

Sizewell C DCO Application

Woodbridge Town Council (IP20025891) response to Examiners' question

Question ExQ1 LI1.1

Woodbridge Town Council has relied upon its Councillor Robin Sanders, a retired Chartered Engineer employed before retirement on major infrastructure projects in the UK and overseas as a designer/advisor, to address the question.

The question posed to Woodbridge Town Council is reproduced below together with our response:

“please comment on whether the following measures would ensure this (the proposal represents a good quality sustainable design which can be effectively integrated into the landscape) would be achieved in the detailed design, construction and operation phases:

- i) A ‘design champion’. Such a role would advise on the quality of sustainable design and the spatial integration of both the Main Development Site and Associated Development Sites*
- ii) A ‘design review panel’ to provide a ‘critical friend’ role. Such a role would provide comment on the development of sustainable design proposals*
- iii) The production of an approved ‘design code’ or ‘design approach document’ which would establish the approach to delivering the detailed design specifications to ensure good quality sustainable design (as approved in the Hinkley Point C Connector Project (EN020001)).*

Please advise on how such measures could be secured.

With respect to

- i) ‘design champion’.
This role would encompass a vast array of engineering, architecture, environmental and other design and planning aspects and would require the engagement of a design and construction project manager/director as a co-ordinator with extensive practical experience through design and construction phases of large and complex infrastructure projects. Access to support to address specific, sometimes complex, issues would be essential and as such it is likely that the person will reside within a large ‘multi-disciplinary’ consultancy with the ability to cover the majority of such tasks in-house under his/her leadership.

The precise contractual relationship between the ‘design champion’ and the developer would require careful drafting to ensure that the advice and guidance is not given lip service by the Applicant or its successor in title. Further As design is never finished until completion of a project of the complexity that will be Sizewell C the ‘design champion’ would need to be

engaged during the construction phase as well as the pre-construction phase

ii) 'design review panel'.

This approach is reasonably common on many major overseas infrastructure projects and UK projects. It can be a highly effective tool to provide comments and advice and would be suitable for the development of sustainable design guidelines and proposals as design progresses and issues arise. The precise authority of the design review panel decisions on the developer design development would, as with the design champion, would need careful drafting.

iii) *an approved 'design code' or 'design approach document'*

It is unclear who would be the approving authority/body for such codes or documents as there is no statutory, governmental or quasi-governmental body that we are aware of that could encompass all the aspects of design within their capabilities to be a suitable and qualified approver. Further it is questionable if any such body has the in-house capacity to adequately perform such a role which will require intense upfront development prior to detailed design. It is likely such a document would lead to substantive delay compared to utilising option i) and ii) where such development can progress and develop as design proceeds.

Please comment as to whether any other measures or approaches are considered necessary?

Woodbridge Town Council would anticipate that the ONR and other regulators would have regular design review meetings with the Applicant but in this instance given the close proximity of the site to many sensitive receptors we consider it would be appropriate and necessary that these organisations managing those receptors also have such review meetings with the 'design champion' or 'design review panel' to discuss means by which the most appropriate sustainable design can be achieved.