

Nuclear New Build

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Elaine Woodburn
Portfolio Holder for Nuclear and Energy

LEAD OFFICER: Pat Graham – Director of Economic Growth

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

The completed new nuclear power station will provide significant direct and indirect job opportunities for Copeland residents.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

Executive are asked to note the recent decisions affecting the development of the proposed new nuclear power station at the Moorside site, just north of the Sellafield site, and consider a range of implications for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Executive agree that the range of issues identified within this report form the subject of future reports to Executive and Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Members will be aware of two related announcements regarding the potential development of a nuclear power station on the Moorside site, close to Sellafield. On 30 June NuGeneration Ltd announced a change in its shareholding which resulted in Toshiba joining GDF Suez to take forward the development, incorporating three AP1000 reactors. On the same day the Nuclear Decommission Authority confirmed that a deal had been concluded with Toshiba and GDF Suez on the extension of a land option agreement for the Moorside site.

1.2 In NuGeneration Ltd's press statement the company state that the proposal represent;

- *Europe's largest new nuclear project*
- *First of three Westinghouse AP1000[®] reactors targeted for operation in 2024*
- *NuGen's Moorside to provide nearly 7% of UK's future electricity requirements*

- *Moorside project forecast to create between 14,000 and 21,000 UK jobs*
- *Moorside will be UK's biggest new nuclear output from a single site*
- *Project to be largest-ever private investment in West Cumbria*
- *Moorside's reactors to be fuelled by the Westinghouse UK fuel fabrication facility in Preston*

The two announcements also resulted in National Grid confirming that they would be proceeding with the second stage consultation on potential route options for improvements to the electricity transmission lines across Cumbria and Lancashire required to take the power generated by the Moorside site to the national market. Subsequently NuGeneration Ltd have confirmed that it is their intention to submit their application for Development Consent to the Planning Inspectorate at the same time as National Grid will be submitting their own application. The mix of these decisions and announcements has some significant implications for the District Council.

2. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

- 2.1 As the nuclear new build project progresses in tandem with the National Grid's North West Coast Connections project there are a range of issues for the Council to consider including;
- A review of the Council's nuclear and energy policies
 - A review of the Council's internal governance procedures and the constitution to reflect the specific requirements placed on the Council by the Development Consent process.
 - An assessment of the resources required by the Council to enable the Council to fully participate in the Development Consent Process and any subsequent actions to procure any necessary additional support. It should be noted that both the nuclear new build project and the National Grid project are the subject of current Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) between the developers and the Council. A PPA allows the Council to be recompensed for its costs in responding to the Development Consent process for each project.
 - A review of the planning context for the proposals and the Council's legacy strategy.
 - An assessment of the key risks for the Council and the establishment of a project risk register.
 - An assessment of internal and external communications and stakeholder engagement issues.
 - An assessment of the accommodation implications of the Council's role in the DCO process,

The intention is that the above issues will form the subject of future reports to Executive and Council as necessary.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 There are no alternative options to be considered in relation to this report. However future reports regarding the subjects identified in section 2 above will need to identify and consider the options available to the Council.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Both the nuclear new build and National Grid projects have the potential to generate significant economic benefits to Copeland and its residents and in addition will have significant implications for the Councils resources over the next 5 -10 years. Further work is required to fully assess the implications and to report the findings to Members.

5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are:
No comments other than to note that there will be resource implications for the Member Services team in terms of reviewing the constitution and supporting the Development Consent process.
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments: This development will have significant impact on the borough and its residents. The council will need to be ready and skilled to deal with the upcoming issues and will need to ensure that PPA receipts are sufficient to cover costs.
- 5.3 EIA Comment: The Council considers the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector equality duty and impact of Nuclear New Build and the impact on the protected characteristics to ensure that we take advantage of any opportunities to advance equalities.
- 5.4 Policy Framework comments: In line with the Council's key priorities it will work to be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland, as well as working to help build capacity within communities to respond to the changes, find solutions and seek opportunities to help deliver local services for those who are or may be affected by Nuclear New Build.5.5
- 5.5 Other consultee comments, if any: None

6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- 6.1 This issue will be considered as part of the assessment of the resource implications for the Council

7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

7.1 Future reports will present a suite of recommendations in relation to the issues identified above

List of Appendices - None

List of Background Documents: