



Ref Number	Date Issued	Officer/Dept	Rec'd by Secretariat	Reported to the Executive
14/06	10 May 2006	Z Bergmann Sustainability & Nuclear Policy	2/5/06	23/5/06
Prior to processing this form it must be referenced by the Secretariat				

The _____ Leader _____ Portfolio Holder

Date 10 May 2006

Dear Councillor

REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT TO URGENT ACTION UNDER EXECUTIVE PROCEDURE RULES

I enclose two copies of the standard urgent action form and should be grateful for your agreement to action required urgently in the circumstances set out below. Please contact me if you require further information.

Portfolio: Leader

Date of next Executive meeting: 23 May 2006

Action proposed:

To agree to fund a study - UK Storage/Disposal of Intermediate Level Waste/High Level Waste - Cost of one off facility as opposed to multiple facilities. Approval also requested to carry forward the remaining funds from 2005/06

Financial/Resource Implications:

Circa £20K to come out of Sustainability & Nuclear Policy Budget

Background information:

See attached brief

Reason(s) for urgency:

Will enable Council to be in a better informed position to fully respond to a number of consultations from Government, which are imminent in the next few weeks/months. I understand that Jamie Reed is looking for an early view on this before the end of July.

Comments of Head of Business and Finance:

Funding available from the remaining £145,855 set aside for nuclear issues.

Signature: S.C. [Signature]

Comments of Head of Legal and Democratic Services:

Agreed.

Signature: [Signature] pp Head of L&DS

Comments of other officers consulted:

Signature(s):

Comments of Overview and Scrutiny Chairman:

Agree to this action.

Signature: A. Bradshaw chairman OSC Environmental Well-being.

Please indicate your views in the box below and return one copy to me as soon practicable.

Yours sincerely

(Business Unit Manager/Chief Executive/Director)

I agree*/disagree* with the action proposed

Comments:

Signed:

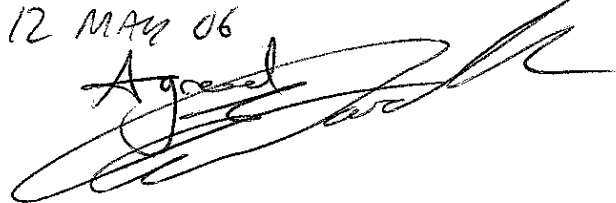


Date:

12 MAY 06

CLLr (insert name)

EWOODGURN



*Please delete as appropriate

Note 1.

A copy of the completed form should be kept on the project file and the original taken to Secretariat Note 2.

Date taken to Secretariat:

Initials

This form and action taken must be reported to the next meeting of the Executive.

Date reported to Executive:

Initials



Copeland Borough Council

CONSULTANCY STUDY BRIEF: UK STORAGE AND/OR DISPOSAL OF ILW/HLW

Dept:	Sustainability & Nuclear Policy Group		
Doc reference	SNP/CON/ILWHLW/ITT	FINAL VERSION	
Prepared by:	Frank Duffy Zena Bergmann	Checked by	David Davies Head of S&NP
Date	3 May 2006	Date	4 May 2006
Endorsed by:	Fergus McMorrow Corporate Director		
Date	5 May 2006		

BACKGROUND

Historically Copeland's industrial and economic development has been based on access from the sea due to inadequate and isolated inland transport links that remain today. Shipping and mining of coal and iron ore followed which led to the industrial towns of the borough. This was followed by the chemical industry and in more recent history has been dominated by the nuclear industry which dominates the employment of the area, supporting more than 50% of all jobs in the area. Copeland has lost its non-domestic rate asset base, which has declined by 5% per annum over the last ten years, which is the most extreme in the UK.

The population of Copeland is around 69,000 and is comprised of the principal town of Whitehaven and three smaller towns of Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom. Twelve miles south of Whitehaven is possibly the largest single industrial employment site in the UK at Sellafield.

Sellafield nuclear complex encompasses British Nuclear Group (formerly BNFL) manufacturing processes such as THORP and MOX plants, the Windscale Site operated by UKAEA, the former Calder Hall nuclear power station and finally the national LLW repository at Drigg. The sites at Sellafield have begun a phase of decommissioning, which will provide short-term loss of approximately 8000 jobs by the year 2012.

The issue of a clear UK radioactive waste management policy and robust disposal option have long been an issue to affecting progress in the nuclear industry and to Government. As a result of the large-scale national decommissioning programme and the energy review, it is imperative a solution is found without delay. It is estimated that Sellafield could generate over 90% of the UK's lifetime volume of LLW waste following decommissioning. In addition, it currently temporarily stores an estimated 60% of the UK's ILW waste and 100% of the UK's HLW waste. In view of this and of Copeland's nuclear industry history, there is a strong possibility that Copeland would be considered by some as a preferred location for a National Radioactive ILW/HLW Waste Disposal Facility.

AIM

The aim of this Study is to assist the Council in determining whether there is sufficient potential mutual benefit to the Borough Council and Government to enter proactively into direct negotiation on the siting of such a facility, as opposed to the Government carrying out a full-scale national siting process.

The study is required to provide a fully justified projection of the costs of a potential national siting process and compare these to the costs of the Government successfully negotiating only with Copeland Borough Council.

The availability of this information will help the Council to decide whether it should enter into a wider dialogue with its community.

PROPOSAL

This brief sets out a requirement for consultancy support to Copeland Borough Council and proposals are invited from suitably qualified and experienced consultants to carry out this work. The requirement is to identify the potential long and short-term financial and political benefits to Government in limiting the process for identifying permanent or interim storage locations for the UK's higher-level radioactive wastes based on the following scenarios:

1. UK National Radioactive ILW/HLW Waste Disposal Facility:
 - i. Negotiations with a single cooperative local authority/community in this case Copeland BC
 - ii. Negotiations with a small number of cooperative communities
 - iii. Compare the timescales and associated costs for both with reference to scenarios of full national siting processes

2. Short and Medium-Term ILW Interim Storage:
 - i. Consider local and regional scenarios and variants to ILW storage
 - ii. Compare with a single national scenario for ILW storage with cooperative local authority/community
 - iii. Compare the timescales and associated costs with reference to the above scenarios, giving consideration to design, construction and implementation costs and the lifetime cost including operation and decommissioning
 - iv. Compare the scenarios for both short-term (50+ years) and medium-term (100 – 300 years) consistent with a phased deep repository

SCOPE

The study will include:

1. Providing estimates of the volumes of ILW and HLW waste under review in the UK:
 - a) Estimate the forecasted volumes of ILW and HLW waste due to arise from the current decommissioning programme and when they are due to arise
 - b) Establish the current volumes of ILW/HLW stored and the available capacity of current ILW/HLW storage sites in the UK
 - c) Provide a waste capacity and available storage map for each UK region

2. Establish the nature of alternative decision making processes that the Government could choose to determine the location of the proposed radioactive waste management facility. Review any work undertaken on this by relevant bodies, eg Nirex, CoRWM, DEFRA, NuLeAF
3. Provide well justified estimates of the possible range of costs the government might incur in such full national siting processes including:
 - a) The cost of the decision making processes and stakeholder involvement
 - b) Full additional cost of interim management of radioactive waste taking into account the capital and revenue costs over the time period of the siting processes until a facility was available
4. Include an evaluation of the design, construction and implementation costs associated with the provision of a permanent UK phased deep ILW/HLW repository with capacity for current and future UK ILW/HLW arisings.
5. In order to continue an accelerated programme of decommissioning the UK will need to develop its capacity to store ILW on an interim basis. Include a review of likely design, construction and implementation costs, including the lifetime cost incorporating operation and decommissioning associated with the following scenarios:
 - a) The provision of a single location national interim storage plant (short-term) with capacity for the UK's ILW
 - b) The provision of a single location national interim storage plant (medium-term) with capacity for the UK's ILW
 - c) The provision of a series of regionalised or localised interim storage plants (short-term) with capacity for regional and local ILW
 - d) The provision of a series of regionalised or localised interim storage plants (medium-term) with capacity for regional and local ILW
 - e) Compare the scenarios consistent with the requirements set out in 'Proposal 2' and compare the associated costs to the NDA of the scenarios
6. Evaluate the costs related to the consequential negative impact to the nuclear industry, for example; programme/project delay.
7. Evaluate the potential risk to health, safety and environment due to the delay.
8. Review and evaluate the opinions of key national decision-makers on whether a streamlined negotiating process of consulting with one cooperative community to reach a mutually acceptable siting agreement would be supported.
9. Develop both a Technical and Executive Summary highlighting key issues and choices – in particular the implications for Copeland.

KEY DELIVERABLES

1. Technical report setting out the overall costs of each scenario or variant of scenario on ILW/HLW storage and/or disposal options
2. Presentation of the report to council members
3. Short non-technical summary and issues report

EVALUATION

The proposals will be evaluated based 40% on cost and 60% on quality.

- Those tendering will need sound expertise in planning and costing in the nuclear industry, a clear understanding of the mechanisms of local, regional and Government decision-making processes and the capacity to work to challenging deadlines.
- Bidders should set out their team, highlighting the expertise of each individual; the numbers of days provided by each individual; the name of the project manager and the arrangements for liaison with the client.
- Quality will be determined by the effectiveness of the methodology proposed and the quality of the team employed as judged by the interviewing panel.

INDICATION OF COST

A budget of circa £20,000 has been allocated for this piece of work.

STUDY TIMETABLE

Action	Date	Responsibility
Confirmation of Brief	10 May 2006	S&NP
Brief and tender letter issued	12 May	S&NP
Tenders returned by	26 May	Tenderer
Tenders opened & initially assessed	31 May	S&NP
Selection meeting	1 June	S&NP
Appointment Interviews (if required)	7 June	S&NP
Contract Commences	12 June	Tenderer
Appointed contractor meets Officers	16 June	Tenderer/S&NP
½ way Review meeting (Draft Report) with NWG	30 June	Tenderer/S&NP
Final Review Meeting – (Consultation Material)	17 July	Tenderer/S&NP
Consultants present to NWG	24 July	Tenderer/S&NP
Finalisation of Report and Consultation Material – delivered to Client	31 July 2006	Tenderer