

## **NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2006**

Present: Councillors G Blackwell (Chairman); A Holliday ; D Banks; D Moore; A Norwood; E Woodburn (Item 5).

Also in Attendance: Councillor M Ashbrook

Apologies for absence were received from Councilors B Dixon; D Moore

Officers: D Davies, Head of Nuclear Policy and Sustainability; F Duffy, Nuclear Policy Manager; Z Bergmann Sustainability Manager; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager (Items 1-4); L Taylor, Member Services Officer Technical Support

An apology for absence was received from F McMorrow, Corporate Director, Economic Prosperity and Sustainability

Also present: S Williams; P Lutwyche; B Watkinson – British Nuclear Group

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2006 were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

#### **Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors G Blackwell, D Banks, A Norwood and A Holliday declared personal interests in items 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the agenda due to either being employed or having family or friends employed in the industry.

#### **BNG**

Members received a presentation from Barry Watkinson of BNG on the Low Level Waste Strategy, which was then open to a question and answer session from Members.

The presentation outlined proposals and options for the recycling and reduction of low level and miscellaneous waste at the Sellafield site. The various types and estimated quantities of waste were discussed, along with the various treatment options available.

Members were asked for their views as to the way forward and the level of consultation required. The possibility of workshops dealing with each individual option was discussed.

Members welcomed being involved in the strategy and helping to develop a way forward

It was **AGREED** that S Williams, BNG and The Head of Nuclear Policy and Sustainability would liaise to organise a group, which would include Officers and Members, to look at the issues involved and develop a way forward.

### **Sellafield Visitors Centre**

Members requested an update on the Sellafield Visitors Centre, it was agreed that this would be included as a future agenda item.

### **Proposed NDA Amalgamation of the Windscale Site**

The letter sent to the NDA in response to the proposed amalgamation of the Windscale site was received. The response outlined the views and concerns of the Nuclear Working Group highlighted at the last meeting.

Members stressed the importance of Copeland Borough Council being included in the consultation process as a key stakeholder.

The Group were informed that an acknowledgement had been received in response to the letter and that the Head of Nuclear Policy and Sustainability was receiving regular updates and would keep Members informed of further developments.

### **BNG Sale**

A letter from J Reed, Member of Parliament for Copeland to Mr Mike Parker, Chief Executive, BNFL regarding the proposed sale of Project Services was noted, along with a transcript from the House of Commons at which the issue was raised.

Members were informed that a meeting was scheduled to take place on 20 October 2006.

### **Standard Reports Back**

#### **NDA – Annual Plan 2007/08**

Members were informed that a response to the NDA Annual Plan 2007/08 had been circulated. Members were requested to feed back comments in the next 7-10 days to the Head of Nuclear and Sustainability.

### **NDA – Draft Socio Economic Policy**

Members received the Draft Socio Economic Policy. Members were informed that consultation on the draft would be taking place up until 19 January 2007.

It was **AGREED** that this would be included as a future agenda.

### **DTI Policy Frame work for Nuclear New Build**

A report detailing the DTI's proposal for a policy frame work for nuclear new build was received. A letter responding to the proposal and outlining the Council's views was discussed. Members agreed that the action to address some of the generic nuclear issues prior to nuclear proposals being considered through the planning system should be supported, but that there should be some flexibility to allow discussion on changes in local circumstances.

It was **AGREED** that the attached letter should be sent in response to the consultation.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Sustainable Communities Conference**

Members were invited to attend the Sustainable Communities Conference taking place on 1 December 2006 at the University of Central Lancaster, Preston. Anyone interested in attending was asked to contact the Sustainability Manager.

#### **Local Community Prospectus**

Members were informed that the Local Community Prospectus was now available either on the web or in the Members room.

The Meeting Closed at 2:45pm

Chairman