

## **Summary - Policy & Need Stop Sizewell C**

**Summary:** Sizewell C does not answer this government's policy imperatives and is not needed.

### **A. Sizewell C does not answer this government's policy imperatives;**

- It is not the solution to net zero and faces a number of political and financial challenges to its target of delivering by the government's deadline for 78% reduction in CO2 by 2035.
- It will take 6 years to offset the CO2 from construction, meaning it will make no positive contribution to net zero until around 2040. Recent studies suggest the Life Cycle emissions of the EPR is underestimated.
- There are legitimate concerns about the reliability of delivery of the project, given the poor record of the nuclear industry generally and the EPR in particular.
- The cost is too high - indeed it may cost more than £20 billion - and investment would suck resources away from faster, green solutions such as offshore wind and hydrogen storage.
- It is unclear how the £20+ billion cost would be financed. EDF is pushing for a government stake or for consumers to pay for it through a nuclear tax (the RAB). We assert that it cannot offer value for money and that investors may not be forthcoming.
- The project is planned in a legislative policy vacuum with reviews of the National Policy Statements due and multiple government initiatives that prioritise protection of the natural environment.
- There are a range of ESG concerns for investors including environmental and social impacts and questions of governance.
- China's involvement remains mired in controversy.
- The location will not help level up the UK.
- It cannot be justified as a means to help economic recovery,

### **B. Sizewell C is not needed..**

- The concept of baseload is outdated, and nuclear energy is not, in any case, "always-on". Nuclear is not a good fit with renewables.
- The majority of the Climate Change Committee's five energy scenarios in its 6th carbon budget had only 5GW of nuclear capacity, achievable by completing Hinkley C and life-extending Sizewell B.
- The government has underestimated the potential to store renewable energy in the form of green hydrogen. UK high level climate action champion Nigel Topping on 2 June supported efforts to increase hydrogen from renewable energy and to progress to a 100% renewables power system.
- EDF's efforts to find other roles for Sizewell C is an admission that its power will not

always be needed. The exploratory functions associated with Sizewell C could be delivered by Hinkley Point C and other non-nuclear energy generation sources. This is a cynical attempt to strengthen what is a weak case for Sizewell C