

PROTOCOL SETTING OUT THE ROLES OF NULEAF AND NNLAG

7 March 2012

Introduction

- 1 NuLeAF stands for Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum. NNLAG stands for New Nuclear Local Authorities Group. Both groups are formally established as Special Interest Groups of the Local Government Association (from 2003 and 2010 respectively).

Remits

- 2 NuLeAF's remit encompasses all aspects of the management of the UK's nuclear legacy. This includes the implications for legacy management of any developments that are likely to impact on that management. NNLAG's remit encompasses all aspects of the development of new nuclear power stations in the UK.

Objectives

- 3 NuLeAF's objectives are to:
 - provide a mechanism to identify, where possible, a common local government viewpoint on nuclear legacy management issues;
 - represent that viewpoint, or the range of views of its member authorities, in discussion with national bodies, including Government, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the regulators;
 - seek to influence policy and strategy for nuclear legacy management in the interests of affected communities; and
 - develop the capacity of its member authorities to engage with nuclear legacy management at a local level.
- 4 NNLAG's objectives are to:
 - share information and resources;
 - discuss key issues and agree areas of joint working between member local authorities;
 - provide a mechanism to discuss responses to proposals and communicate to partners, MPs, Government agencies etc;
 - champion the need for additional resources from Government to avoid the burden of costs falling on authorities and their communities; and
 - consider the case for mitigation and compensation should the Government proceed with nuclear investment.

Member Authorities

- 5 Membership of NuLeAF is open to all local authorities in England and Wales. There are two types of member authority. Contributing authorities make an annual financial contribution to help meet the costs of running the organisation. Corresponding member authorities do not make an annual financial contribution.

- 6 Membership of NNLAG is open to all local authorities affected by, or likely to be affected by, nuclear new build in the UK.
- 7 There is a significant overlap of membership between the two groups. All NNLAG member local authorities are also members of NuLeAF. NuLeAF's membership is wider, including local authorities with legacy nuclear sites where there are no proposals for new nuclear power stations, local authorities without legacy nuclear sites and local authorities opposed to the development of new nuclear power stations.

Governance and Working Arrangements

- 8 NuLeAF's work is overseen by a Steering Group of representatives from member authorities that meets four times a year. The Steering Group makes decisions on the basis of advice and recommendations from NuLeAF's Executive Director or their nominee. A minute of all decisions taken is kept. The Steering Group seeks to take decisions on a consensual basis. Should a vote be required, voting powers are restricted to councillors from contributing member authorities and to one vote per authority. NuLeAF has a Chair and Vice-Chair, who are councillors from contributing member authorities. The Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed at an AGM. NuLeAF convenes an officer group – the Radioactive Waste Planning Group - to review and discuss key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. Suffolk County Council is the employing authority for NuLeAF's Executive Director and Business Support Coordinator.
- 9 NNLAG is an informal joint working arrangement to bring cohesion to an important strategic debate. The Group comprises senior members and officers from relevant New Nuclear Local Authorities. Initially the Group will meet twice a year to monitor and evaluate progress on key development proposals e.g. nuclear development at Hinkley. Special meetings may be called if required. The participants will report back to their respective organisations for any key decisions. Key Councillors and officers from respective organisations can be set specific duties as a Task Group. Nominations to a Task Group will be sought on the basis of essential skills and expertise. E-mail and web-based communication will be used to keep a regular dialogue outside of formal meetings. Other specialist officers and partners to support the Group will be permitted as and when required. Somerset County Council takes the lead authority role on the groups.

Areas of Mutual Interest

- 10 Proposals for new nuclear power stations will include arrangements for managing the radioactive wastes and spent fuel that arise from those stations. These arrangements are likely to involve the interim management of the wastes and spent fuel on the new build site at which they arise, followed by management (including disposal) in facilities away from the new build site, including in facilities for the joint management of new build and legacy wastes and spent fuel.
- 11 NuLeAF's remit includes "the implications for legacy management of any developments that are likely to impact on that management". NuLeAF has also adopted three 'strategic objectives' on the legacy management implications of potential new build. These are to:

- seek to ensure that proposals for radioactive waste management and decommissioning of new nuclear power stations are appropriate and do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy;
- to promote debate and thinking about the ways in which new build could be developed to the benefit of nuclear legacy management and in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, including how a more coordinated 'across site' approach could be taken in locations that have or are proposed to have multiple licensed nuclear sites; and
- liaise effectively with NNLAG and with local authorities addressing the radioactive waste management implications of new build and provide assistance as appropriate.

12 NNLAG's terms of reference includes to "monitor progress in relation to the national waste repository and other policies related to nuclear energy and spent fuel and radioactive waste storage and disposal".

Communication and Liaison

13 NuLeAF and NNLAG will seek to ensure that adequate communication and liaison takes place on issues of mutual interest. The mechanisms are likely to include:

- the mutual exchange of NuLeAF Steering Group and NNLAG meeting papers
- the mutual exchange of working and task group papers
- representation at each others' meetings
- contact between secretariats as appropriate

14 Where substantive issues arise upon which both NuLeAF and NNLAG may wish to make national representations, the secretariats will ensure that there is adequate opportunity for discussion between representatives of the two organisations prior to such representations being made. The mechanisms might include:

- discussion between secretariats
- participation in working or task groups
- establishment of a joint working group or task group
- a meeting between leading elected members from the two groups.

Joint representations or communications would require the approval of appropriate elected members from NuLeAF and NNLAG.

15 Where staff from either organisation are asked to make a substantive input to work for the other organisation, this would also require the approval of appropriate elected members from NuLeAF and NNLAG. Such approval could also include provision for financial re-imburement for staff time if considered appropriate.