

# **Wylfa Newydd Project**

## Horizon's Response to Comments from Pwyllgor Ymgyrch Tai a Chynllunio Gwynedd a Môn

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## 1 Introduction

1.1.1 This note provides Horizon's response to comments received from Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Planning Campaign Committee (Additional Submission – accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority, published on 24/01/2019).

## 2 Horizon response

### 2.1 Short- and long-term effect on Welsh language and culture

2.1.1 It is noted that the comments made by Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Planning Campaign Committee are based on a previous version of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) which was subject to consultation during Horizon's Stage Two Pre-Application Consultation between August and October 2016.

2.1.2 Horizon undertook a WLIA to assess the likely effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the Wylfa Newydd DCO Project against five key aspects of community life, being:

- Population characteristics;
- Quality of life;
- Economic factors;
- Infrastructure supply and education; and
- Social and cultural aspects.

2.1.3 The key findings of the final WLIA, including the positive and adverse effects of the Wylfa Newydd DCO Project are detailed in the WLIA [APP-423] and summarised in section 4 of the WLIA Non-Technical Summary (WLIA NTS) [APP-430]. Horizon's view is that with mitigation (detailed throughout the WLIA and summarised in section 5 of the WLIA NTS [APP-430]), the beneficial effects outweigh the adverse, particularly in the longer term during the operational phase. This mitigation will be secured in the s.106 agreement entered into with IACC (see from paragraph 2.1.9-10 below).

2.1.4 Horizon considers that the Wylfa Newydd DCO Project can play a role in supporting many of the aims of local and national Welsh language strategies, such as helping to reduce levels of outward migration of young people and increasing the number of children accessing Welsh-medium education.

2.1.5 The projected workforce figures quoted by Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Planning Campaign Committee do not accurately reflect the Wylfa Newydd DCO application.

2.1.6 The WLIA [APP-432] is based on an assumption that, at peak, 7,000 of the 9,000 construction phase workers will be non-home-based (i.e. from outside the DCCZ), with 2,000 home-based workers based within the DCCZ.

2.1.7 At peak, it is anticipated that 4,000 of the 7,000 non-home-based workers would reside in the Temporary Workers Accommodation (the Site Campus) located on the construction site (and therefore be less likely to have an impact on the Welsh language and culture). As such it is assumed that at peak 3,000 workers would reside in the community. In addition, 500 workforce partners and dependents would be expected to move to the KSA with workers and reside in the community.

2.1.8 The WLIA [APP-432] therefore assumes that, at peak construction, for a period of one year, there would be an increase in population of 7,500 across the KSA (including both Anglesey and the Menai Mainland). These numbers will build up to reach this peak, and then fairly rapidly decline again as shown in Figure B-1 of the WLIA [APP-432]. The WLIA [APP-432] does not therefore anticipate an effect of the magnitude stated by Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Planning Campaign Committee on the percentage of Welsh speakers in Anglesey. The WLIA notes that the percentage of the population able to speak Welsh in the KSA would be reduced by 3.4% during the year of peak construction (based on 2011 Census baseline data).

2.1.9 A series of measures which will aid the integration of workers and their families are secured in the draft DCO s.106 agreement. It is noted that the original draft of the agreement was shared in October 2018, with an update in November 2018. A further revised draft s.106 agreement was shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019. This copy of the agreement has been requested by the ExA and forms part of Horizon's deadline 5 submission. However it should be noted that negotiations on it are ongoing.

2.1.10 The revised draft s.106 agreement (of 23 January 2019) secures in Schedule 1 (*Welsh Language and Culture*) a large number of obligations to mitigate effects and enhance the benefits of the Project on the Welsh Language:

- A Welsh Language Education Contribution and Contingency Fund for employing Welsh language immersion teachers.
- Funding for a Community Translation Service.
- Welcome packs provided to workers and their families.
- Funding for two Community Involvement Officers employed by Horizon and two to be employed by IACC.
- Funding for a Welsh Language Officer employed by IACC.
- Horizon employing a Welsh Language and Culture Coordinator for the duration of the construction and operational phases.
- Establish an internal Welsh Language Management Group until the end of the operational period (or as otherwise agreed by the parties).
- Establish a Polisi Iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Policy from commencement until end of the operational period.
- A Community Fund, substantially ringfenced for communities closest to the site and on Anglesey, which community organisations will be able to apply to access.
- Provision of language and culture awareness training to the Workforce.
- A requirement for staff members to demonstrate linguistic courtesy and awareness of the Welsh Language Policy.

- Develop a Welsh language skills competency framework and assessment tool, which will be implemented until the end of the operational period (or as otherwise agreed by the parties).
- Development of a programme of Welsh language training for the Workforce operational staff where this is a relevant requirement within a job-role (as determined by the Welsh language skills competency framework).
- Promote career opportunities at the Wylfa Newydd DCO Project by distributing information to local communities and young people on a regular basis, developing role model activities and resources to encourage awareness of career opportunities within the community.
- Notify all external vacancies to the Wylfa Newydd Employment and Skills Service which will publicise them in Welsh and English.
- Include a Welsh speaker on interview panels for job applicants for roles at the Developer whose preferred language is Welsh, provided that where the job role demands English language skills, those skills will also be considered in such interview process.
- Measures to raise awareness of and respect for the Welsh language and culture, and Welsh speaking among the contractors and the workforce.
- Establishment of a Welsh language mentoring scheme for learners.
- Maintenance of a Welsh speaker badge scheme and using reasonable endeavours to ensure that its contractors operate an equivalent scheme.

2.1.11 These measures will contribute towards integrating workers and their families as well as in building capacity among the local population and community organisations to support this process. The Welsh Language Engagement Group (to include IACC, GC and WG) as secured in the draft DCO s.106 (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) will have a key role in shaping how the above obligations are implemented and monitoring the effectiveness of the obligations and issues addressed.

## 2.2 Effects on children and young people

2.2.1 Horizon appreciates the complexity of socio-linguistic change and that a range of factors that can affect the profile of language ability, acquisition, transmission, use and learning within a population. For this reason, Horizon has developed a suite of measures that provide specific commitments to mitigate effects on the Welsh language and culture as well as flexibility to adapt based on regular monitoring processes. The measures developed have been secured through the draft DCO s.106 agreement (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) and include specific commitments as well as contingency funds.

2.2.2 Horizon appreciates the contribution made by key local and national stakeholders in supporting the Welsh language and culture in Anglesey and north Wales, and has been working in partnership with many local

community organisations since 2013 to deliver a range of activities related to the Welsh language. Building on these links, Horizon has sought to engage with key stakeholders throughout the process of developing its Welsh language and culture mitigation and enhancement measures.

- 2.2.3 The measures and associated obligations reflect the priority areas identified by key stakeholders and members of the WLIA Steering Group, including IACC, Gwynedd Council, Welsh Government and Menter Môn.
- 2.2.4 The Draft DCO s.106 (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) includes an obligation to provide a Welsh Language Education (Annual) Contribution which has been developed based on a robust evidence base, taking into account current provision and capacity alongside the projected inflow of workforce children.
- 2.2.5 Furthermore, the Draft DCO s.106 (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) also includes a Welsh Language Education (Contingency) Fund, accessible if the number of workforce children exceeds that which is anticipated.
- 2.2.6 In terms of early years provision, Schedule 6 of the Draft DCO s.106 (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) notes that IACC may utilise the Education (Contingency) Fund for pre-school provision.

## **2.3 Summary and conclusion**

- 2.3.1 Horizon fully embraces the importance of Welsh language and culture to the communities of Anglesey and North Wales. Horizon is committed to supporting and enhancing Welsh language and culture across all aspects of the Wylfa Newydd Project throughout its duration, including through the development of measures to mitigate adverse effects and enhance beneficial ones. Schedule 1 of the draft DCO s.106 agreement (shared with Welsh Government and IACC on 23 January 2019) secures mitigation with regard to the Welsh language and culture.
- 2.3.2 Horizon disagrees with Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Planning Campaign Committee's view that the Wylfa Newydd Project would undermine local and national Welsh language strategies. The focus of mitigation and enhancement measures workshops reflected the key themes of Anglesey's Welsh Language Strategy (which in turn reflects Welsh Government strategy, i.e. a million Welsh speakers by 2050) and the Anglesey detailed Welsh Language Plan (which is updated on an annual basis). Horizon considers that the WLIA (including the Welsh Language and Culture Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy) gives appropriate consideration to adopted national and local language strategies as set out in Section A.2, Volume A of the WLIA [APP-432].

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