



Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

Community and Local Benefits Statement

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 The Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Development Consent Order (DCO) Application was submitted by the Applicant, Uniper UK Limited, to the Secretary of State (the SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) on 5th August 2025 under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA 2008). The DCO Application was accepted for examination on 28th August 2025.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking a DCO for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a proposed low carbon Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Generating Station fitted with Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) (the 'Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power (CQLCP) Abated Generating Station') and supporting infrastructure (collectively the 'Proposed Development') on land at, and in the vicinity of, the existing Connah's Quay Power Station (Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay, Flintshire, CH6 5SJ), North Wales (the 'Proposed Development Site'). The term 'Order limits' is used to describe the geographical boundaries within which the Proposed Development and associated powers would be exercised.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development would comprise up to two combined cycle gas turbine power station (CCGT) with carbon capture plant (CCP) (and supporting infrastructure) achieving a net electrical output capacity of more than 350 megawatts (MW; referred to as MWe for electrical output) and up to a likely maximum of 1,380 MWe (with CCP operational) onto the national electricity transmission network.
- 1.1.4 Through a carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline, comprising existing elements to be repurposed and new elements, the Proposed Development would make use of the CO₂ transport and storage network that will be owned and operated by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited, the onshore pipeline for which is currently under development as part of the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline project (referred to as the 'HyNet CO₂ Pipeline Project'). The CO₂ transport and storage network will transport CO₂ captured from existing and new industries in North Wales and North-West England to be permanently stored in depleted offshore gas reservoirs in Liverpool Bay.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

- 1.2.1 There has been a power station on site at Connah's Quay for over 70 years. Investment at Connah's Quay through development of the Proposed Development by the Applicant would contribute significantly to economic growth in the region, by providing skilled technical jobs and creating new opportunities during construction, along with potential opportunities through the wider supply chain, and onward into the operational life of the scheme.
- 1.2.2 This document has been produced to explain the community benefits that would arise from the Proposed Development at Connah's Quay.

2. Community Benefits

2.1 What are Community Benefits?

2.1.1 Community benefits refer to the contributions that businesses, particularly those in the energy industry, make to local communities to share in the benefits of development. These contributions can be financial, such as cash payments to community funds, or in-kind through donating goods, services or time to local charities or community organisations, such as support for local projects, infrastructure improvements, skills development or maximising the opportunities for the local community to win employment or business arising from developments.

2.2 What does the Applicant contribute to today?

- 2.2.1 As part of the operation of the existing Connah's Quay power station, the Applicant has a local benefit fund which is managed by the team at the power station. This seeks to support initiatives focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, health and wellbeing. Recent examples of schemes that have benefitted from the fund include Northop Bowling green, which needed support with some much-needed replacement and repair works in 2025, and Brookfield Primary School where the play area was upgraded in 2024.
- 2.2.2 Further to this, the Applicant offers a funded Education Centre which provides important facilities for local schools and colleges to engage with the existing site and the wider energy industry.
- 2.2.3 The Education Centre has been used by thousands of school pupils and students since it originally opened in 1998, until its temporary closure following the Covid pandemic in 2020. It re-opened in 2024, and since its re-launch in November 2025, it has provided educational enrichment to well over 300 students including the home schooled and those in all stages of education from local primary schools onwards. It has hosted a range of tailored workshops for students, engineers and apprentices at the site to help inspire them to pursue careers in 'STEM' subjects.
- 2.2.4 The Applicant also encourages its employees to engage in STEM outreach in the wider community.
- 2.2.5 The Education Centre will continue to be available throughout construction of the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.6 The Applicant also co-founded, runs and chairs the Deeside Decarbonisation Forum, which is a free, open, public forum working to support local business and industry to decarbonise their operations, maintain / grow their market share, helping to support economic growth in the region.
- 2.2.7 The Forum is also working to help align the STEM offering from its member businesses to ensure a strong and joined up offer to schools and colleges. The Applicant's Education Centre is part of this.
- 2.2.8 The Applicant already works with Natural Resources Wales and local groups to maintain a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within its land

ownership. This includes the provision and maintenance of a field study centre, hides and observatory, as well as a land management plan to optimise ecological diversity. This can be accessed by members of the Deeside Naturalists Society (DNS), or by arrangement with the DNS.

- 2.2.9 This is in addition to the economic benefits for the local community, created directly through high-skilled jobs at the power station and indirectly through employment in the businesses and services that support its maintenance and operation.
- 2.2.10 Continuing electricity generation at this location, as intended by the Proposed Development, will continue this heritage and contribution to the local community, a contribution that would otherwise be lost on closure of the existing power station.

2.3 What feedback has been received regarding Community Benefits?

- 2.3.1 Extensive consultation has been conducted as the Proposed Development has evolved and, whilst the Applicant has not received a large volume of consultation responses on this topic, there is an understandable desire amongst some in the community that a project such as CQLCP should deliver a visible, meaningful and positive local impact.
- 2.3.2 The topics most frequently raised include:
- Further clarity about local employment and skills opportunities.
 - Benefit to the local economy.
 - Some form of community benefit funding.
 - Local amenity enhancement – for example, through improved footpath access.

2.4 What does the Applicant propose to do to deliver Community Benefits?

- 2.4.1 The Applicant is proud of the role it plays in protecting the local environment and contributing to the local community at Connah's Quay power station. As part of plans for the future of Connah's Quay, the Applicant will continue to work with its local stakeholders to understand any concerns and to ensure that it is able to continue to play a positive role within the community (see Section 2.6 below for further details).
- 2.4.2 The current community contributions of the existing Connah's Quay power station will be maintained, including the Education Centre, while it is in demand.
- 2.4.3 The Applicant plans to collaborate with an appropriate training provider, enabling apprentices to participate in work on the Proposed Development. At present, it is anticipated that one apprenticeship will be offered each year throughout the construction phase, for a total of up to nine apprenticeships.
- 2.4.4 The Applicant is in the early stages of working with Coleg Cambria, Bangor University, and Wrexham University to align courses at nearby education

facilities with the skills required for the Proposed Development and other regional projects. This is to support the project as it moves into the operational phase.

- 2.4.5 The construction phase of the project will provide the community with some of the most significant and immediate opportunities. The Applicant will work with our chosen technology provider and construction companies to maximise the opportunity for the local community to be engaged in the delivery of the Proposed Development during its construction and future operation. This could include promoting wider training and recruitment available through local training and education providers, as well as creating commercial opportunities for local businesses across the range of activities needed to successfully deliver a cutting-edge project like the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.6 The Applicant will promote “meet the buyer” events to act as a matchmaking forum to connect suppliers directly with our chosen technology provider and construction companies along with local sourcing frameworks with our main contractors. The Applicant has already participated in local supply chain events as a project within the HyNet cluster and will continue to do so.
- 2.4.7 Local content can take the form of local suppliers for equipment, bulks, and consumables, while employment of the construction workforce itself represents a significant contribution to local, Welsh and UK content.
- 2.4.8 Collaborating with the chosen technology provider and construction companies, the Applicant will develop and implement targeted initiatives to support local employment, apprenticeships, work experience, and engagement with underrepresented groups, in support of the overall Local Workforce Strategy. This strategy will help identify local skills needs, labour availability, and recruitment opportunities.
- 2.4.9 Investment in training and development is central, with structured apprenticeship and graduate programmes, upskilling initiatives, and collaboration with local colleges and industry alliances (building on the work already being undertaken by the Applicant) to build technical and leadership capabilities in project delivery and the energy sector.
- 2.4.10 The Applicant sees achieving local contribution to this nationally significant infrastructure project as an important measure of success. As part of demonstrating this, the Applicant will set a voluntary local and UK content (as described in 2.4.7) goal and will report performance against this goal by our supply chain to DESNZ (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) insofar as reasonably practical.
- 2.4.11 The approach aligns with wider Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, and social value objectives, that will apply to the Applicant and the appointed contractors, ensuring benefits for both the project and the surrounding communities in North Wales and beyond.
- 2.4.12 The Applicant also recognises the cultural importance of the Welsh language and will ensure bilingual communications and signage throughout the site to promote inclusivity and respect. This is in line with practice at the existing Connah's Quay power station.

2.5 Will there be a Community Benefit fund?

- 2.5.1 The Applicant will establish a community benefit fund (CQLCP Community Benefit Fund), which will be set up should the Proposed Development be granted consent and progress to the construction phase.
- 2.5.2 The exact nature and operation of the benefit fund will be finalised following further engagement with local stakeholders and will be formalised through a Community Fund Agreement. At this stage, the Applicant anticipates that the scope of the benefit fund could include the following, but this would be guided by local stakeholders:
- STEM engagement and promotion, as well as education initiatives;
 - Promotion of health and wellbeing in the local community;
 - Enhancements to public rights of way and footpaths; and
 - Nature enhancement and improved access to the natural environment.
- 2.5.3 The scope of the fund will not extend to:
- Offering discounts on local energy bills (although support for energy efficiency and / or energy cost reduction measures may be considered); or
 - Community ownership of the Proposed Development.
- 2.5.4 The fund is intended to provide voluntary community benefits and will be designed to reflect local priorities identified through ongoing community engagement.
- 2.5.5 The overall scope of the community benefits package will also be informed by the discussions we are engaged in with DESNZ as part of the Cluster Sequencing project negotiations.
- 2.5.6 The Applicant recognises that the CQLCP Community Benefit Fund is not mitigating the effects of the Proposed Development and, therefore, it cannot be given any weight in the determination of the DCO application.
- 2.5.7 Further details will be provided at an appropriate stage should the Proposed Development receive consent.

2.6 How will the local community be kept informed?

- 2.6.1 A Community Liaison Group will be set up prior to construction of the Proposed Development as a forum for local issues to be raised. A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed to lead discussions with local communities and also act as the primary point of contact should there be any queries or complaints.
- 2.6.2 In addition, a Local Liaison Committee will be set up prior to the construction of the Proposed Development to enable effective engagement with key stakeholders such as the emergency services, bus operators, road users and local residents and communities with regard to the use of the highway network for the Proposed Development.