community Fora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Community Forum taking place tonight. <p>Review Groups (and their Working Groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning – details of all the groups and governance arrangements are available on ESC's website. ESC is looking to publish as much information as possible on their website. • Environment – the main focus for the Environment Agency (EA) relates to their role in environmental regulation and the permits required for construction activities. A number of environmental permits are in determination (which has included public consultation processes) and more permit applications are expected. The EA are close to concluding a permit decision for the emissions associated with generators on site and are currently determining the application for a desalination plant – which is assessing process discharges to the marine environment. Once permits have been issued, 	

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		<p>the EA will regulate site activities for compliance with the emission limits specified by the permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social – ESC has funding for Community Safety Officers who are working on the ground. There has been a small increase in anti-social behaviour/low level crime but the Police have not seen an escalation in demand for their services. They have a good structure in place in terms of staffing and potential issues are being actively monitored. There are some 'bubbling' issues at Pontins which the Police are monitoring. S2C are managing and tracking worker vehicles better than at Hinkley. • Staffing – although some staff have moved over to work for S2C, this was not reported by any attendee as a significant issue for them at the current time. 	
6.	Deed of Obligation and Funding	<p>Funds are indexed linked.</p> <p>All payments received are available on ESC's website.</p>	
7.	Any Other Business	<p>Agenda items for the next meeting - accommodation (see item 3 above).</p> <p>The meeting recognised Philip Ridley's impending retirement and thanked him for his significant input into the S2C project over a number of years.</p>	
Meeting closed at 11:30			