

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 **Tuesday 12 February 2019** at **4pm**

Members of the Task Group present:

G Holdcroft (Chairman), A Cooper (Vice Chairman), S Burroughes, P Dunnett, J Fisher, S Harvey, M Jones, R Rainger (SCC), D Ritchie (WDC)

Other Councillors present:

M Gower

Officers present:

K Abbott (Democratic Services Business Manager), L Chandler (Energy Projects Manager), P Ridley (Head of Planning & Coastal Management), P Wood (Head of Economic Development)

Before turning to the main Agenda, the Chairman, in acknowledging this was the last meeting of the Suffolk Coastal Task Group ahead of the formation of a new Council in April 2019, wished to formally record his thanks to the members of the Task Group, past and present, for their valued contribution to its work.

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gallant, Councillor Geater, Councillor Haworth-Culf, Councillor Herring, Councillor Mulcahy and Councillor Smith. Councillor Harvey acted as Substitute for Councillor Mulcahy.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. 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 21 September 2018, 19 October 2018, 16 November 2018 and 21 December 2018.

5. Energy Projects in the vicinity of Sizewell

The Task Group received a verbal update by the Head of Planning and Coastal Management.

The Task Group was informed that, against the backdrop of the emerging response by the Council to the Stage 3 consultation (agenda item 7 referred), the consultation by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) on its proposals had commenced on 11 February 2019 and would conclude on 26 March 2019; therefore, both consultations would be undertaken at the same time. The Task Group was further informed that the Development Consent Orders (DCOs) for SPRs EA1 and EA2 offshore wind farms would probably be submitted in October 2019 with the associated process taking 15 months. The Sizewell C DCO would probably be submitted in January 2020 and so, potentially, three DCOs would be running to the same timescales and have a cumulative impact. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management referred to the two national grid interconnectors, one of which had been delayed, and said it was anticipated that, by the conclusion of the Sizewell C DCO, the first interconnector's DCO would be ready for submission.

The Task Group received an update on the national position regarding nuclear energy. The plans for a new nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria had ceased in 2018. The plans for a nuclear power station at Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey had been delayed as investment decisions were on hold. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management said that, in terms of the national energy mix, only Sizewell C was likely to be producing electricity by the end of the next decade. He referred to the significant shortfall in energy production in the UK and suggested that the proposed power stations at Sizewell C and Bradwell would be essential. The funding regime was anticipated in 2019/20 with development, potentially, in 2021/22. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management referred to the earnest work of the Council to try and achieve the best for the local community in this regard. With regard to any cumulative impacts, various meetings with senior government Ministers had been held regarding any possible support to aid mitigation measures.

The Chairman invited questions.

A member of the Task Group asked how the national shortfall in energy production might be addressed. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management referred to the objective of the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) as facilitation of the delivery of new nuclear power electricity generation on some or all of the sites listed in the NPS by 2025. He added that EN-6 also aimed to meet the requirements of the Paris climate agreement regarding the reduction of the use of fossil fuels. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management said interconnectors would be used to help the overall balance of the delivery of energy across the wider geography but, to achieve the same level of provision as a nuclear power station, five times the amount of renewable energy would be required. He added that the proposed mix of energy production was a sensible national policy which was more sustainable and avoided the need to import energy or reliance on others. The Task Group was advised that the review of EN-6 would enable other sites, in addition to Hinkley, Bradwell and Sizewell, to be proposed.

The member also asked which of the existing nuclear power stations would go off-line. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management replied that stations at Torness, Hartlepool and Hinkley B were likely to go offline first.

Another member of the Task Group referred to the new nuclear power station at Flamanville, France and to the fact that its delivery was delayed and its costs had

significantly exceeded its original budget. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management confirmed that the Flamanville site's construction had taken longer than anticipated and its costs had significantly over-run the budget. He added that EDF Energy UK had sought to fix costs for the delivery of Sizewell C as far as possible and that no additional design or fabrication costs were, therefore, anticipated.

The Chairman said EDF Energy viewed Flamanville as a prototype and the power station at Hinkley would be the first delivered to that model. He added that any issues with the Hinkley site would act as learning points and be used to mitigate any such issues at Sizewell C.

A member of the Task Group asked what percentage of overall energy production was reliant on pylons, what the life expectancy of those pylons was, or if they were deteriorating and needed replacement. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management said this was outside of the Council's area of responsibility and so he did not have that information to hand; he added that he had not been informed that any replacement of pylons would be required although it was likely that overhead transmissions lines would need to be re-strung.

Another member of the Task Group asked when a formal explanation of the interconnectors' project would be available. The Energy Projects Manager said it was anticipated this information would be available in April or May. The member of the Task Group suggested the Council seek a tangible response in advance of submitting its response to the Stage 3 public consultation. The Energy Projects Manager said this could be requested but was probably not yet fully formed; she suggested that, as an alternative, a short information note could be circulated to the Task Group members. This was agreed.

There being no further questions, the Task Group noted the update on energy projects in the vicinity of Sizewell.

6. Exempt/Confidential Items

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3* of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

7. Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation

The Task Group received report **SZ 01/19** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development.

This item is recorded as a separate and exempt minute.

The Meeting concluded at 6.21pm