

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

<b>Report title:</b> Update on Proposal to Construct a Nuclear Power Station in Bradwell on Sea, Essex.		<b>PSEG/05/20</b>
<b>Report to:</b> Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee		
<b>Date:</b> 25/06/20	<b>For:</b> Discussion and Decision	
<b>Report authors:</b> Graham Thomas - Head of Planning & Development		
<b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="mailto:Graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk">Graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk</a> ; or <a href="mailto:Mark.woodger@essex.gov.uk">Mark.woodger@essex.gov.uk</a>		
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex		

**1. Background**

- 1.1. A new nuclear power station is planned for Bradwell. The pre-application phase of consultation has started, to which ECC is invited to respond. Government recognise this to be a scheme of national significance, and the Secretary of State will ultimately determine the application at the end of the process.
- 1.2. A considerable amount of work is needed to engage and shape this development. The power station once completed will provide around 900-1000 often high-quality operational jobs, and an 12-year build-out providing up to 10,000 construction jobs at the peak of the build, of which 1,000 could be apprenticeships spread over the lifetime of the build. When built the plant would supply energy to 4 million homes.
- 1.3. We are at the earliest phase of this proposal. The ambition of the developer is to progress at pace, with construction work starting as early as 2024/5.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1. This report provides an update on proposals from BRB, which is a joint venture company between the Chinese Group Nuclear UK (CG) (66.5%) and EDF Energy (33.5%), to build a twin reactor nuclear power station on the Dengie peninsula, in the District of Maldon.
- 2.2. As part of the pre-application process a non-statutory consultation on the proposal for a power station commenced on 4 March and closes on 1 July 2020. This Council has worked closely with Maldon District Council (MDC) in order to increase our influence and leverage with the developer and we have therefore produced a joint response to this consultation.
- 2.3. As we move forward towards the formal application stages in dealing with this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) ECC will be an important statutory consultee in what is a complex process. By working together with other local authorities this enables all the local authorities to become more muscular and will help us shape the development proposals and have a far greater influence. Neither MDC nor ECC will be the decision maker. The ultimate decision will rest with the Secretary of State for the Environment following a formal hearing held by the Planning Inspectorate.

**3. Background**

- 3.1. In July 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change published the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) setting out the future strategy for low carbon energy, including a series of new nuclear stations across England and Wales. In addition, the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) provides a primary basis for decisions taken by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on new low carbon energy developments.
- 3.2. Bradwell B is identified within the NPS as being a site which is potentially suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power station providing the impacts of the development do not outweigh the overarching proposals to produce energy from this low carbon source.
- 3.3. A twin reactor development, together with associated development which includes on site cooling, would take up to 12 years to build in this remote rural location. It would employ at peak times up to 10,000 people on site, with 1,000 permanent jobs during the operation of the station which is intended to generate power for 60 years which sufficient energy to power up to 4M homes.
- 3.4. The final decision on any necessary Development Consent Order application rests with the Secretary of State. Essex is a consultee in the process and will have a material say in creating a lasting legacy for the site and ensuring mitigation is in place to reduce the impact of what will be the largest civil engineering site in Essex in a generation.

#### **4. Discussion**

- 4.1. The joint response to this proposed development sets out the following headline topics:
  - It is identified in the National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6, July 2011) that Bradwell is a site identified for the development of new nuclear facility.
  - The significant and lasting scale of the proposed development and its potential importance at a local, regional and national level.
  - That the benefits of the proposal must be off set against the dis-benefits on the environment, pressures on communities, transport, landscape, flooding, health and wider consequences for other development, infrastructure and supporting services across a huge range of stakeholders.
  - The development must have an appropriate strategy to maximise mitigation and enhancement going forward. To provide a substantive legacy.
  - Continued engagement is necessary as the project develops particularly in light of the lack of detail on a number of key topics in the current consultation.
  - Significant additional commitment from the applicant is necessary on numerous strategic issues to correctly shape the proposals prior to its eventual application.
  - Officers continue to press for the most sustainable ways of implementing the development, which includes using the coastal location to maximise deliveries by sea, an minimise the impact on the local road network.
- 4.2. After submission of the Council's Stage 1 Response on the 01 July the Council and other stakeholders in this complex and involved process for which the applicants have provided a project plan going forward. Whilst it is currently difficult to predict when an additional round of consultation will take place an all Member briefing will be factored into the work programme going forward.

## **5. Session aims**

- 5.1. Members are asked to discuss the proposed response to the consultation and provide feedback and input from the committee.

## **6. List of Appendices**

- **Appendix A:** Joint Response to Stage 1 Consultation