

NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Dixon.

Officers: F McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive; J Cain, Environmental Pollution Team Leader; T Greer, Scientific Officer; P Graham, Head of Development Operations and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present:

Mr B Condon, Mr S MacVean and Mr H Rooms, Sellafield Ltd.
Mr I Irving and Mr I Hudson, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
Mr R Evans, Cumbria County Council.

NWG 25/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

NWG 26/09 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 27/09 Arrangement of Agenda

Due to Mr R Evans being present and with the permission of the Chairman, it was

AGREED – that Item 7 “Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Sites for Low Level Waste” be taken as the first item.

NWG 28/09 Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Sites for Low Level Waste

Mr R Evans, Cumbria County Council, provided Members with an overview of the County Council’s Core Strategy, Development Control Policy and Site Allocation Policy for the

interim storage of High and Intermediate Level waste.

It was stated that the preferred sites were at Drigg and a site within the existing Sellafield boundary, with a reserve site on Land adjacent to Sellafield.

During discussion of this item, concern was expressed that the reserve site on land adjacent to Sellafield was in the wrong place.

Concern was also shown regarding the flooding risk and risk of cross contamination.

Members were concerned that a planning permission granted in 1957 with conditions attached, was being ignored.

It was reported that the Site Allocations Policies consultation period was to start on 11 December 2009 and run until 8 February 2010. The County Council would be submitting it's final version to Government in April 2010 with the aim of being adopted in December 2010.

Comments from the Nuclear Working Group for inclusion in the consultation are to be submitted to the Executive.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

NWG 29/09 Nuclear Management Partners – Twelve Months On

Mr S MacVean and Mr I Irving presented to Members on the first twelve months of the Nuclear Management Partners (NMP).

The first year aim was to enable accelerated delivery, strengthen the base, create a bias for change and drive efficiencies.

With regard to the NMP approach to Socio Economics, the Cumbria Community Fund was highlighted , together with the number of local events and projects that had been funded.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

NWG 30/09 Public Value Programme

Mr I Hudson presented to Members on the Public Value Programme (PVP). It was noted that this was trailed in the 2008 Budget Report and was not a formal spending review. The programme wa Treasury led with each department putting more than fifty per cent of its spend up for review. Members were informed that a number of options were being explored and a

short list of preferred options would then be discussed with Government. The outcomes of the PVP would be communicated in March 2010 and any impacts in 2010/2011 would be included in the final Business Plan.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

NWG 31/09 Disposal of Very Low Level Waste at Lillyhall

Members considered the Council's response to an Environment Agency consultation on an application by Waste Recycling Limited to dispose of radioactive wastes in its Lillyhall site.

The application was for disposal of solid, High Volume, Very Low Level Radioactive Wastes (HV-VLLW) at Waste Recycling's Lillyhall site.

During discussion of this item, Members raised questions regarding 'Good Neighbour Payments' and a Community Package .

It was also recognised that transportation of materials to the site would be through Copeland and concern was expressed regarding the Crematorium Road at Distington.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the report be noted,
- b) while recognising that there were no safety objections under the Radioactive Substance Act which would prevent the disposal of Very Low Level Waste 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,
- c) a strategic land use planning approach to such decisions with the full involvement of the Local Councils,
- d) the draft response be agreed, subject to the inclusion of
 - i) Good Neighbour Payments and Community Benefits
 - ii) comment regarding Transportation links
 - iii) comment regarding concerns raised on the Crematorium road at Distington.
- e) any such decision be delayed until an appropriate process has been completed
- f) the response to the Environment Agency on its consultation be copied to the NDA, DECC official, and NuLeaf, in co-ordination with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council, with a request to discuss the issues raised.

NWG 32/09 Nuclear New Build

Members were reminded that a Nuclear New Build consultation event was to take place on Monday 14 December 2009 at 2:30pm in the Bainbridge Room at the Copeland Centre and all Members of the Council were encouraged to attend.

The meeting closed at 3:40pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....