

## **STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2014 AT 2:00PM**

Present: Councillors Allan Holliday (Deputy Chairman in the Chair);  
Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly and Jon Downie;

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Elaine Woodburn;  
Lena Hogg and David Moore.

Officers: John Groves, Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager;  
Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer and  
Denice Gallen, Nuclear and Energy Officer.

Also Present: Mr David Loudon, Integrated Waste Manager, Nuclear  
Decommissioning Authority.

#### **SNEB 13/14 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2014 were signed by the  
Deputy Chairman as a correct record.

#### **SNEB 14/14 Arrangement of Agenda**

With the permission of the Chair, it was

**RESOLVED** - That an additional item be added to the agenda, Item 10  
– Consultation Reports Update.

#### **SNEB 15/14 Low Level Waste Strategy Review**

Members received a presentation from David Loudon, Nuclear  
Decommissioning Authority, on the Low Level Waste (LLW) Strategy  
Review.

This included a brief history and an update on the current status.

Members were advised that the review of the UK solid low level waste  
strategy was to ensure that it fulfils the intent of Government policy;  
reflects the current maturity of the industry; defines the direction of  
travel; identifies where there are opportunities to mature the strategy  
to improve low level waste management practice; aligns with non-  
nuclear, Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and  
developing Higher Activity Waste (HAW) strategies.

The review would also assume that the three key strategic themes remain valid, these being Application of the Waste Hierarchy; Best use of existing LLW management assets; The need for new, fit for purpose waste management routes.

Following a short question and answer session, David Loudon was thanked for his presentation.

**RESOLVED** - That the presentation be received.

**SNEB 16/14 Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board Programme**

Members received a programme of future events and consultations compiled at their request, that would provide an opportunity to express interest in areas where they might wish to receive further information and updates.

During the discussion that followed, Members requested further detail on the Submarine Dismantling Project. The panel was advised that a consultation event was due to take place at the Cleator Moor Civic Hall & Masonic centre on 17 December 2014.

**RESOLVED** - That the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board Programme be received and noted.

**SNEB 17/14 Small Scale Renewable Guidance Review**

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager presented the Small Scale Renewable Guidance document to Members and stated that the document was intended to be used as guidance regarding Council's stance on small scale renewable energy generation within the Borough, obligations to be undertaken by the developer and an outline of expectations in relation to pre-application consultation and community benefits.

Members were further advised that best practice research from other sources, primarily the Scottish Government, had been used to inform these opinions.

The panel was asked to note that the principles in the document were applicable to all forms of small scale renewable although the document focussed on wind, as this was currently the predominant form. Small scale renewable was considered to be less than 5 MW of installed capacity.

During the discussion that followed Members asked for the term 'Community' to be defined. It was also asked if the Localism Act allowed for local areas to make benefit demands.

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager was asked to undertake further research and update the guidance accordingly.

**RESOLVED** - That

- a) the Small Scale Renewable Guidance Review be received, and
- b) the Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager be asked to undertake further research and update the guidance accordingly.

**SNEB 18/14 Nuclear Projects Update**

Members were updated on the following key projects relating to the Council's nuclear and energy activities:

**Nuclear New Build**

It was noted that the Council had signed a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with NuGen to insure that the Council can recover all costs of managing the DCO.

NuGen have also been asked to attend a future meeting to update all Members on the proposed project, prior to public consultation.

Executive had previously agreed to the establishment of a Nationally Significant Infrastructures Panel, consisting of members from Planning Panel, Local Development framework, Executive and shadow Portfolio holders.

**North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Project**

Members were advised that National Grid's second stage consultation commenced on 4 September and closes on 28 November. A number of drop-in events were to be held across the borough.

During the discussion that followed, Members were concerned that sub-contractors were already being sought and the public perception was that a decision had already been made.

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager was asked to raise this with National Grid.

**Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)**

Members were advised that following the Executive meeting on 26 August, a letter was sent to Baroness Verma highlighting the areas where Council expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed process and learning from the lesson of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process.

**Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)**

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager updated the Board on the NuLeAF Steering Group he attended on 24 July in Preston and the NuLeAF Steering Group & AGM he attended in London on 15 October.

**RESOLVED** - That the updates be noted.

**SNEB 19/14 Consultation Reports Update**

Members were provided with a summary of the consultations that the Council had responded to since the last Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board meeting on 17 July. This included consultation for the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

**RESOLVED** - That the update be noted.

The meeting closed at 3:40pm

Chairman .....

Date .....