

Position regarding future of Hartlepool Power Station

November 2017

This position statement has been prepared based on information available on EDF Energy's website, NuLeAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) website and information provided from officers within Hartlepool Borough Council.

Background

The nuclear power station in Hartlepool is managed by EDF Energy; it is capable of supplying energy to over 2 million homes in the UK.

The power station started energy generation in 1983 and the estimated end of generation date is 2024. The current site employs approximately 530 people full time and a further 200 full time contract partners.

Many of the nuclear power stations currently in operation across the UK are coming to the end of their operational lifespan and nuclear investment plan is underway. Whilst the current end of generation dates of these sites are not set in stone, there is probably little scope for any significant further extension of the operating lifetime of the power stations.

EDF Energy is currently developing three new nuclear power stations (Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C and Bradwell B). More will be required in the future to replace aging power stations.

Decommissioning

In relation to decommissioning of the site, EDF gave the following overview of the three key phases at a recent NuLeAF meeting has drawn up decommissioning plans which divide into three phases:

1. Pre-closure transition and defueling (the defueling period is likely to take 3-4 years).
2. Site surveillance and Care & Maintenance
3. Reactor decommissioning and final site clearance.

From start to finish this covers a period of approximately 100 years. EDF must give the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) a 3 years notice of its intention to decommission. However, it is recognised that their planning process needs to start 5- 6 years before the end of generation. This process is undertaken by a group of staff is being brought together to work on this, and it is led by an ex-station director. No further detail is known on timescales for this given end of generation is not due until 2024.

Future Development

In relation to the development of a new nuclear power station in Hartlepool, the Government has requested that land is safeguarded for the potential development for a new nuclear power station at Hartlepool. This is covered by Policy EMP5 within the proposed Local Plan.

At the current time Hartlepool has not been confirmed as a future development site for a new nuclear power station, however as there is the potential of such development of this

site in the future it is prudent to ensure that conditions are suitable to support development of a new power station.

As well as nuclear power being vital to support the countries power supply, the development of a new nuclear power station would have a significant impact on the local economy. For example it is anticipated that the development of Hinkley Point C will:

1. Create over 25,000 new employment opportunities.
2. Provide opportunities for local, national and international businesses through the creation of new supply chains.
3. Bring community benefits to the local area, including educational opportunities.

Given the wider economic benefits of the potential site development and the focus of the energy company of developing local supply chains it remains important to ensure that there is employment land within the borough, particularly within the Southern Business Zone to accommodate this need.

Given the current level of information on timescales for the development of a new nuclear power station, it is the Council's preference to retain the current level of employment land available (particularly within the Southern Business Zone) until further information and certainty is known on this development. It is anticipated that a clearer picture will be known at the plan review stage.