

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to	Executive Committee
Date	2nd December 2013
Subject	Draft New Nuclear Build at Wylfa Supplementary Planning Guidance
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor J. Arwel Roberts
Lead Officer(s)	Jim Woodcock (Head of Regulation)
Contact Officer	Christian Branch (Economic and Community Regeneration)
Nature and reason for reporting:	
To seek the Executive Committee's support for the release of the draft New Nuclear Build at Wylfa Supplementary Planning Guidance for public consultation in January / February 2014	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues

The proposed major energy developments on the island, in particular the New Nuclear Build (NNB) at Wylfa, provide the IACC with a unique and unprecedented opportunity to contribute positively towards the socio-economic transformation of the island (and the wider region).

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is a means of setting out detailed thematic or site specific guidance on the way in which national and local policies will be applied in particular circumstances or areas. Given the lack of a robust local planning policy framework (until the Joint Local Development Plan is adopted), the purpose of the NNB SPG is to provide high level guidance (based on evidence) to influence and inform Horizon Nuclear Power's (HNP) current and future strategic decision making. The scale, complexity and timescales of the proposed NNB project makes the preparation of the SPG a priority.

The County Council has a key role in the statutory consenting processes in relation to the NNB project (outside the nuclear site boundary). Once adopted, the SPG will enable the County Council to make robust decisions on all NNB related enabling works and associated development (Town and County Planning) applications it receives. The document will ensure that the potential impacts of the NNB and its associated developments are identified and mitigated where possible, and that the socio-economic benefits associated with the construction and operation of the power station are fully realised. The SPG will also be a critical enabler to achieving the County Council's economic ambitions through utilising the land use planning system.

The NNB SPG is intended as a project specific guidance that is being developed outside of the emerging Joint Local Development Plan (however both documents will share the same evidence base).

The preparation of the SPG is being coordinated by the Economic and Community Regeneration Service's Project Management Office (PMO) under the guidance of a number of IACC Senior Officers. AMEC (the County Council's providers of multi-disciplinary support and expertise) are responsible for drafting the document. Resources to fund the preparation of the SPG have been secured through the Planning Performance Agreement with HNP.

Given the scale and significance of the NNB Project, the SPG will comprise a total of 16 documents. The SPG will include:

- An overview of the NNB project and its associated developments;
- A summary of the existing national and local policy framework;
- The County Council's Vision of the NNB project;
- High level/ project-wide strategic guidance in relation to key issues/ topics, including Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Population and Community, Welsh Language and Culture, Transport, Utilities, Waste and the Environment;
- Locational guidance outlining where associated developments could be located on the island;
- 10 Topic Papers (which are the SPG's evidence base);
- A series of statutory assessments (Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment, Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Health Impact Assessment).

The draft SPG is being prepared and compiled at present but is expected to be ready for consultation in early 2014.

The PMO is preparing a programme of engagement activities with Members to ensure common understanding and improved awareness of the purpose, scope and content of the SPG. These activities are scheduled to be undertaken at the turn of the year.

It is imperative that the SPG is prepared and adopted by the County Council during Spring 2014 in order to precede any NNB related enabling works and associated development Town and Country Planning Applications by HNP and/or any pre application consultation by the developer.

B – Considerations

The importance of the SPG to both the County Council and HNP cannot be underestimated. The SPG will provide evidence based guidance, linked to policy, against which all nuclear new build enabling works and associated development applications will be assessed. It will also provide clarity to HNP in relation to the County Council's aspirations and expectations if the proposed new nuclear build project progresses.

The SPG will help underpin statutory planning obligations (e.g. s.106 agreements) to ensure necessary mitigation measures are put in place. Non material planning

considerations related to Community Benefit Contribution opportunities will be subject to separate processes and protocols. The SPG will also assist the IACC to ensure the realisation of major economic diversification and transition opportunities for Anglesey. It is important to note that the NNB SPG will focus on the mitigation of potential negative impacts and maximising positive benefits from the project, rather than the principles of nuclear power.

It is standard practice for all SPGs to go through a period of internal consultation in order to obtain the professional opinion of relevant members of staff. This initial stage of consultation has already taken place and the final draft of the SPG will consider and respond to the views of officers who commented on the earlier version of the document.

Before the IACC can adopt the SPG, it is also necessary to undertake external consultation, usually over a six week period, which gives the general public the opportunity to comment. It is also imperative that Members have a sound understanding of the SPG and its principles in order to contribute to the document's consultation and final preparation. All comments will be taken into consideration and the document will be revised as appropriate (prior to it being presented to the Full Council for adoption in Spring 2014).

C – Implications and Impacts		
1	Finance / Section 151	
2	Legal / Monitoring Officer	
3	Human Resources	N/A
4	Property Services (see notes – separate document)	N/A
5	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	N/A
6	Equality (see notes – separate document)	The NNB SPG has been subject to a number of assessments, including an Equality Impact Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Welsh Language Impact Assessment.
7	Anti-poverty and Social (see notes – separate document)	The SPG will support and influence the creation and location of new employment opportunities on Anglesey, in addition to encouraging opportunities for local businesses to capitalise upon emerging supply chain opportunities.
	Communication (see notes – separate document)	The PMO has been responsible for ensuring effective internal and external communication regarding the preparation of

C – Implications and Impacts		
		the SPG.
9	Consultation (see notes – separate document)	A Consultation Plan has been prepared to support the preparation of the SPG and determine what consultation activities will be undertaken in 2014.
10	Economic	A comprehensive SPG will provide an opportunity to influence HNP's development proposals to ensure positive economic benefits and a long term legacy for Anglesey.
11	Environmental (see notes – separate document)	The Council's duties under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006 have been considered in the preparation of the SPG
12	Crime and Disorder (see notes – separate document)	Crime has been identified as a key policy topic within the SPG.
13	Outcome Agreements	N/A

CH - Summary
<p>The proposed NNB at Wylfa provides an unprecedented opportunity for the IACC to facilitate and support the realisation of major economic diversification and transition on Anglesey.</p> <p>The NNB SPG will be instrumental in providing evidence based guidance to influence the development and implementation of the Project so that local positive benefits are maximised to provide long term support to the island and its communities.</p> <p>Public consultation on the draft NNB SPG is required in order to ensure that its content, scope of guidance and evidence base is accurate and robust, and that its preparation has been transparent.</p>

D - Recommendation
To support the release of the New Nuclear Build Supplementary Planning Guidance for public consultation in January/February 2014

Name of author of report: Christian Branch (on behalf of Jim Woodcock)
Job Title: PPA Implementation Lead (on behalf of Head of Regulation)
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