

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSING AUTHORITY SOCIO – ECONOMIC POLICY

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Summary: Members views are sought on this proposal and the draft response (Attached as Appendix 1 & Appendix 2). A final response is required by the 19 January 2007.

Recommendation:	It is recommended that 1) Members consider and approve the attached draft Council response to the NDA Socio Economic Policy consultation (Appendix 1). 2) Delegate any further detailed amendments required prior to the 19 th January to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Sustainability in consultation with the Leader of the Council
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Potential impact on HLE5 Seek to maximise economic benefits arising from the nuclear industry.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): Varied but will depend on details of projects supported

Financial and human resource implications: None immediately. However, resources will be required to develop projects for submission to the NDA, Match funding may also be required to access funding in the future.

Project & Risk Management: Will depend on specific schemes

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** All Wards

Other Ward Implications: None

1. BACKGROUND

The Government has charged the NDA with playing a full and active role in helping to mitigate the impact of decommissioning and contributing to the development of sustainable communities around sites. This is an opportunity for the NDA to work with the local community to mitigate the impact of industrial decline.

There are three strands to the socio-economic policy, through which the NDA aspires to foster a healthy, diversified local economy as site activities come to an end and to reduce over-reliance on the nuclear industry for generations to come:

- Direct NDA Support
- Indirect benefits through day-to-day operations
- Localised socio-economic support, delivered via site contractors

2. OBJECTIVES

The NDA's objective is to minimise the impact of decommissioning and clean-up through three drivers:-

- enhancing the opportunity for local people to be involved in decommissioning work (which may last for several decades) through education, retraining and skills development
- supporting the diversification of the local economy (reducing the reliance on nuclear sites for jobs and contracts by increasing the number, variety and vibrancy of local businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and attracting new enterprises)
- increasing the attractiveness of areas near NDA sites as places to live, work and invest (with particular emphasis on environmental, social and infrastructure issues)

3. THEMATIC PRIORITIES

In order to achieve its socio-economic objectives, the NDA has a number of priority areas that it is keen to progress with national and local partners. These are:

- Employment – with a preference for higher value employment development
- Education/skills – either related to decommissioning and clean-up or to support economic diversification
- Economic and social infrastructure (including environmental remediation/improvement)
- Economic diversification, including support for the local supply chain

The NDA is unlikely to support proposals that do not address any of the above.

4. GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES

The NDA proposes to focus assistance where it is most needed. Owing to the dominance of the nuclear sector and the lack of alternative, high-value employment opportunities, the NDA has identified four priority geographical areas. These are: -

- West Cumbria

- Caithness and Sutherland
- Anglesey and North Wales
- Dumfries and Galloway (South West Scotland)

The NDA's budget for socio-economic support and development will be derived from efficiency savings achieved at its sites. The NDA has also maintained the level of support provided by BNFL and UKAEA previously enjoyed by communities local to those sites.

The NDA expects to provide both practical and financial support to agencies working with the NDA to minimise the impact of our activities. Through its contractors, the NDA is securing efficiency savings and is committed to reinvesting a proportion of those savings into socio-economic support and development, with a particular focus on transformational projects. The NDA sees the contractors as the key conduit to local socio-economic expertise. On a case by case basis, the NDA will consider channelling additional socio-economic funds via sites in order to enable them to support smaller-scale local projects. As noted earlier, this funding will come from efficiency savings.

In order to maximise the impact from its funding, the NDA will give preference to projects which have significant levels of matched funding.

5. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Members consider and approve the attached Council response to the NDA Socio Economic Policy consultation (Appendix 1).

APPENDICES:

- 1 – CBC's Draft Response to NDA's Socio-Economic Policy
- 2 – NDA's Draft Socio-Economic Policy Consultation Document

CONSULTEES:

The Leader
 Nuclear Working Group
 Members of the Executive
 Regeneration & Planning Team
 Corporate Team
 Chief Executive
 OSC Socio-Economic sub group