

NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2010

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Dixon.

Officers: F McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive; P Graham, Head of Development Operations; J Hughes, Regeneration Strategy Manager; S Smith, Interim Nuclear New Build Programme Manager and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present:
Councillor N Williams and Honorary Alderman Mr D Gray.

NWG 33/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

NWG 34/09 Disclosures of Interest

All Councillors declared a personal interest in the agenda due to either being employed by, or having family or friends employed in the nuclear industry.

NWG 35/09 Arrangement of Agenda

Due to no Sellafield Ltd representative being present, it was

AGREED – that Item 5 “Sellafield Ltd – Open Discussion” be removed from the agenda.

NWG 36/09 Site Allocations Policy for Low Level Waste Management

The Regeneration Strategy Manager provided Members with an overview of Cumbria County Council’s proposed allocation of sites for managing Low Level and Very Low Level Radioactive Waste as part of its Minerals and waste Local Development Framework.

During discussion of this item, it was noted that three Parish Council’s had objected to the ‘Reserve site CO32 Land adjacent to Sellafield’, and Members also expressed their concern.

Members requested that no support be given to any site other than the 'first preference sites' until more information on volumes and timings was made available.

A number of amendments were suggested to the draft response and it was requested that a revised response be drafted and emailed to those Members present for comment before being sent.

RESOLVED – that

- a) No support be given to any site other than the 'first preference sites' until more information on volumes and timings is made available.
- b) following this meeting, a revised form of words be created with a final recommendation, and that this be emailed to the Nuclear Working Group Members present with any replies being made by Monday 25 January 2010.

NWG 37/09 Consultation on the Varied Authorisation for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Sites at Sellafield and Windscale, Cumbria by Sellafield Ltd

The Acting Chief Executive presented a report to Members regarding consultation on the Varied Authorisation for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Sites at Sellafield and Windscale, Cumbria by Sellafield Ltd and the proposed response to the Environment Agency.

During discussion of this item, Members requested the response be expanded regarding:

- i) the amount of waste going to the site,
- ii) the social impact regarding the amount of vehicle movements on the A595 and Crematorium Road,
- iii) the inclusion of a Community Benefits Package,
- iv) reference to Planning Gain and improvements to infrastructure in Copeland, and
- v) a 'good neighbour policy'

RESOLVED – that the following recommendations,

- a) While recognising that there are no safety objections under the RSA which would prevent the disposal of VLLW at this site, the Council express concern at the potential socio-economic harm to the Copeland business community due to perceptions of risk related generally to radioactive waste;
- (b) a strategic land use planning approach to such decisions with the full involvement of the Local Councils, and the draft response in Appendix 1 is agreed;
- (c) delay any such decisions until an appropriate process

- has been completed;
- (d) it is further recommended that the response to the EA on its consultation, to be copied to the NDA, DECC officials and NuLeAF, in co-ordination with Allerdale and Cumbria County Council, with a request to discuss the issues raised,

be agreed and expanded to include:

- vi) the amount of waste going to the site,
- vii) the social impact regarding the amount of vehicle movements on the A595 and Crematorium Road,
- viii) the inclusion of a Community Benefits Package,
- ix) reference to Planning Gain and improvements to infrastructure in Copeland, and
- x) a 'good neighbour policy'

NWG 38/09 NDA Business Plan 2010-2013

Members considered the NDA Business Plan 2010-2013 following which a draft response was circulated

RESOLVED – that the draft response to the NDA Business Plan 2010-2013 be forwarded to the NDA Chief Executive.

NWG 39/09 Nuclear New Build

Members were provided with an overview of the Government's Draft National Policy Statement on Nuclear Power Generation by the Interim Nuclear New Build Programme Manager.

This was divided into the following sections:

- EN1 – draft Overarching Energy National Policy Statement.
- EN2 – draft National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure.
- EN3 – draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure
- EN4 - draft National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines
- EN5 - draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure.
- EN6 – draft Nuclear National Policy Statement

During discussion of this item, members considered how they wished the Council to respond to the consultation, particularly regarding section EN1, EN2 and EN6 by submission deadline of 22 February 2010.

It was suggested that a Workshop be held for all Members to consider the positives and negatives of each proposed site for New Nuclear Build in Copeland and the results collated.

It was further suggested that due to the magnitude of the subject, it was not in the remit of the Nuclear Working Group to make the response on behalf of the Council, but a decision for Full Council.

It was proposed that a legal view on the process be sought.

RESOLVED – that

- a) a workshop be held for all Members to consider the positives and negatives of each proposed site for New Nuclear Build in Copeland and the results collated.
- b) a legal view on the process be sought with a view to arranging a special Full Council meeting

NWG 40/09 NuLeAF Newsletter January 2010

Consideration was given to the NuLeAF newsletter for January 2010.

RESOLVED – that the newsletter be noted.

The meeting closed at 3:05 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....