

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: Councillors Raymond Gill, in the Chair; Yvonne Clarkson, Gwynneth Everett, David Moore and Felicity Wilson.

Officers: Pat Graham (Chief Executive), Steve Smith (Interim Nuclear Projects Manager), Robert Ward (Nuclear Sector Development Manager), Mitchell McCombe (Nuclear Sector Development Officer), Clive Willoughby (Democratic Services Officer) and Andrew Clarke (Communications and Engagement Manager).

SN 18/32 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Connolly.

SN 18/33 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interests made at this meeting.

SN 18/34 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2018

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

SN 18/35 Radioactive Waste Management GDF Site Evaluation Process

Councillor David Moore provided a brief overview of the Government's new GDF process that was launched just prior to Christmas 2018.

It was stated that the process was different to the previous one and would be 'Grass Roots' up. Any individual could apply and Local Authorities would be consulted.

Only those in the process would have the right of veto.

It was believed that Copeland Borough Council should be involved in any process as current host community for nuclear waste.

Above all, the Council wanted the waste to be stored safely.

Any decision on taking part in the process would be one for Full Council at the appropriate time.

It was believed that no storage would be available until at least 2040.

Members were then provided with documents from Radioactive Waste Management and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, following which the Interim Nuclear Projects Manager explained the process in more detail and a discussion took place.

RESOLVED:- that

- a) The current position with regards the launch of the Government process and the contents of the revised "Working with Communities" policy paper be noted,
- b) The suggested programme of Member briefing sessions with a view to determining a Council position on the Government's process be agreed,
- c) Comments relating to RMW's proposed 'Site Evaluation' public consultation be noted,
- d) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Nuclear and Commercial Services and the Chair of SNEB be granted delegated authority to respond to the consultation.

- e) The publication of a range of related technical position papers published by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) be noted.

SN 18/36 Consultation Response on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Draft Business Plan for 2019 to 2022

The Board considered the draft consultation response on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Draft Business Plan for 2019 to 2022.

Members were advised that although the response deadline was 4th February 2019, an extension had been agreed to 8 February 2018 in order that this Board could make comment.

Following discussion, the Board thanked the Nuclear officers for their hard work.

RESOLVED:- that

- a) The proposed consultation response on the NDA's draft Business Plan be reviewed and the comments made incorporated before being submitted to the NDA.
- b) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Nuclear and Commercial Services and the Chair of SNEB be granted delegated authority to finalise and submit the consultation response.

SN 18/37 The Case for Accelerated Decommissioning of Calder Hall

The Board received a report setting out the potential case for acceleration of decommissioning of Calder Hall on the Sellafield site. This was in response to work being undertaken by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority reviewing the strategy of decommissioning of the UK's Magnox Reactor Fleet.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed their opinion that this was a thorough and pro-active response for which the nuclear officers should be congratulated.

RESOLVED:- that

- a) The report be received, and
- b) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Nuclear and Commercial Services and the Chair of Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board be granted delegated authority to develop the case for accelerated decommissioning of Calder Hall.

SN 18/38 BEIS Advanced Modular Reactor Competition

The Nuclear Sector Development Manager introduced a report which presented an overview of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) competition on Advanced Modular Reactors.

During the discussion that followed, Members were reminded that a workshop had been arranged for 27 February 2019 to which all members were invited.

RESOLVED:- that

- a) The report regarding to the UK Government's Advanced Modular Reactor competition be noted, and
- b) Further engagement by Council Officers with external stakeholders to ensure Copeland plays a role and benefits from the next phase of nuclear technology development in the UK be agreed.

SN 18/39 The Impact of the United Kingdom's Withdrawal from the European Union on the Nuclear Sector

The Board received a report on the possible impacts of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the nuclear sector either withdrawal under the Government's proposed withdrawal agreement or leaving the EU with no deal.

The definitive arrangements for what will happen after 29th March will depend on the nature of the Brexit scenario that is realised. Where there is a transition period or similar, the arrangements noted in the agenda report would take effect at the end of that period. However, confidence should be taken from the fact that the changes could be implemented on 29th March in the case of a no deal.

RESOLVED:- that the report regarding the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the nuclear sector be noted.

SN 18/40 Projects Update

The Interim Nuclear Projects Manager updated the Board on Nuclear projects. It was stated that following the decision to close down the NuGen operation at Moorside, the site would be returned to its original state by the end of March 2019.

It was further stated that a Moorside Strategic Partnership had been created to explore the potential site for future nuclear development.

RESOLVED :- that the update be received.

SN 18/41 Planning Update

The Senior Planning Officer provided the Board with an update of developments at Sellafield Limited.

RESOLVED:- That the Update be noted.

SN 18/42 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board will be held on Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 2:00pm, in the Bainbridge Room, The Copeland Centre, Whitehaven.

The Meeting closed at 4.05 pm

Chair