

Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Sizewell C Task Group** held in the **Deben Conference Room**
at **East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Melton**
on **Monday 15 October 2018** at **4pm**

Members of the Task Group present:

S Burroughes, A Cooper, P Dunnett, J Fisher, M Gower, R Herring, G Holdcroft, M Jones, R Rainger
(Co-Opted Member for Suffolk County Council)

Officers present:

K Abbott (Democratic Services Business Manager), L Chandler (Energy Projects Manager), N Goold
(Senior Energy Projects Officer), Charlotte Granger (Energy Projects Coordinator), P Ridley (Head
of Planning and Coastal Management), P Wood (Head of Economic Development and
Regeneration)

1. Election of a Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Dunnett, and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Holdcroft be elected as Chairman of the Task Group for the
Municipal Year 2018/19

2. Election of a Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Holdcroft, seconded by Councillor Jones and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Cooper be elected as Vice Chairman of the Task Group for the
Municipal Year 2018/19

3. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gallant, Councillor Geater, Councillor
Haworth-Culf, Councillor Mulcahy, Councillor Poulter and Councillor Ritchie.

Councillor Gower acted as Substitute for Councillor Gallant.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 April 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Joint Local Authorities' Group

The Task Group received and noted the Notes of the Meetings of the Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities' Group (JLAG) held on 16 February 2018, 18 May 2018, 20 July 2018 and 17 August 2018.

7. Update on EDF Energy's Timetable

The Chairman of the Task Group provided a verbal update on EDF Energy's current timetable.

The Task Group was referred to the most recent newsletter by EDF Energy. This had set out the indicative timeline for the 12 week Stage 3 consultation to commence early in 2019. It was the intention that Suffolk Coastal District Council would provide its response to the consultation prior to the Council's dissolution on 31 March 2019. It was hoped the timeline for the consultation within the Statement of Community Consultation would be confirmed by late November; once received, Town and Parish Councils would be advised of the timescales and, also, that free, independent, professional planning advice would be available to them via Planning Aid England. The Chairman added that it was possible the Stage 3 consultation would include fewer, but longer, information days and include comprehensive visualisations for attendees.

In response to a query about the County Council's response to the consultation, the Chairman said it was the intention that the County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council would aim to hold their respective Cabinet meetings, when responses to the consultation would be considered, as close together as possible, in the spring of 2019.

Councillor Burroughes joined the meeting.

The Chairman also advised the Task Group that EDF Energy had recently written to landowners which might be affected by the development of Sizewell C. The letter had provided a "worse case scenario" but had also stated that there remained options which would be consulted upon within the public Stage 3 consultation. A member of the Task Group referred to the letter which, he said, had disturbed some recipients. The Chairman emphasised the need for members of the Task Group to clarify that proposals remained possible options only at this time. In response to a question by another member of the Task Group, the Chairman said the letter related to all potential land holding requirements of the build including rail and road options.

It was agreed that a copy of the generic letter sent by EDF Energy and requesting information would be provided to the Task Group after the meeting.

In response to a query by a member of the Task Group regarding the potential for a compulsory acquisition process, the Chairman replied that this would be the ultimate back-stop position; he asked the members of the Task Group to reassure their constituents that such a process was neither certain nor imminent. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management advised that compulsory acquisition processes, if implemented, included access to the land needed to conclude development.

8. Economic Impact Assessment

The Task Group received a detailed presentation by the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration. In summary, the presentation provided information on the following:

- An Economic Impact Assessment (EclA) had been jointly commissioned by SCDC and SCC focusing on the construction phase of Sizewell C in order to assess the positive and negative economic impacts of the development. The overall aim being to develop a robust policy response against each of the key impacts.
- An outline of the Sizewell C economic opportunity in figures: The overall project cost of c£16bn; a 10-12 year construction programme; 5,600 workers at peak construction phase; 25,000 individual roles; an additional Gross Value Added (GVA) of £100m per annum; 900 operational jobs; and additional operational GVA of £40m per annum
- A profile of the Sizewell C construction workforce labour demand and estimated workforce numbers
- A brief summary of the wider context including the combined impact of other energy projects proposed in East Suffolk
- A brief summary of the objectives of the EclA's objectives: To provide a balanced, independent assessment of the economic impact and opportunities of the development; to inform Council's response to the Stage 3 consultation; to influence EDF Energy's economic strategy; and, to provide evidence to support subsequent Section 106 negotiations
- A brief summary of the EclA's specification, including its key objectives: Identify and assess the main positive and negative impacts on skills, supply chains, innovation, inward investment and tourism; Identify and analyse comparator projects to help with learning; Develop scenarios to model potential impacts; Assess impacts and make recommendations for mitigation
- An overview of progress to date in 2018: The commissioning of a consultant in April; the research working paper delivered in June; five scenarios agreed in July; and the initial draft received in August.
- Next steps between October and December 2018: Draft final report due in October; Presentation to the Joint Local Authorities' Group on the conclusion in November; Final report completed in December to inform the Council's Stage 3 consultation response in the first quarter of 2019.

The Chairman asked if the final report would address the intention to harvest the legacy of the development of Sizewell C in terms of skills etc., of if a further piece of research and analysis would be required in due course. The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration said legacy was a key component of the report, specifically the need for transferable skills, but also linked to local companies being able to feed into the supply chain, both nationally and internationally, beyond the completion of Sizewell C. He added that the legacy of the project was important and it was intended that the report would

explore this in order to fully realise the economic value of the project beyond the construction phase.

A member of the Task Group referred to the potential for people currently employed locally in the tourist and hospitality sectors to leave those jobs in preference for a new role at Sizewell C, followed by people from outside the district moving to fill vacant posts and then wishing to remain. The member suggested that, once the project was complete and the number of employment roles at Sizewell C reduced, there was the potential for difficulties over continued employment. The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration said the potential for a displacement of employment was being examined including consideration of how best to mitigate any impact. He added that it was important to achieve the right balance between promoting opportunities and mitigating any residual impact. He emphasised that it would be important to maximise the quality of employment and briefly referred to work underway, in conjunction with the County Council, in this regard.

Another member of the Task Group, with reference to EDF Energy's assertions on the modal split at Yoxford and its surrounding villages, asked if, within the Stage 3 consultation, it was possible for these to be challenged in order to seek clarity on whether there would be investment in road access and rail infrastructure. The Chairman referred to his earlier remarks about the Stage 3 consultation process and anticipated timings in the New Year. He added that, whilst it was assumed the Stage 3 consultation would be undertaken with details likely to be in the Development Consent Order, it was also likely that some options would remain less certain. The Chairman said that, at the Community Forum, EDF Energy's primary focus had been on road and rail with the detail on the modal split still awaited. It was anticipated that the options for road and rail access, and infrastructure, would be available within the Stage 3 consultation. The member outlined the views of the local town and parish councils and further emphasised the need for these to have seen a mapped out infrastructure before site works commenced. The Chairman replied that, whatever form the modal split took, infrastructure would need to be in place before main construction of the site commenced.

The Chairman stated that a decision on the SEGway by the Secretary of State for Transport was anticipated in the autumn. He referred to his recent meeting with the Secretary of State at which the case for investment in the SEGway, well ahead of construction, had been emphasised once again.

In response to a question by a member of the Task Group about the potential for other projects, elsewhere in the country, to 'over-take' Sizewell C, the Chairman said it was unlikely this would occur as the design of other sites had not yet been agreed; he added that, in comparison, Sizewell C would use proven technology. The Chairman said that, following the Stage 3 consultation, it was anticipated the Development Consent Order might follow in late 2019 or 2020 and that, after the Stage 3 consultation, it was also anticipated that timescales would accelerate. He added that the new East Suffolk Council would continue to maintain a keen focus on progress. The Chairman asked members to ensure their towns and parishes were aware of the Stage 3 consultation so that their responses could also be prepared.

Another member referred to public compensation packages associated with large-scale projects such as Heathrow; he suggested that the Council needed to demand more

emphatically what it wanted and insist that EDF Energy build access roads, create a technology college and STEM education opportunities, etc. The Chairman responded that the need for adequate compensation and mitigation had been both robustly and repeatedly stated. He referred to the proposals for the B1122 which had been inadequate and consequently rejected with a demand for an alternative option. The Chairman said skills education had been on the agenda for the Sizewell project for a considerable time; proposals were now more structured based on learning from the Hinkley Point C project. In conclusion, the Chairman said Heathrow was a government project and so promotion of compensation packages was significantly different from those linked to Sizewell C. He stated that, after the Stage 3 consultation, renewed focus would be placed on compensation and mitigation.

Councillor Herring joined the Meeting.

The Head of Planning and Coastal Management said the Council was a consultee within the EDF Energy pre-application process which was primarily planning-led; therefore, mitigation and compensation, needed to be justified in the planning balance. He added that the planning process for the Heathrow project was an entirely different matter. He stressed that it was not possible to 'demand' compensation, the need for which needed to be evidenced, but rather a cultured, professional conversation needed to be conducted.

Another member suggested that the Council seek match-funding from the Government as the project would provide significant national infrastructure; he asked where the Council was in terms of seeking additional support from central Government. The Chairman said he had met with both Claire Perry MP (Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) and Richard Harrington MP (Permanent Under Secretary of the same Department) on this matter; the Government sought additional certainty before making a decision on investment. He added that the Leader of the Council had also written to Chris Grayling MP (Secretary of State for Transport) to press the matter yet further.

In response to the Member's repeated statement that the Council needed to clearly state what it required of EDF Energy in terms of infrastructure, it was repeated that the Economic Impact Statement would examine areas where impact from the development was anticipated and that this would help to form the Council's robust response to the Stage 3 consultation. It was also stated that the Council had maintained a maximum focus on these aspects for a considerable time but it was important to recognise that it was not the only participant in the process and that a co-ordinated approach with the County Council was also important. The Chairman added that it was important to retain focus on planning aspects and resolve these before turning to the next stage which would be the Development Consent Order and any necessary mitigation packages.

The Chairman emphasised that the issues which were important to the residents of East Suffolk would be prioritised through the process but these needed to be addressed in the right order. He added that road and rail issues would impact on the whole district and that these should, for example, be resolved before attention was drawn to other matters to avoid revisiting aspects and being diverted from the primary matters.

The Chairman re-ordered the Agenda at this point in the Meeting.

10. Energy Projects in the vicinity of Sizewell

The Task Group received a verbal update by the Chairman.

With regard to the Scottish Power Renewables proposals, currently out for Stage 3.5 consultation, the Chairman advised that the company had been asked to look again at the proposed sites and proof of a comprehensive search of sites would be required at the Development Consent Order submission stage, anticipated in late 2019. In response to a comment by a member of the Task Group, the Chairman confirmed that the Council had raised concerns about the routes proposed by Scottish Power Renewables some time ago and offered preferred alternatives; he added that, regrettably, the company's engagement was minimal with scant regard to local opinion.

The County Council's co-opted member on the Task Group said that local public opinion considered the Scottish Power Renewables consultation to have been too short with little or no engagement; local residents felt poorly treated by the company and had made this clear to it. He added that there was a considerable amount of upset in the locality and that the company's site selection did not appear to be evidence-based. It was noted that the company's preliminary environment assessment report was due in January 2019.

The Chairman also referred to the National Grid proposals for interconnectors which would require their own onshore substation infrastructure. The Task Group noted that there were off-shore windfarm sites already consented in the North Sea, but there remained debate about where the landfall site for this to come ashore would be and whether, or not, minimal trenching was required etc. The Council would be a statutory consultee or potentially the determining Authority for the interconnectors.

In response to a query by a member of the Task Group about the current connection at Bawdsey to East Anglia One, the Head of Planning and Coastal Management said the grid connection was part of the requirements of the regulatory system via the National Grid. The Council had raised concerns about cumulative impacts, including on the seascape.

The Energy Projects Manager referred to a recent press statement by Crown Estates on potential extensions to existing wind farms. Strategic habitat regulations assessments would be required before any licences could be considered for extension.

9. Isle of Anglesey Wylfa Newydd new nuclear power station

The Task Group received report **SZ 01/18** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development who, as the Chairman of the Task Group, introduced the report. The report detailed a brief introduction to the Wylfa Newydd new nuclear power station proposed by Horizon Power on the Isle of Anglesey, North Wales. This had recently been submitted and approved for the Development Consent Order process by the Planning Inspectorate. The Wylfa Newydd project had 'leap frogged' the Sizewell C project in terms of timing.

The Chairman concluded by stating that the Development Consent Order's proposals for the Wylfa Newydd new nuclear power station would be a useful project to follow as it represented the same process that would be followed when the Sizewell C proposals were submitted for consideration.

The Energy Projects Manager also provided an accompanying presentation on the Wylfa Newydd new nuclear power station. This provided detail on:

- The two-part process to be followed
- The principle elements of the power station including marine works, off-site facilities and associated development.
- Key points of note:
 - The draft Development Consent Order had 84 conditions
 - The site preparation works had 6 conditions
 - Both represented a significant reduction in the number of conditions which had been required for the new Hinkley Point C power station
- The campus would be located next to the construction site and be completed in three phases (1000 construction workers rising to 2500 rising to 4000)

RESOLVED

That the content of report SZ 01/18, particularly with regard to the submission of the Development Consent Order application for the Wylfa Newydd new nuclear power station on the Isle of Anglesey, North Wales, be received and noted

11. Update on Hinkley Point C new nuclear construction site

The Task Group viewed two videos, available on YouTube, which demonstrated the current phase of the construction at Hinkley Point C.

Councillor Fisher and Councillor Jones left the meeting at 6pm

The Task Group noted that the Joint Local Authorities' Group (JLAG) had visited the Hinkley Point C construction site in June. The JLAG would now meet on a monthly basis to agree position papers as part of the work towards the Stage 3 consultation response.

The Meeting concluded at 6.10pm