

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

Initial site investigation work as part of the proposal by NuGeneration Ltd to develop a new nuclear power generating facility on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site is progressing according to plan. 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. 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. A further Members workshop with National Grid officials will be arranged as part of the consultation process.

3. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

The Shore Line Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) was issued on the 9th January 2013. WYG were commissioned to review the SLVIA they have raised a number of issues within the report, namely that the Cumulative Impact assessment has not been carried out adequately and that unless an assessment of all scenarios is carried out, a full understanding of the potential cumulative assessment cannot be made. We have also highlighted that the SLVIA omits to adequately address the impact of the proposed Wind farm on residents. These comments have been fed back through the process and we are awaiting a response from DONG Energy.

DONG Energy has also undertaken a night assessment of the proposed development which will be due out for consultation in the near future.

The PPA is currently being passed around the PPA Authorities to sign.

4. WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY (MRWS)

Members will be aware that at a Special Executive meeting on 30th January the Executive took the decision to proceed to the next stage (Stage 4) of the MRWS process. However at a similar meeting of the County Councils Cabinet held on the same day the County Council Cabinet decided not to progress to stage 4. Based on the principles of '3 green lights' which requires a positive decision at the three levels of government – district, county and central government – the current MRWS process in West Cumbria has therefore finished. However recognising the fact that 70% of the waste is stored in interim facilities at Sellafield and a solution to the long term disposal of that waste is still urgently required the Leader of the Council has written to Ed Davey the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change requesting a meeting to discuss the options for a way forward.