

LGA Special Interest Groups

2014 Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG NAME, LEAD OFFICER, AUTHORITY AND CONTACT DETAILS:

SIG NAME:

New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

LEAD OFFICER:

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CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

[Note: Only LGA member authorities are entitled to SIG membership]

The group currently consists of Leaders, Chief Executives and other senior members and officers from 12 Local Authorities from across the UK. NNLAG Authorities as of March 2013 are:

- Allerdale Borough Council
- Anglesey County Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- Cumbria County Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Somerset County Council

- South Gloucestershire Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- West Somerset Council

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Membership of the New Nuclear Local Authority Group is open to all local authorities in the UK affected by nuclear new build. The terms of reference of the Group are as follows:

1. The Group is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association. As required under the LGA Constitution, the Group will report annually on its activities to the LGA Leadership Board.
2. The Group should comprise senior members and officers from relevant New Nuclear Authorities and any other local authority where new nuclear development is perceived to have an impact, either positive or negative. To maintain attendance, deputies should be notified in advance.
3. The Group will provide a mechanism to discuss responses to proposals and communicate to partners, MPs, Government agencies etc. on a regular basis and as required to meet relevant deadlines.
4. The Group will champion the need for additional resources from Government and/or new nuclear developers to enable Local Authorities to engage fully in the planning process and to avoid the burden of costs falling on authorities and their communities.
5. It will provide the basis for which best practice, relevant knowledge and expertise can be shared with member Local Authorities.
6. The Group will consider and decide how to influence key external processes, including electricity transmission proposals, for the mutual benefit of all member authorities.
7. The Group will monitor progress in relation to the national waste repository, other policies related to nuclear energy, spent fuel management, radioactive waste storage and disposal. This includes regular engagement with NuLeAF.
8. Task Groups – key councillors and officers from respective organisations can be set specific duties as a Task Group. Nominations to a Task Group will be sought on the basis of essential skills and expertise.

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The New Nuclear Local Authorities Group is an LGA Special Interest Group for authorities that may be impacted by new power nuclear developments.

The Group's primary focus is to share information, develop an approach of

close collaboration across Local Government and speak with one voice to Government and the new nuclear development industry about the key issues which will be faced by Local Government and their communities in relation to new nuclear power developments. In addition the Group has elected to consider the issues associated with the connections required to transmit the power generated from a new nuclear power station to the national grid.

KEY ACTIVITIES/OUTCOMES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

Developing Best Practice. The Group continues to share best practice between member Authorities. There has been a particular focus on the sharing of information and lessons learned by each Local Authority.

The sharing of best practice, information and advice regarding the planning process has taken two key formats. The Somerset Authorities continue to provide regular updates to member Authorities throughout the informal and formal planning stages associated with the Hinkley Point C application. In addition to the formal presentations and workshops held, the administering Authority (Somerset County Council) still maintains a knowledge hub website for the Group. All members can view key documents, upload information and share knowledge via web discussion forum.

Member Authorities also share information and intelligence regarding the development of policy frameworks to inform promoters of New Nuclear Builds of key priorities in each locality. Two examples of this are the development of Anglesey County Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Wylfa NNB and South Gloucestershire's intention to publish a Policies, Sites and Places DPD which will include a chapter of development priorities for the Oldbury NNB.

Developing a Joint Case for Community Benefit. NNLAG authorities that are being asked to host Nuclear New Build (NNB) Power Stations on behalf of the nation recognise and welcome the potential opportunities new nuclear development can bring to an area. NNLAG believes that, in view of the impacts and disturbance placed on local communities by the construction, operation and decommissioning of NNBS, which cannot be dealt with via the planning system that it is necessary that Community Benefit Contribution (CBC) packages are delivered as appropriate to the communities hosting such development.

Government has now stated publicly that a package of community benefit will be made available to communities who host new nuclear developments. In regard to this matter the Group will now focus on clarifying the mechanism by which community benefit will be paid and what the funding can be used for.

NNLAG Governance and future priorities. In order to support the continued development of NNLAG, member Authorities have requested that a more formal structure is developed which would enable NNLAG to secure

resources to facilitate a greater level of coordination between Authorities as more NNB proposals come forward. The administering Authority is currently developing a series of options as to how NNLAG could be structured to achieve this.

The priorities for the Group for 2014/2015 remain unchanged, they are;

- Greater level of engagement with the nuclear industry.
- Progress the development of the details of the community benefit scheme associated with hosting new nuclear developments.
- Consideration of the implications of any grid connections required to link any new nuclear power developments into the national grid.
- Coordination of economic development activities associated with support of the new nuclear supply chain.