

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held online on 9th March, 2022

Present:

Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council (Chair)
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sean Chaytor	Hull City Council (NFLA Vice-Chair) (a.m. only)
Cllr Marion Fitzgerald	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr David Southward	Cumbria County Council
Cllr David Godfrey	Folkestone and Hythe District Council (a.m. only)
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Chris Morgan	West Somerset and Taunton Council
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council (pm only)
Grahame Stuteley	East Suffolk Council (pm only)
Linda Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Nia Swann Bowden	Gwynedd County Council (p.m. only)
Andy Gutherson	Lincolnshire County Council
Charlotte Rushmere	Maldon District Council
Richard Outram	Manchester City Council
Jo Manley	Sedgemoor District Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Vicky Ashton	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District
Councils	
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Angharad Crump	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

Speakers

Jamie Reed

Director of Social Impact, NDA

Observers

John McNamara, Simon Napper, Gillian Elliott, NDA (p.m. only)

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through protocols for running the meeting online. A minute's silence was held in memory of Lisa Chandler, East Suffolk Council, a regular attendee at Nuleaf's meetings and contributor to Nuleaf's work.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr Craig Rivett – East Suffolk Council, Helen Smith – Hartlepool Borough Council, Cllr Eddy Newman – Manchester City Council, Gillian Ellis-King – South Gloucestershire Council.	
2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2021.	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the Nuleaf website.	CD
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	PM advised the meeting that the tender for the socio-economic report had now been issued.	PM/CD
3.2	The next meeting of the Steering Group would be held in person and would involve an overnight stay and site visit.	
3.3	Cllr Richard Smith thanked the meeting for their good wishes following his Covid infection.	
3.4	A request was made that consideration could be given to holding the June meeting in hybrid format, and also whether the site visit could be recorded so it could be shared with partner organisations.	
3.5	All other matters arising had been addressed or were in hand. Comments were noted on the action list at the end of the Minutes.	

4.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
4.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: updates on NDA and UK Government; decommissioning of the AGR Stations; international news; Nuleaf updates; and Lisa Chandler.	
4.2	PM advised the meeting that following the creation of Nuclear Waste Services within NDA, he was considering changing the format of papers to this meeting to one on Site Decommissioning and Remediation and one on Integrated Waste Management. This would be more in keeping with NDA's Theme Overview Groups. He would welcome comments from members and this approach may be piloted at the next meeting.	
4.3	It was noted that community benefits were not one of the issues which the newly formed NDA Town and County Planning Forum would consider, even though the Copeland Community Fund relating to the Low-Level Waste Repository near Drigg was set up under Section 106. PM said he would raise this at the next meeting of the Forum.	PM
4.4	The Vice-Chair noted that the formation of Nuclear Waste Services and subsequent rebranding of RWM and LLWR had caused issues in West Cumbria and complicated messaging around the management of LLW and the GDF siting process. He would prefer not to see a combined paper to the Steering Group and felt the GDF siting process should remain separate. He also asked that Nuleaf write to NDA/NWS regarding the impact of joining of the waste services. He had previously been advised by NDA that branding would remain separate, but this had not proved so.	PM
4.5	Concerns were noted regarding the international repatriation of nuclear wastes, and whether this could allow them to fall into the wrong hands. JC from Copeland Borough Council advised the meeting that the international transportation of nuclear wastes was tightly regulated and carried out under conditions imposed by IAEA. PM said he would provide further information on this topic	PM
4.6	PM confirmed that the guidance for disposal of low and very low-level radioactive waste was now finalised, and publication would take place following the consultation on UK radioactive waste policy after the May local elections. The timeframe for consultation on third party liability was unknown, but given	

4.7	<p>central governments preoccupation with the situation in Ukraine it was unlikely to be in the near future.</p> <p>The meeting noted with sadness the sudden death of Lisa Chandler, who had been a long-standing contributor to Nuleaf meetings. A message of condolence had been sent to her family and work colleagues.</p>	
5.	UPDATE ON GDF SITING PROCESS	
5.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process; updates on RWM and CoRWM, and the international situation.</p>	
5.2	<p>Andy Gutherson provided an update on the GDF siting process in Lincolnshire. He expected the next meeting of the Working Group to receive a paper containing proposals for moving to the Community Partnership phase, and for the Community Partnership to have been established by the time Nuleaf holds its June Steering Group meeting.</p> <p>He noted that the proposed site had also been put forward for hydrogen production and carbon capture schemes. The siting of all these schemes is based in BEIS but there seems to be no communication between the teams, and this runs the risk of conflicting messages going to the host community which imperils the schemes. He would welcome Nuleaf writing to BEIS to highlight this issue.</p>	PM
5.3	<p>Cllr Moore gave an update on the GDF siting process in Copeland: seismic survey work will be carried out off-shore in June and July 2022. Engagement is taking place with affected communities and compensation is available to those businesses, primarily fishing, which will be affected. The two Community Partnerships are independent and operate in a different fashion. Both have interim members and will expand their membership in time. Community Investment Panels have been set up to deal with applications for the community funds.</p>	
5.4	<p>PM noted that he had spoken with both Cllr Moore and Mr Gutherson about what role Nuleaf could take to further the siting process. Raising common issues with government, and the organisation of international visits had been proposed. AG also suggested that Nuleaf could look at the work of community investment panels.</p>	

6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
6.1	The next meeting will be held in person and include a meeting, dinner, overnight stay and site visit. This is scheduled for 15 th and 16 th June and Hinkley Point A is proposed.	
7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
7.1	There being no other business the meeting moved on to the AGM.	
8.	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH JAMIE REED, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL IMPACT, NDA	
8.1	The meeting reconvened after the AGM and lunch break, and the Chair welcomed Mr Reed to the meeting.	
8.2	Mr Reed thanked Nuleaf for the invitation to speak today. Prior to his appointment as Director of Social Impact at NDA he had been at Sellafield where he had established the SiX programme (Sellafield impact multiplied) which looked to increase the impact on the local community of Sellafield's spend. Before that he had spent 12 years as an MP in the House of Commons.	
8.3	NDA published its Socio-economic Strategy in July 2020, but as all will be aware the world has changed significantly since then. However, the fundamental principles behind the strategy remain and Mr Reed said the NDA's approach to socio-economics could be summarised as Purpose, People, Places and Projects.	
8.4	Purpose: NDA is directed under the Energy Act to attend to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the communities around its sites. This legislative driver is further strengthened by the Social Value Act, the Policy Procurement Note 06/20 and the Levelling Up White Paper and their equivalents in Scotland and Wales. NDA has a well-established grant programme targeted at supporting local economies, environment and social regeneration projects. It supports diversification of the local economy and is aligned with UK government priorities and UN sustainable development goals. Two Beacon Projects will be established this year looking at how NDA can achieve the greatest social value in its procurement and its employment. It wants to ensure that the local supply chain can compete effectively, and to create greater diversity in the workforce and expand opportunities into those areas of society which have normally found it difficult to get into work in the nuclear sector. NDA will also look at the skills agenda, and Research, Development and Innovation.	

8.5	<p>People and Places: NDA's socio-economic strategy looks at the negative impact of decommissioning and how it can mitigate against these. NDA needs to consider the level The economic impact studies are being refreshed. A post Covid response is required to support our communities against increasing resource pressures locally, regionally and nationally.</p>	
8.6	<p>Projects: these need to be owned by the communities in which they exist, and co-creation and partnership working is critical. NDA can use its funds to leverage further funding to support projects.</p>	
8.7	<p>The meeting opened up to questions:</p> <p><i>Q: In respect to procurement and engagement does the NDA look at examples of best practice in other countries or other public or private bodies in the UK?</i></p> <p>A: We look at examples from anywhere and everywhere. I would like to see NDA become the best in the UK at leveraging social value, public or private sector.</p>	
8.7.1	<p><i>Q: We welcome the Beacon Projects, but what indicators of success will you use, and how will NDA demonstrate the impact.</i></p> <p>A: We would be happy to engage with you to develop indicators which will be meaningful to the communities and address their needs.</p>	
8.7.2	<p><i>Q: Following the work carried out by Hazel Blears, to which Nuleaf contributed, will the report be made public?</i></p> <p>A: The recommendations from the report have gone to NDA and its subsidiary companies. Two reports were submitted: social value through procurement, and employment. The recommendations from these will form the basis of the Beacon Projects referred to earlier. I will find out if the report will be made public.</p>	JR
8.7.3	<p><i>Q: How can you help local communities which are dominated by one industry, particularly in relation to bridging the gap between that industry withdrawing and encouraging other industries to come in?</i></p> <p>A: The length of the transition period will have an impact, but fundamentally education, skills and training all have a role to play. It is important to understand what skills the workforce has before the transition and how they can be used in other sectors. We talk about diversifying <i>through</i> nuclear rather than <i>away from</i> nuclear. Each case will be bespoke. NDA is keen to secure government approval for it be trusted to do more than its</p>	

	current remit. There is plenty of opportunity for skilled British labour force both at home and abroad.	
8.7.4	<i>Q: When you talk about nuclear communities, do you feel the NDA casts its net wide enough.</i> A: I feel it is for you to say if you think we are and would be happy to discuss this with you further.	
8.8	The Chair thanked Mr Reed for his presentation and looked forward to working with him in the future.	
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	John McNamara, NDA, advised the meeting that an announcement would be made shortly about the forthcoming NDA Stakeholder Summit, which would be held, after a hiatus of two years, on 7 th and 8 th September in Edinburgh.	
9.2	There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.02 and the Chair commented he looked forward to meeting members again in person in June.	

ACTION LIST

9TH March 2022			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post Minutes from the meeting on 9 th December on Nuleaf website.	CD	Done
3.4	Look at facility for holding June meeting in hybrid format and for recording site visit.	PM/CD	Meeting will be held in hybrid format. Site visit not possible.
4.3	Raise the issue of addressing community benefits at the next meeting of NDA's Town and Country Planning Forum.	PM	Done
4.4	Write to NWS/NDA regarding confusion caused by branding, especially in relation to the GDF programme	PM	Done
4.5	Provide further information on transportation of nuclear materials.	PM	Done

5.2	Write to BEIS regarding lack of internal engagement on energy and infrastructure projects, the problems this creates for local governments and potential to cause distrust amongst communities.	PM	Done
8.7.2	Advise if the Hazel Blears report to NDA is in the public domain	JR	