

Nuclear New Build update

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Elaine Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Steve Smith
REPORT AUTHOR: Steve Smith

<p>Summary and Recommendation: That the contents of the report are noted</p>

1. Background and purpose of report

This report provides:

A summary and update on the current issues relating to nuclear new build proposals

2. Policy context

On 19th July the six National Policy Statements for Energy were debated and approved by the House of Commons. The Nuclear Energy policy statement includes the identification of potential sites for new nuclear power station developments. The list of sites includes land adjoining the existing Sellafield site along with Bradwell in Essex, Hartlepool, Heysham in Lancashire, Hinkley Point in Somerset, Oldbury in South Gloucestershire, Sizewell in Suffolk and Wylfa on the Isle of Anglesey.

3. Nuclear New Build proposals in Copeland Borough

The consortium planning to develop the site at Sellafield, NuGeneration Ltd, has commenced the creation of their team to deliver the proposals. The company has taken temporary office space at West Lakes Science Park.

The focus for the company over the next 18 months will be on assessing whether or not the site can be built on for a nuclear reactor. The aim is to resolve all major planning issues before an investment decision is made around 2015 with a projected start on site date of 2016 with the site becoming fully operational by 2023. A copy of the latest timeline provided by the company is attached as Appendix A.

The company has appointed planning and technical advisors to assist and advise them through the initial process of site characterization. This process is likely to conclude with a planning application for a number of boreholes across the site being submitted in September.

As the nuclear power station project is dependent on upgrades to the National Grid network the consortium partners are meeting with National Grid on a regular basis to ensure the planning processes for both projects are compatible.

4. National Grid – North West Coast Connections (NWCC) project

Discussions between National Grid and Cumbria and Lancashire local authorities continue regarding National Grid proposals for enhancing the grid route through Cumbria with the focus being the mechanism for consulting with the community regarding potential route options.

The principle of establishing a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) has been agreed between National Grid and local planning authorities and initial work has started on the agreement itself, the work streams required to deliver the project and governance arrangements. An indicative timeline for the project is attached as Appendix B.

5. Nuclear New Build planning and infrastructure

A Nuclear New Build Spatial Planning Group led by Copeland Borough Council and including all Cumbria and Lancashire local authorities and the Lake District National Park Authority is considering the spatial implications of potential nuclear new build and potential grid route options.

In addition planning authorities are reviewing and updating where necessary planning policy documents to reflect the potential implications of these key infrastructure investments.

6. Financial and human resources implications (including sources of finance)

None other than Member and Officer time

7. List of Appendices –

Appendix A - Nuclear New Build proposals in Copeland Borough - NuGen timeline

Appendix B - National Grid - North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Project Programme

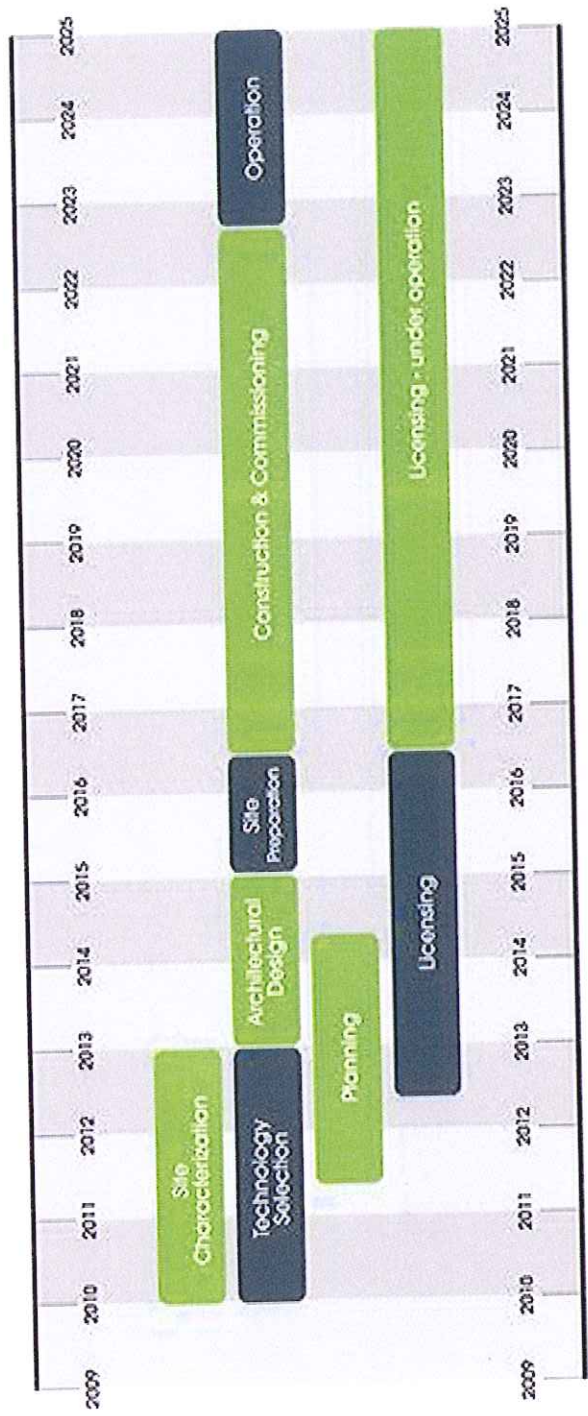
8. Checklist for dealing with key issues

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None directly
Impact on Sustainability	Yes significantly
Impact on Rural Proofing	None directly
Health and Safety Implications	None
Project and Risk Management	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer Comments	
Section 151 Officer Comments	

9. Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision - NO

Appendix A - Nuclear New Build proposals in Copeland Borough- NuGen timeline



Source: NuGeneration Ltd, December 2010

Appendix B - National Grid – North West Coast Connections (NWCC) project

Project Programme

