

**Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Draft Business Plan 2013 - 2016**

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**Summary and Recommendation:**

The NDA published a Draft Business plan for 2013 – 2016. The Council responded to the proposed business plan highlighting issues which needed further development. This report is a summary of that response.

Recommendation:  
That the contents of this report are noted.

**1. Background**

- 1.1** In December 2012 the NDA published their Draft Business Plan for 2013 – 2016. The business plan sets out the key objectives and plans delivering the NDA priorities over the next 3 years.
- 1.2** The consultation ran from the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to 01<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013, however it was extended for the local authorities in Cumbria to allow them time to deal with the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process.
- 1.3** The Draft Business Plan was published before the Public Accounts Committees (PAC) findings into the evidence hearing of the managing risk reduction at Sellafield report and before the final decision on proceeding to the next stage of the MRWS process was made.
- 1.4** As a result of which the Draft Business Plan does not address the issue of the disposal of high and intermediate wastes currently stored at Sellafield. It also fails to address the issues identified in the PAC report.

## 2. Response to Draft Business Plan

2.1 The following response was sent to NDA on the 1<sup>st</sup> march 2013:



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Dear Sirs

### **Response to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Draft Business Plan 2013 -2016.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft NDA Business plan. The Council welcomes the chance to further engage in this process and would hope that the issues highlight below will be afforded recognition, enabling the Business Plan to be properly framed to reflect the significance, range and complexity of issues which are of critical significance to the Council and the community which it represents.

#### **Post Business Plan Publication Issues**

Since the draft plan has been published a number of significant events have occurred which need to be addressed within the context of the NDA Business Plan, if the document is to meaningfully reflect the NDA activity within Copeland.

The decision by Cumbria County Council to withdraw from the MRWS process is of considerable consequence. Now that the MRWS process, insofar as it relates to West Cumbria, has come to an end the Council would expect that this position is reflected within the Plan together with consideration of options which the NDA and Government have in place to deal with higher activity wastes. It would be expected that the current position should be reflected in revised 'Key activities' for RWMD on page 39 of the current document.

The publication of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report on activities at Sellafield, together with a statement of their conclusions and recommendations was preceded by the publication of this draft plan. It is of interest and concern to the Council as to how the Business Plan will be

adjusted to ensure that forward looking strategy fully takes into account the implications and recommendations of the PAC report.

#### **Review of the current plan.**

In order to achieve the NDA's stated mission there must be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders and a role for stakeholders to review options for the next phase of the contract at Sellafield, including clear pathways for comment and feedback on the performance of NMP to date. Provision should be made and clarified as to how such feedback might be utilised and developed into a meaningful appraisal of historic performance and on-going management of performance into the future.

The Council is keen to support the NDA in developing their approach to Integrated Waste Management (IWM) in the light of the decision about MRWS and in view of the fact that the majority of the waste is currently stored locally. There would also appear to be scope to explore ways in which the local supply chain support the earliest delivery of the aspirations of the IWM strategy.

The Council is also supportive of the aims to deliver of the National Waste Programme to optimise LLW Strategy Implementation and would also seek development of a strategic assessment of the inventory of LLW Metals that will need treatment and processing e.g. Berkeley Boiler / Oxide flasks – to explore future possible arising to enable the local supply chain to come forward with solutions and developed a framework to deal with this issue.

The Council would also seek further clarity on the local supply chain targets applied to investment in LLWR Ltd.

#### **Future issues**

The review of NDA estate management often leads to implications for the Sellafield site due to the movement of waste/fuels and it would be helpful for the NDA to provide an overall picture of such implications rather than deal with each on its own merits as it arises.

- In estate management terms Copeland Borough Council would be keen to see reference to the relationship between current Sellafield operations and nuclear new build plans on land at Moorside.
- On page 40 of the plan a key activity is stated as "Continue the refurbishment of Hinton House in Warrington and increase occupancy by Sellafield limited". Further information is sought on this proposal and a justification as to why investment is not being directed in a location in Copeland closer to the Sellafield site – particularly given recognition of the Council's written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee, criticising the impact on the adequacy of project management and apparent contradiction of aspirations to ensure the widest, community and socio-economic benefit from Sellafield to be secured in Copeland and West Cumbria.

The Council would welcome feedback on the issues raised and is happy to work with the NDA to progress the plan. If you require any further clarity on any of the points raised above please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would be pleased to have the opportunity to elaborate.

Yours Faithfully

- 2.2** The NDA are revising the Draft Business Plan taking account of the comments made by the Council and all other relevant stakeholders.
- 2.3** Following the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) publishing a treasury note in response to the PAC report findings, the NDA will then set about implementing the recommendations from the treasury note, which is anticipated to be published at the start of April.
- 2.4** The Council is trying to arrange a suitable date for the NDA to brief Members on the way forward following the PAC report. The NDA have stated their intent to hold a meeting with Copeland members prior to the Site Stakeholder Group meeting which will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013.
- 2.5** The NMP contract is also currently under discussion and management issues is a key factor in the PAC report, therefore it is anticipated that the NDA will be giving an update of the progress of this work stream at the same time.