

Developing a work programme for future Board meetings

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Summary and Recommendation:

This paper proposes a range of subject matters for potential future agenda items for the Board and seeks Members views on priorities for inclusion in a Board work programme.

1. Introduction

At the meeting In July Members of the Board requested a report setting out the options for developing a programme of subject matters for future Board meeting consideration. Below are some suggested topics and approaches for Members to consider within the context of the terms of reference of the Board.

2. Nuclear and Energy Policy matters

This area of the work programme could contain;

- Establishing a suite of nuclear and energy related policies for the Borough Council. This could include establishing a Council policy position on, for example, community benefits related to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects for energy related projects or opportunities to support the development of renewable energies
- Commenting on proposed national/regional or local policy initiatives and technical consultations from Government and its agencies. It should be noted that this is an on-going work stream requiring a more reactive approach from the Council

3. Nuclear Projects

The nuclear and energy agenda for Copeland Borough Council is currently dominated by four key projects;

- Nuclear new build
- North West Coast Connections
- Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
- Walney Wind Farm extension

The agenda for recent Board meetings has included a regular update for these projects. Each project has a range of milestones some subject to specific investment or planning decisions which could be developed into a programme for reporting to the Board.

4. Socio Economic Implications

The issue of the socio-economic implications of the nuclear and energy sector for Copeland and its communities has been an area of concern for some years. These sectors are at the centre of the economic strategy for West Cumbria as articulated through the Economic Blueprint, and are seen to be key to the economic prosperity of the locality. Members may wish to review the implications of developments in the nuclear and energy sector on local economic prospects including the supply chain. In addition the Board may wish to understand the socio-economic contributions and commitments made by strategic stakeholders such as Sellafield Sites Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

5. Stakeholder scrutiny

The Council has a role to continually scrutinize the activities of the NDA and Sellafield Sites Ltd. The Sellafield Performance Plan outlines targets and aspirations on an annual basis and the Council receives periodic reports and presentations on progress from senior management at both organizations. Members may wish to review such arrangements in the context of a work programme for the Board.

6. Developing the programme

Dates for future meetings of the Board are as follows;

- 22 November 2012
- 3 January 2013
- 14 February 2013
- 28 March 2013

Members may wish to identify priority issues from the range outlined above for future consideration at specific Board meetings.