

Nuclear and Energy 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;

- A final draft of a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with NuGeneration Ltd the developer proposing to build a new nuclear power generator at Moorside is now with solicitors prior to signature.
- Work continues on determining the content of the first work packages around transport and accommodation.
- Initial site investigation work on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site has recently commenced following delays due to mineral rights issues. A revised programme for the development is awaited.

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 outcome of the stakeholder consultation seeking comments on 6 strategic route options for new grid connections across Cumbria and parts of Lancashire has now been announced.
- National Grid have announced that Options 3 and 4 are their preferred options to take forward to the next phase which will look at detailed route corridors.

- National Grid are working with local authority partners to develop an agreed approach to community consultation for the next phase, due to commence in May 2013 and to run over the summer.

3. WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY

An update on this item appears separately on the agenda.

4. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

The Council has submitted a response to the Section 42 (of the Planning Act 2008) consultation process.

Copeland Borough Council agreed to provide a joint response to the S42 consultation with the other authorities that are potentially signing up to the PPA with DONG –

- Lancashire County Council
- Lancaster District Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- South Lakes District Council
- Lake District National Park
- Cumbria County Council (CCC)

Subsequently DONG has consulted on a supplementary document under Section 42 of the Planning Act. The supplementary consultation is focused on any associated land restoration landscaping, and mitigating measures for impacts on the natural habit, associated with the land section of the proposed development.

The focus of this supplementary consultation therefore is purely focused on the two alternative options for the substation near Heysham, therefore it will have no impact on Copeland and we do not intend to respond to the supplementary consultation.

It was agreed at the Executive meeting on the 13th November that authority to sign up to the agreed PPA should be delegated to the Director of Services. We are still awaiting the final version of the PPA which should be available soon for sign off.

The next stage in the process is the assessment and review of the Technical reports which will involve another 6 weeks consultation period. The Technical reports will contain more of the information needed to make an informed assessment; they will include such details as an extensive visual impact assessment. These reports are scheduled to be released this month.