

Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

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Summary and Recommendation:

The following report provides a brief overview of the role of the NIA in the UK; the role of NNLAG and the Council's relationships with such bodies.

Recommendation:

That the contents of this report are noted.

1. Background to the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA)

1.1 The Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) is the private sector trade association and representative voice of Britain's civil nuclear industry. It represents more than 270 companies including the operators of the nuclear power stations, those engaged in decommissioning, waste management, nuclear liabilities management and all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear equipment suppliers, engineering and construction firms, nuclear research organisations, and legal, financial and consultancy companies.

1.2 NIA Objectives

- To improve the commercial performance of the nuclear industry by assisting and supporting member companies to develop their businesses in the UK and overseas
- To improve understanding of nuclear energy and the climate of political and public opinion in which the industry works and develops

Achieved by:

- Representing the industry to key audiences
- Providing tools for information sharing and networking
- Responding to Government consultations
- Producing publications, newsletters and information material
- Organising events, meetings and conferences
- Facilitating working groups

1.3 The NIA was a ‘critical friend’ in the development of the Nuclear Supply Chain Document action plan.

1.4 In relation to this it is proposed that a single market access point (portal) will be developed and maintained by the NIA with detailed procurement information provided by the new build developers, nuclear operators and NDA. The information will provide sufficient notice of future plans, and the specifications required, to enable companies in the UK to make investment decisions and to compete openly for work.

2. Nuclear Industry Council

2.1 The NIA has also close links to the Nuclear Industry Council which was launched in October 2012 to support the UK Supply Chain¹. The Council will play a strategic role in ensuring that the UK nuclear industry capitalises on the opportunity that nuclear new build presents and will assist in the implementation of the supply chain action plan which was launched earlier this year. By identifying barriers to growth now, the Council hopes to put the supply chain in the strongest possible state to compete for these major opportunities. The Nuclear Industry Council will be chaired jointly by government and industry representatives, with Edward Davey (or Energy Minister John Hayes) and Business Minister Michael Fallon representing the government and Lord Hutton, Chairman of the Nuclear Industry Association, leading the industry side.

2.2 The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has stated that the Government Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA), will provide a secretariat function to the new Nuclear Industry Council. However it is expected that any particular workstreams or issues which the Council want to explore in more detail will be resourced by industry.

3. New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

3.1 The New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) is the Local Government Association’s Special Interest Group made up of Local Authorities that are, or are likely to be, the host areas for new nuclear development.

¹ <http://www.niauk.org/promos/1707-nuclear-industry-council-launched-to-support-the-uk-supply-chain>

3.2 The group comprises of senior members and officers from 12 Local Authorities that are affected, or likely to be affected by new nuclear developments in the UK. They are:

Allerdale Borough Council
Anglesey County Council
Copeland Borough Council
Cumbria County Council
Lancashire County Council
Lancaster City Council
Sedgemoor District Council
Somerset County Council
South Gloucestershire Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Suffolk County Council
West Somerset Council

3.3 Collectively through NNLAG we have lobbied government on issues that are unique to nuclear new build authorities. Oral and written representations have been made to the Energy and Climate Change Committee on ‘Building new Nuclear – the Challenges ahead’ and lobbying for a framework to delivery Community Benefits to local host communities above those offered through the planning system.

3.4 As a direct result of the evidence presented to the committee they have made recommendations to the government regarding community benefits:

“that Government extends the scope of its proposal to allow local authorities hosting renewable energy projects to retain business rates to include all forms of low-carbon energy (renewables, nuclear and carbon capture and storage).....

Unlike renewables, nuclear power stations take a long time to build and therefore have the potential to cause considerable disruption to local communities for an extended period of time. Government should investigate whether it could be possible to provide any additional forms of community benefit during the construction period (beyond the compensatory measures already agreed to in the section 106 deal)ⁱ.”

3.5 Whilst each authority will have to define and lobby for the level and need for community benefits in their area, it is effective to have a vehicle such as NNLAG to collectively lobby government to establish general principles common to all the Authorities.

4. Way Forward.

4.1 The Council needs to be aware of the variety of groups and committees that are currently in place and be mindful of how we can best utilise these resources to move the nuclear new build and wider energy related agenda forward whilst

supporting the local supply chain and assisting local suppliers to access and prepare for nuclear build jobs. It is essential that Copeland plays a substantive role within the bodies described here, in order to ensure that the aspirations and expectations of the community are adequately represented

ⁱ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/news/building-new-nuclear-the-challenges-ahead/>