

27 March 2024

Mrs Heather Morrison  
Principal Planning Officer  
Thriving Place and Investment  
Cumberland Council  
Market Hall  
Market Place  
Whitehaven  
CA28 7JG

Email: [Development.control@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:Development.control@sellafieldsites.com)

Our ref: PLC/BCC/2084

Dear Mrs Morrison,

## **PLANNING APPLICATION – NORTH TRANSFERS FACILITY**

Sellafield Ltd is hereby applying for full planning permission for the installation of a single storey building which will be used as a transfer facility to provide a safe and secure operating area for the export of materials across the Sellafield site.

The following documents have been prepared in support of the planning application:

- Completed Application Form, including Ownership Certificates
- Design and Access Statement
- Ecology Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment

### Drawings

- BE3108837 Site Location Plan
- BE3125731 Site plans as existing as proposed
- BE3125735 Plans as proposed
- BE3125736 Elevations as proposed

A Location Plan and a Contaminated Land Risk Assessment containing the security marking **OFFICIAL** have been sent under separate cover. Please note that all documents containing the **OFFICIAL** marking are not suitable for disclosure in the public domain and must not be shared without Sellafield Ltd's written consent.

The appropriate planning fee of £2890 has been calculated based on the floorspace of the proposed development and agreed with Cumberland Council. This has been sent under separate cover.

## **Planning Statement**

This section will assess the extent to which the proposal conforms to national and local planning policy.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

The latest iteration of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2023 and consolidates all national planning policy guidance. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This proposal has been designed to make effective use of the limited available land on the Sellafield site, providing a safe and secure operating area to facilitate the export of packages across site.

### **Copeland Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2013-2028)**

The Core Strategy is the main document setting out local planning policy in the former Copeland Borough area. It is considered that the proposed development conforms with local planning policy, in particular the proposal:

- Conforms with Policy DM5 Nuclear Sector Development at Sellafield and the LLWR at Drigg, which requires that “Operations (other than monitoring, maintenance and investigatory work necessarily done off site) will be retained within the existing boundaries at Sellafield.” The development will be on land which has been designated by the NDA as operational land and has therefore been leased to Sellafield Ltd to form part of the wider operational Sellafield site
- Is not in a flood risk area and therefore meets the requirements of Policy ENV1 Flood Risk and Risk Management.

### **Emerging Copeland Local Plan (2021-2038)**

Cumberland Council are in the final stages of producing a new Local Plan (2021-2038) for the former Copeland Borough area which, once adopted, will replace the existing Core Strategy. The proposed development conforms with policies within the emerging Local Plan, in particular:

- Policy NU4PU, which reiterates the requirement in Core Strategy policy DM5 for development to be sited within the existing boundaries at Sellafield
- Policy DS8PU requires development to be directed away from areas of flood risk wherever possible. The proposal is located within flood zone 1.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the planning application for the North Transfers facility is in line with relevant national and local planning policy.

Section 38 (6) of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* sets out that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This is reiterated in paragraph 11 (c) of the NPPF which states proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan should be approved without delay.

As highlighted throughout this document, the proposed development is deemed to comply with relevant national and local planning policies. The proposed development will not cause any undue harm to the environment in terms of ground stability, contamination, air quality, noise, flood risk and drainage, ecology, landscape character and visual amenity, or transport.

The proposal demonstrates a sustainable approach to providing a facility for exporting materials and therefore this planning application should be positively determined and approved without delay.

Please send all planning enquiries and correspondence to the Sellafield Ltd Development Control Team at [development.control@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:development.control@sellafieldsites.com).

Yours sincerely,

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p.p. Euan Hutton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sellafield Ltd