

Site Stakeholder Group Socio-Economic Subgroup

THE FIRST SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUBGROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT HUNTERSTON A SITE.

Present

Hunterston A Site

Ms Diane Burton
Mr Tony Bale

NDA

Mr Keith Riding
Mr Jonathan Jenkin

Councillors

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)

Site Stakeholder Subgroup

Mr Kenny MacDougall (Chair)
Mr John Lamb
Mrs Rita Holmes
Mr John Robertson
Mr Peter MacFarlane
Mr Frank Craig

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

1. WELCOME

Mr Kenny MacDougall welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Socio-Economic Subgroup. Apologies were given for Mr Peter Roach, Mr Ivor Roscoe, and Mr Ian Frame.

2. NDA SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNDING CRITERIA

Mr Jonathan Jenkin introduced himself to the group, and began by clarifying why the NDA has a socio-economic remit. When altering the arrangements for managing nuclear clean up in the UK, the Government recognised that there would be inevitable consequences, such as job losses, associated with site closures. As the authority responsible for nuclear clean up, the NDA are required to help mitigate the impact of these consequences. Mr Jenkin stated that he would arrange for hard copies of the NDA's socio-economic policy to be sent to the group members, detailing the definitive approach to how the NDA deliver their socio-economic remit.

ACTION: J. JENKIN

The priorities which the NDA group their efforts around are employment; education & skills; economic and social infrastructures such as capacity building in local areas to enable stronger economic growth; and diversification. However, some areas are more heavily dependant on the nuclear industry than others where a more diverse economy and less deprivation occur. The geographic priorities identified are aimed at reflecting the differences in the economic footprint, with priority areas identified as being West Cumbria; North Sutherland and Caithness; Anglesey and Meirionnydd; and the Gretna-Lockerbie-Annan corridor in Dumfries and Galloway. No site is neglected as there is a responsibility for the whole estate, therefore all sites are eligible to apply for funding.

Mr Frank Craig stated that high skilled jobs were brought to the area some years ago by companies such as Fullerton Fabrications and ICI, but they no longer exist. There are

therefore limited facilities where craft tradesmen or apprentices can be taken on. By decommissioning Hunterston A, yet another industry will be lost, therefore it was suggested that a training college for apprentices be built at Hunterston A as opposed to leaving a vacant site. Mr John Robertson noted that he too would like to see a full time training centre built, where people can be qualified with a specific trade.

Mr Tony Bale commented on his confusion surrounding the Gretna-Lockerbie-Anna corridor being deemed a priority area. Mr Bale stated that the West of Scotland suffers from just as high unemployment figures as anywhere else in Scotland or Great Britain. Mr MacDougall explained that both he and Mr John Lamb had attended recent meetings to lobby support for the area, where it became apparent that some of the NDA's data was wrong. Mr MacDougall added that he would provide documentation to Mr Jenkin highlighting how deprived the area is in relation to, for example, Dumfries and Galloway. Cllr Robert Barr also wished to confirm that North Ayrshire Council sits second in the whole of Scotland for the highest unemployment figures.

Mr Keith Riding explained that the socio-economic panel at Chapelcross Site work very closely with other Government agencies such as Scottish Enterprise. Mr Riding continued that it is not the NDA's role to lead in socio-economic as numerous other Government agencies have more responsibility. What the NDA can do is work in partnership with these agencies, and the SSG, on specific projects that will meet the given Government criteria. Mr MacDougall stated that no agencies had been invited to this subgroup meeting as the members wished to know the remit of the socio-economic committee first. Mr Frank Craig also added that the backing of the NDA would be vital in order to develop an effective socio-economic program.

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked if the SSG should make a formal challenge of the NDA's criteria for the status that has been given. Mr Riding recommended that the group put forward a business case with supporting documentation for the NDA to consider. Mr John Lamb commented that in the first instance, the NDA must accept that the Hunterston corridor is also an area of high deprivation in order to get a larger share of the £10 million socio-economic funds, of which £5 million went to Sellafield; £2 million went to Dounreay; with the remaining £3 million spread across all other areas. Mr Riding explained that the reason for this decision was due to these areas submitting a structured application. The vast majority of submissions do not meet the criteria, and while the Hunterston corridor may not be a high priority area, a strong business case will get an equal sounding to a business case from a high priority area.

Mr MacDougall suggested that the subgroup invite representatives from various agencies to future meetings. Cllr Barr recommended that the subgroup also invite both the leader and Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council. Mr MacDougall actioned all members to compile a list of representatives they would like to see involved in future subgroup meetings, to be passed on to the SSG Secretariat.

ACTION: ALL SUBGROUP MEMBERS

3 REMIT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Mr Jenkin explained that the NDA's Socio-Economic panel, made up of NDA staff including Bob Churchill (Chair), Bill Hamilton, Nigel Couzens, Judith Bennington, Andrew Oldham, John Butler, Richard Mrowicki, Stephen Canning, Jonathan Jenkin and Karen Hallsworth (Secretary) meet approximately every six weeks. Its remit is to consider and make decisions on funding requests up to the value of £100,000. In addition, there is also a Socio-Economic committee, chaired independently and made up of non executive directors. The committee's

remit is to consider requests for between £100,000 and £500,000. All requests exceeding £500,000 requires central Government approval. There is a funding application form which can be downloaded online via the NDA website, which is structured around the criteria. Guidance is also provided online with regards to when submissions should be made.

While it was made clear that submissions could be made to the NDA without Stakeholder approval, Mr Riding added that the NDA prefer a structured approach, with all applications being run through the SSG first. Mr MacDougall stated that as a community councillor, and as part of the community council remit, submissions could not be rejected or stopped. It was stressed that community councils work actively in the community, and such a structure of vetting would place them in a difficult position. All submissions will therefore be placed in front of the subgroup in the first instance, before being passed on to the SSG for comments and then submitted to the NDA thereafter. Mr Robertson added that a professional body could be an option in terms of advising the best route forward and contacting the relevant agencies.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked what the £2.5 million had been spent on at Chapelcross. Mr Jenkin explained that this will be used for two projects to develop an Industrial Park and Business Incubation Centre. The first project will see the NDA award £1.5 million over the next three financial years to help develop the industrial park on an 18 acre plot of land owned by the NDA, but outside of the Chapelcross nuclear licensed site. The second project to benefit will receive a £1 million investment for the development of a Business Incubation Centre on the new Industry Park. Incubation centres provide start-up and growing businesses with the supporting environment they need to succeed. In this case, that would be 20,000 square feet of high quality commercial office space, intensive business support, access to financial and legal advice and access to other entrepreneurs and suppliers.

4 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

Ms Diane Burton explained that two applications had been received from Sports Scotland National Centre, Inverclyde, for community projects. One application is for a new indoor community sports hall at the Sports Scotland National Centre in Largs, and the other for a new community fitness suite at the Scottish National Centre, on the Island of Cumbrae. There were no advisements from the subgroup and both submissions will now be passed on to the SSG at the next meeting on Thursday 19 March 2009. **ACTION: D. BURTON**

Mr MacDougall and Mr Lamb referred to an application from West Kilbride Village Hall to the NDA over a year ago, whereby feedback was never received. Mr MacDougall recommended that this be taken as an action by the NDA to follow up the application. **ACTION: J. JENKIN**

Mr Riding noted his personal view was that the building of a village hall would fall outside the NDA's criteria, and would be unlikely to be accepted. Mr MacDougall stressed the need for employment to be brought to the area, not only in terms of creating apprenticeships, but also for all ages across the spectrum. Mrs Holmes agreed that funding should be put into providing employment.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As Chairman of the SSG, Mr Lamb informed the group that a representative from DONG Energy had approached the secretariat wishing to give a two hour presentation to the SSG regarding their proposed planning application for a Coal Fire Power Station at Hunterston. Following discussions, Mr MacDougall asked Mr Riding if it would be acceptable to hold such a meeting with a rival energy supplier whilst using an NDA paid facility. Mr Riding confirmed



that the NDA would not be comfortable with this if they were paying for the meeting facility. Mr Lamb recommended the Secretariat inform DONG Energy that it is not within the SSG's remit to even consider this offer. Mr MacDougall added that if DONG Energy is interested in a meeting with the SSG then they can formally request one and book a facility in which to do so. The subgroup agreed with these recommendations.

Mr MacDougall thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.

Mr Kenny MacDougal
SSG Vice Chairman