

Nuclear Projects Update

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Summary and Recommendation:

This paper provides a summary update of key projects relating to the Councils nuclear activities and Members are asked to note the current position and way forward.

1. NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

Proposals by NuGeneration Ltd to develop a new nuclear power generating facility at a site known as Moorside just to the north of Sellafield are progressing. Key points of update worth noting are;

- The Council is in the final stages of considering the final draft of a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with NuGeneration Ltd the developer proposing to build a new nuclear power generator at Moorside.
- Officials from NuGeneration Ltd have been given a tour of the Borough and work has commenced on determining the content of the first work package around transport and accommodation.
- Initial site investigation work on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site is scheduled to commence in the Autumn following delays due to mineral rights issues. A detailed communications plan is being prepared by NuGeneration Ltd to ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of progress.

2. NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The North West Coast Connections project is led by National Grid and is looking at options to enhance the power transmission connections from the Cumbrian west coast to take new power generated by nuclear new build proposals and other renewable proposals to the national electricity market. Key points of update worth noting;

- The stakeholder consultation seeking comments on 6 strategic route options for new grid connections across Cumbria and parts of Lancashire has now closed.
- Following the consultation National Grid will be issuing their final preferred option(s) in the Autumn and are currently putting in place arrangements to

allow discussion around detailed route corridors which will commence soon after the referred strategic route option(s) is announced.

3. WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY

The Borough Council has been a member of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership which has been meeting and delivering a work programme with a view to preparing a final report about participating in the next stage of the Governments process to Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils and Cumbria County Council. It held its final meeting on 19th July.

The Partnership has now published its final report. The report contains detail of the Partnerships work and its opinions and advice to the three Councils, as Decision Making Bodies, to consider a Decision about Participation (DaP) into the next stage of the process, Stage 4. This stage would be the start of the process to identify a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher level radioactive wastes. Copies have been sent to all Members in advance of a Special Council meeting on 26th September when the report will be discussed. A decision about participation will be considered at a meeting of Executive on October 11th. Similar decision making meetings are to be held by Allerdale and Cumbria County Councils on the same day.

4. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

DONG Energy will shortly be publishing a notice in the local papers indicating their proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop and construct the Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm, a new offshore wind farm west of Walney Island, being an extension to the existing Walney 1 & 2 Offshore Wind Farm. The wind farm will be located approximately 19 km West of Walney Island and 31km south east of the Isle of Man. They will be holding events in Millom on the 8th Sep and Egremont on the 11th Sep for the public to view the plans. We are still in the process of negotiating the Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) to fund the scrutiny of their community consultation and DCO application which will include funding the Councils Visual Impact Assessment of the project.