

## **NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2008**

Present: Councillors A Holliday (Chairman); D Banks; B Dixon; D W Moore and Miss E Woodburn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Blackwell and A Norwood

Officers: D Davies, Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy; F McMorrow, Corporate Director Economic Prosperity and Sustainability; T Greer, Scientific Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present S Williams, H Rooms, B Snelson and P Greatorrex - Sellafield Sites Ltd – Agenda Item 6

#### **Disclosure of Interest**

Councillors A Holliday; D Banks, B Dixon. Miss E Woodburn and D Moore declared personal interests in the agenda due to either being employed or having family or friends employed in the nuclear industry.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2008 were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

#### **Arrangement of the Agenda**

Due to officers from Sellafield sites being present at the meeting it was agreed that Agenda Item 6 – British Nuclear Group would be considered first on the Agenda.

#### **British Nuclear Group**

Members received an update on the Sellafield Socio-Economic Plan 2008/09. It was noted that this was a transitional plan as, from September 2008, there would be a new Parent Body Organisation and a new plan would be developed.

It was highlighted that in terms of economic productivity, Copeland lags behind the rest of the North West.

The Energy Coast Master Plan includes an economic development blueprint; the capacity to meet imperatives of combating climate change and securing an energy supply; and recognises the expertise at Sellafield. The plan identifies 36 individual work streams.

The aim was to achieve high value job creation; economic diversification; improved education and skills; and a social infrastructure.

With regard to the supply chain, the aim was to remove dependency on Sellafield Ltd and strengthen competitiveness, improve connectedness with

other suppliers, build on the 'know how' and develop the Sellafield Business Centre.

With regard to Enterprise Development, the aim was to stimulate enterprise in the area by commercialising the wealth of knowledge at Sellafield.

In respect of Education and Skills it was important to ensure the existing workforce adapts and develops the skills required and to develop a future workforce with relevant business, technical and managerial skills.

Sellafield Ltd stated it was keen to play its part in promoting economic regeneration within Copeland. It also aims to continue its commitment to supporting voluntary actions, donations and sponsorship.

During discussion of this item Members raised concerns regarding the outsourcing of the recruitment process; the use of Sellafield Business Centre and the Supply Chain and were advised that, where possible, local companies would be considered, however European competition laws prevent other markets from being explored.

Additional evidence on the Socio-Economic backdrop was requested, along with clear details of how or who to approach to receive money from the many funds available. Members were advised that there was a lack of quality, innovative ideas being put forward from the community and Copeland lacked a plan to reach the aspirations of the Energy Coast Masterplan.

Members were further updated on the high level waste that was to be returned to Europe and Japan. The Return Export Facility will soon undergo 'active commissioning' and would be operational later in April 2008. The waste would then, and over the next 9 years, be transported by train to Barrow for export.

Concerns over the Socio-Economic Plan from Members were to be put in writing and passed to the Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy and a draft response would be circulated to Panel members before being sent to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

**RESOLVED – that**

- a) the presentation be received; and
- b) Members comments be put in writing and passed to the Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy.

**Planning Application – Transient Storage Facility, Drigg, Cumbria.**

Consideration was given to a Planning Application for a transient store for Low Level Waste at the Low Level Waste Repository, Drigg, Cumbria.

During discussion of this item, Members supported the application and would also recommend to the Planning Panel that they consider, following the removal of Plutonium Contaminated Material, clarification of how the proposed new permission would relate to the previous temporary planning conditions and a Temporary rather than a Permanent application with a time condition for two years.

**RESOLVED** – that Members recommendation to Planning Panel be to support the planning application for a Transient Store for Low Level waste at the Low Level Waste Repository, Drigg, Cumbria and also recommend to the Planning Panel that they consider, following the removal of Plutonium Contaminated Material, clarification of how the proposed new permission would relate to the previous temporary planning conditions and a Temporary rather than a Permanent application with a time condition for two years.

**Council's draft response to the BERR consultation on funded decommissioning programme guidance for New Power Stations**

Members considered the draft response to Government and agreed to provide comments to the Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy by 1 May 2008.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council's draft response to the BERR consultation on funded decommissioning programme guidance for New Power Stations be considered and Members comments be passed to the Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy by 1 May 2008.

**Any Other Business**

It was requested that the NDA be invited to attend a special meeting of this Committee panel in May 2008, to which all Members be invited and the NDA be supplied with the Agenda beforehand.

It was further requested that the new Managing Director of the Low Level Waste Repository, Mr Dick Raz, be invited to the June 2008 meeting of this committee.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) a special meeting be arranged for all Members with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in May 2008; and
- b) Mr Dick Raz, the new Managing Director of the Low Level Waste Repository, be invited to the June meeting of this committee.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Chairman