



The Planning Act 2008

Sizewell C (SZC)

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010012

Deadline 10: *12 October 2021*

East Suffolk Council summary of final position

Executive Summary

1. At the time of its Relevant Representation, East Suffolk Council (ESC) had a position of neutrality in respect of the proposed Sizewell C project [\[RR-0342\]](#).
2. Having worked with the Applicant during the Examination period, ESC is pleased to confirm that, while it maintains its position of neutrality, it considers the package of mitigation which has now been agreed and secured through the draft DCO and Deed of Obligation ensures the best possible mitigation package for East Suffolk with regards to economic and education opportunities arising from the project and the ability to appropriately mitigate adverse impacts arising from the development, in particular, through the Housing, Natural Environment, and Tourism Funds.

Summary of Final Position

3. In its original Relevant Representation, ESC had a position of neutrality in respect of the proposed Sizewell C project [\[RR-0342\]](#).
4. ESC confirmed that it had long supported the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and had accepted the identification of Sizewell in National Policy Statement EN-6 as a potentially suitable location for a new nuclear power station. However, the Council also considered that the project would give rise to a number of adverse impacts which would affect the local population, particularly during the construction phase of the project. Recognising both the benefits and adverse effects of the project, ESC adopted an overall position of neutrality.
5. At this final Deadline ESC consider that it may be helpful to the Examining Authority to confirm its position in relation to the Sizewell C proposal.
6. There have been 19 listed and formal changes to the proposal and numerous other amendments and revisions to the DCO proposal throughout the Examination process. A large majority of these have been to address concerns highlighted by ESC (and SCC) in the LIR submission [\[REP1-045\]](#) and have been welcomed by ESC.
7. The joint statement of common ground between ESC, SCC and the Applicant that is also submitted at Deadline 10 demonstrates the progress that has been made since the previous iterations at Deadline 2 [\[REP2-076\]](#) and Deadline 8 [\[REP8-095\]](#).

8. In addition, the Applicant, ESC, and SCC have signed and executed a Deed of Obligation that will be submitted at Deadline 10 that incorporates mitigating measures in relation to the Project that have been agreed by all parties. ESC welcomes the completion of this critically important element of the DCO proposal.
9. Separately, and not considered by ESC as material to the merits of the DCO proposal, a deed proposing the establishment of an environmental trust has been signed by the same three parties proposing the future inception of a new Suffolk Environment Charity to be partially funded by donations from Sizewell C Co. The charity's objective will be to promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, primarily in and around East Suffolk albeit its funds could also be spent further afield, across Suffolk and potentially in to the adjacent Norfolk area, including the protection and enhancement of natural beauty and the advancement of education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around East Suffolk.
10. ESC welcomes the package of mitigation that is embedded within the Project and secured in the DCO and the separate mitigation that is secured within the Deed of Obligation. Together, these secure monetary packages towards necessary mitigation as well as the necessary controls, monitoring packages, triggers, and onward payments to other organisations to mitigate impacts arising as a result of the Sizewell C project.
11. ESC is pleased to confirm to the Examining Authority that at this final Deadline in the Examination, the Council welcomes all the positive revisions, amendments, and concessions that the Applicant has made in order to reach common ground on the majority of areas of contention and disagreement that were highlighted in the original LIR [[REP1-045](#)].
12. As is apparent from the summary of the current position in relation to the LIR (submitted by ESC and SCC at Deadline 10), whilst ESC maintains its position of neutrality overall, it considers that much has been achieved since the original application was submitted, for the benefit of the local community and environment. ESC's objective throughout has been to ensure that if development consent is granted by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, ESC can be confident that it has secured the best possible mitigation package for East Suffolk, and our communities, with regards to economic and education opportunities and the ability to appropriately mitigate adverse impacts arising from the development, in particular through the Housing, Natural Environment, and Tourism Funds.
13. ESC is now content that this has been achieved and that if the Secretary of State grants consent, a scheme, which optimises the benefits and minimises adverse impacts will be delivered.

14. However, there remain areas where ESC remains in disagreement with the Applicant and these have been recorded in the Statement of Common Ground and the LIR review, both submitted at Deadline 10.
15. In summary, ESC has not reached agreement with the Applicant in respect of coastal processes, and a small professional disagreement remains on a heritage matter. These disagreements are important but when considered alongside the areas of agreement, ESC considers the balance remains in favour of maintaining a neutral position on the overall proposal.
16. ESC anticipates that the remaining area of disagreement with regards to coastal processes can be further discussed, evolved, and hopefully resolved, through the discharge of requirement process.
17. There are other areas of disagreement, for example, with regards to the significance of harm to Coastguard Cottages at Dunwich Heath, and on the impact upon the statutory purpose of the AONB, which are considered to be appropriately addressed through mitigation included in the signed and executed Deed of Obligation to be submitted at Deadline 10.
18. On behalf of East Suffolk Council, we place on record our thanks to the Examining Authority and the PINS staff for the management of the Examination and the detailed consideration of the project and of ESC's representations. This has resulted in positive amendments to the DCO, and its associated documentation, and, as set out above, it will result in the delivery of a suitably mitigated project in the event that development consent is granted.