

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD 040619

Nuclear & Energy Overview

LEAD OFFICER: Pat Graham, Chief Executive Officer

REPORT AUTHOR: Rob Ward, Nuclear Sector Development Manager

Summary

This paper presents an overview of the scope of work of the Copeland Borough Council Nuclear & Energy Team, the roles within the Team and links to recent Nuclear Portfolio Holder reports and Strategic Nuclear & Energy Board (SNEB) agendas for reference. This is intended to provide members with an understanding of the work of the Team and to highlight current priority issues that are likely to be considered at upcoming board meetings.

Recommendation

1. That members note the information presented in this paper, and familiarise themselves with the issues covered on recent SNEB agendas.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is the role of the Nuclear and Energy Team to maintain awareness of nuclear and wider energy related policy and industry developments, to interpret their relevance to Copeland, and to work with internal and external partners to respond in such a way that ensures the Council's aspirations, role and responsibilities are understood by all involved in the nuclear and energy agenda.
- 1.2. This enables the Council to influence the content of strategies of other bodies where they could have an impact on the delivery of the Council's objectives. The Team has a business-critical function in ensuring that maximum social and economic benefit is secured from the nuclear, energy and radioactive waste management activities undertaken within the Borough, including legacy activities as well as potential future missions.
- 1.3. The team consists of:
 - Nuclear Projects and Programmes Manager
 - Nuclear Sector Development Manager
 - Nuclear Sector Development Officer
 - Nuclear Project Support Officer
 - Principal Planning Officer/Nuclear Lead

2. Nuclear Programme

- 2.1. Typical activities undertaken by the Nuclear & Energy Team include:
- Maintenance of an up-to-date perspective and information source on international, national, and corporate-energy policies;
 - Response to UK Policy developments affecting the nuclear and wider energy industry including response to government consultations;
 - Pursuing opportunities to maximise the benefits to the local nuclear & energy sectors through, for example, the Government's Industrial Strategy, the Nuclear Sector Deal and the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Industrial Strategy;
 - Leading the Council's engagement with local and national nuclear and energy stakeholders (including Government Departments and their agencies, national and local partners and Nuclear Site License Companies) on decommissioning issues, radioactive waste and nuclear materials management matters, movement and access issues, infrastructure and planning issues, security and future nuclear and energy sector opportunities, in partnership with other Council services through the provision of a coordinated programme;
 - Working with internal and external partners as appropriate to ensure that the Council's economic strategy, planning policies and wider sub-regional related strategies reflect the potential for expanding and diversifying the current nuclear and energy sector activities in the Borough, and elsewhere within West Cumbria, to contribute to the growth aspirations of the Council and local communities;
 - Leading the Council's interaction with major infrastructure projects and new nuclear missions, including large scale new nuclear generation, geological disposal and others such as small modular reactors;
 - Identification and maximisation of potential new nuclear or energy-related commercial opportunities and diversification activities;
 - Undertake research and policy-analysis to develop the Council's understanding of policy developments that fall within the nuclear and energy remit, and which impact Copeland.
- 2.2. An overview of the Nuclear & Energy Team's "Nuclear Programme" may be found at Appendix A.
- 2.3. In recognition of the role that the nuclear sector plays in Copeland's economy and community, since 2015 the Council has maintained a suite of Nuclear Position Statements. These statements ensure that the Council's interactions with the nuclear sector consistently reflect the Council's agreed position on nuclear matters – referred to throughout the presentation (not for discussion, but will be reviewed in coming months).

- 2.4. The Nuclear & Energy Team works closely with colleagues in:

Development Management: in relation to planning applications under the relevant legislative frameworks such as the Town and Country Planning Act on matters relating to planning applications through the PPA with Sellafield Ltd;

Economic Development: to ensure that the Council's economic vision and strategies reflect the wider policies and strategies of the Council's external nuclear partners and stakeholders;

Strategic Planning: in relation to the production of the Council's Local Plan.

- 2.5. The Team works closely with the Nuclear Portfolio Holder, and reports to the Council's Strategic Nuclear & Energy Board.
- 2.6. The Nuclear & Energy Team also deals with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP's), which include some statutory requirements as components of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. As such, the Team reports to the Council's NSIP Panel, as appropriate.

3. Portfolio Holder Reports

- 3.1. The Nuclear Portfolio Holder reports to Executive Committee on nuclear matters, which are then included in the Mayor's Executive Report to Full Council. The recent reports may be found via the following links:

9th April 2019:

<https://copeland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7904/Executive%20Report%20to%20Council%20April%202019.pdf>

4th December 2018:

<https://copeland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7364/Executive%20Report%20to%20Council.pdf>

4. SNEB Agendas

- 4.1. Recent SNEB agenda may be accessed via the following links:

11th April 2019:

<https://copeland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g726/Public%20reports%20pack%2011th-Apr-2019%2014.00%20Strategic%20Nuclear%20and%20Energy%20Board.pdf?T=10>

6th February 2019:

<https://copeland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g648/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Feb-2019%2014.00%20Strategic%20Nuclear%20and%20Energy%20Board.pdf?T=10>

18th December 2018:

<https://copeland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g647/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Dec-2018%2014.00%20Strategic%20Nuclear%20and%20Energy%20Board.pdf?T=10>

- 4.2. The intention is to highlight current priority issues that are likely to be considered at upcoming Board meetings, and it is requested that members familiarise themselves with these papers.

