



Meeting note

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Status	Final
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Date	13 November 2015
Meeting with	EDF Energy (EFDE), Suffolk County Council (SCC), Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) and The Planning Inspectorate (PINS)
Venue	The Qube, London
Attendees	Tim Norwood, EDF Energy Carly Vince, EDF Energy Michael Wilks, Suffolk County Council Philip Ridley, Suffolk Coastal District Council Tom Carpen, The Planning Inspectorate Marie Evans, The Planning Inspectorate
Meeting objectives	Strategic overview of the Sizewell C project
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introductions

Tom Carpen was introduced as the new Infrastructure Planning Lead contact at PINS for the proposed Sizewell C development. Tom Carpen takes on the former role of Mark Wilson.

EDFE update

EDFE described the recent signing of a Strategic Investment Agreement between EDF and China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) for the construction and operation of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset, together with agreements between EDF and the UK Government, and the signing of contracts with key suppliers. These conditions pave the way for the Hinkley Point C project to go ahead and set the steps for a final investment decision.

EDF also agreed Heads of Terms of a wider UK partnership for the joint development of new nuclear power stations at Sizewell in Suffolk and Bradwell in Essex. EDF and CGN have signed Heads of Terms of an agreement in principle to develop Sizewell C in Suffolk to a final investment decision with a view to build and operate two European

Pressurized Reactors (EPRs). During the development phase, EDF will take an 80% share and CGN will take a 20% share.

EDFE provided an update regarding associated works for Hinkley Point C. The Cannington bypass is almost complete. The works have taken approximately 15 months. Road improvement works have also been completed and a large volume of earth (1.8million m³) has been moved at the site.

SCDC and SCC commented that they found the site visit to Flamanville Nuclear Power Plant in France very helpful and a good learning experience. It was noted that the Flamanville twitter feed includes links to helpful visualisations.

Local Authority update

The Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG) continues to meet and is an avenue for feedback to EDFE. The JLAG consists of Cabinet and local authority members from both SCDC and SCC, local MPs have also been invited to attend as observers. The group meets on a monthly basis.

Both EDFE and JLAG have been undertaking community liaison.

SCC has commissioned transport studies, which set out strategic options for mitigating the transport effects on the area. These have looked at bypass options on the A12 including a potential four village bypass; a new route direct from the A12 to site and bypasses on the B1122 from Yoxford towards the Sizewell C site.

PINS were informed that Parish Councils are not directly involved in JLAG but there are two local groups in which the Parish Councils and local community are involved: the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group and the Together Against Sizewell C (TASC). SCDC has a Sizewell C Task Group of Councilors which will report to Cabinet. The Task Group meets when required and in public.

There is also the Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board, which is chaired by Therese Coffey MP, which was established as a conduit to enable all the local authorities and energy companies to have an "in" to government departments to address cross departmental issues to ensure a coordinated approach to addressing issues arising from the schemes.

PINS were invited to attend a JLAG meeting. It was agreed this would be an opportunity for PINS to provide the latest information about its role and how the application process works. EDFE advised they would also be happy to arrange a site visit for PINS and local authorities to the proposed Sizewell C development area.

Overview of the proposals, including approach to consultation

EDFE confirmed the three stage approach to consultation proposed for Sizewell C. Stage 1 consultation was undertaken in early 2013. EDFE are working towards the Stage 2 consultation, although the date of consultation is yet to be determined. Stage 3 is currently envisaged to include a suite of documents, including an environmental report detailing baseline environmental information and the initial findings of the impact assessment; and a Consultation Document Summary.

EDFE described the development proposals at Stage 1, as presented in the Stage 1 consultation material. There are likely to be changes between the development proposals presented at Stage 1 and that of Stage 2. EDFE described progression towards determining preferred options for associated development. Darsham Park & Ride site is the preferred park and ride site to the north, with Wickham Market Park & Ride site the preferred site to the south. The latter has moved slightly due to archaeological constraints.

The green rail route is likely to be preferred route to site. EDFE are still looking at the likely split between road, rail and sea. Previous proposals for freight handling facilities will no longer be included within the project proposals.

EDFE is working with the local authorities on a revised Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC). This will include details of the suite of consultation methods. EDFE are also engaging Planning Aid England to support Town and Parish Councils with the forthcoming consultations.

For Stage 3 draft documents, PINS advised that they would be happy to review draft documents in line with PINS' pre-application prospectus. PINS strongly recommended building in sufficient time for the review of draft documents. EDFE confirmed its intention to consult on some draft documents during the pre-application stage. EDFE also confirmed that it would seek advice from PINS, as appropriate.

Update on highways matters, including A12 and B1122

EDFE are looking at options for the road junction at the B1122 at Yoxford. Modelling work is progressing alongside discussions with SCC.

EDFE have held discussions with Network Rail with regard to the associated rail development and effects on Network Rail's existing assets and services; however, engagement by Network Rail has been limited to date. PINS advised that in general it has a role in impartially facilitating pre-application discussions with applicants and consultees, should EDFE consider it would be beneficial at any point.

SCC provided an update on the A12 four village bypass proposal. SCC is preparing an outline business case, in partnership with SCDC, to support the delivery of the four village bypass. SCC indicated that it intends to apply for a Direction that the four village bypass be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in its own right, thus SCC advised it would like to follow up separately with PINS on this matter at an appropriate time. Discussions are ongoing between the local authorities and EDFE in relation to the approach to delivering highway infrastructure locally, including various bypass options along the A12.

With regard to the B1122, SCC commented that it has commissioned work to understand in greater detail the concerns within parishes adjoining the B1122 about the routing of construction traffic along this road. The final report will be used by the local authorities to discuss the need for mitigation with EDFE.

Update on other technical and environmental matters

EDFE confirmed workshops are still ongoing. These largely relate to the methodologies and data collection for the main site. Next year the workshops will start to focus on the outputs of the environmental assessments.

A key area is the socio-economic assessment and EDFE are working closely with local authorities on these matters, including those related to the accommodation campus, construction workers, and tourism.

Approach to capturing common ground

SCC enquired whether it would be preferable for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) to only record points of uncommon ground. PINS advised that whilst there is no specific format for SoCG, in the absence of any confirmation on points of agreement, it is possible that Examining Authorities would seek further information during examination to obtain assurances that matters are agreed. PINS Advice Note 2 The role of local authorities in the development consent process and DCLG (2015) Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent provide further guidance on SoCG.

EDFE and the local authorities will discuss the format of SoCG further as the pre-application stage progresses towards any submission. PINS were asked to provide links to any good examples of SoCG.

Update on other applications

EDFE informed the meeting that planning permission for habitat creation measures had been secured and works are underway. This habitat is intended to offset potential impacts on the SSSI as a result of the proposed Sizewell C development.

There is also a need to relocate some of the existing Sizewell B buildings from the footprint of the Sizewell C site. Sizewell B will be making an application to SCDC for this.

Planning Inspectorate update

PINS commented that since the last tripartite meeting with the local authorities in 2014 there had been a number of PINS publications and updates to guidance documents. PINS described the pre-application prospectus, which details the services PINS can provide at the pre-application stage, including a review of draft documents identified in the prospectus. PINS also described the publication of new Advice Notes (AN): AN15 Drafting Development Consent Orders (October 2014) and AN16 How to request a change which may be material (July 2015).

Updates have also been made to a number of existing advice notes, including:

- AN3 EIA consultation and notification;
- AN4 Section 52;
- AN5 Section 53;
- AN7 EIA: PEI, Screening and Scoping;
- AN10 Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to NSIPs; and
- Updates to annexes A, C and E to AN11 Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process.

PINS advised that they are looking at amending AN8, the suite of advice notes detailing how to get involved in the planning process.

EDFE enquired as to whether PINS would be publishing an AN for requesting a change post-consent. PINS advised that there may be an update to AN16; however, further guidance is expected from DCLG.

PINS also advised EDFE that from experience of applying the 'satisfactory' test in section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 as amended, applicants should be aware that if the overall standard of the application meant it was going to be difficult to examine the application within the statutory 6 month limit, there could be a risk of non-acceptance. PINS advised that it can advise the applicant on progress at the draft documents stage.

Any other business

None identified

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