

EXECUTIVE REPORT**LEADER'S REPORT****COUNCILLOR MISS E WOODBURN – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****1. New Nuclear Build**

We have commissioned along with Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria Vision, West Lakes Renaissance and Cumbria Strategic Partnership, a study to assist us all in developing a common understanding and informed view of the potential for West Cumbria playing a role in relation to any new nuclear build in future UK Energy Policy. We need to understand more fully the benefits and disadvantages and the economic issues that could arise if West Cumbria is considered suitable for a new generation of nuclear power stations. The study will provide us with the background information to allow us to fully develop our policies on nuclear new build. The completion date is March / April 06. The study will be fed into the Nuclear Working group who will then make any necessary recommendations to Full Council.

Plutonium Contaminated Waste Retrieval

British Nuclear Group in applying to remove all plutonium from the Low Level Waste Site at Drigg were set the timetable by ourselves to have it all removed by December 2006. There were 5 magazines (storage facilities) in total of which 3 are now empty, 1 is 90% empty and 1 has 15 % removed, of what has been retrieved 90% is now back in safe storage on the Sellafield site. It is stored in Nirex compatible drums ready for final disposal.

NDA Annual Report

The Nuclear Working Group have agreed the Councils response to the NDA's Draft Annual Report that includes making comments on issues ranging from the end state and date of the Sellafield site to waste management. We again welcomed the NDA's commitment to stakeholder involvement but need further clarification on the separate roles of the Site Stakeholder Groups and the democratically elected bodies like ourselves. I am happy to make the full response available on request.

Low Level Waste Site

It has well published how Cumbria County Council has initially refused the planning application for temporary stacking at the Low Level Waste Site at Drigg, though the application will be re - submitted at the next meeting on the 30th January with further information.

Legacy Ponds & Silos

Following the NDA's commitment to dealing with the most hazardous waste first in the clean up programme BNG have started their public consultation on the options to retrieve, treat and store waste from the ponds and silos. After attending the workshop on this subject it is proving to be a good start for what will be a series of public consultations. As a heads up the next round of BNG consultations will be on Waste Management, Commercial Operations and Clean up.

COWRM – Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Cowrm is the committee set up by Government to consider options for the long-term management of radioactive waste. There are currently around 80,000 cubic meters of solid radioactive waste in storage and although the amount of waste is relatively small when compared to the 40 million cubic meters of household waste we produce every year, it obviously has to be dealt with carefully because of its potential hazard to human health. The waste so far is being processed and stored, the majority at Sellafield, until decisions on the long-term storage are made. So far Cowrm have considered 15 options for dealing with the waste but through consultations and discussions with experts these have been narrowed down to three, long term interim storage, deep geological disposal and phased deep geological disposal.

The Council through its response to this stage of the Cowrm and to the NDA Draft strategy set out its preference for phased deep geological disposal.

West Cumbria Strategic Forum

As colleagues will be well aware of the Forum is commissioning a Masterplan for West Cumbria and we are now going through the selection timetable. The tender briefs will be issued to the selected list of consultants by the end of this month and will have to be returned by the 22nd Feb. Two preferred consultants will be invited to a final selection stage where they will be asked to undertake an initial visioning piece of work at risk. The successful consultant will be informed and expected to commence as early as March and no later than April. A comprehensive interim report will be required to present to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the final report will be completed by Autumn 2006 to feed into the Comprehensive Spending Review.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None