

NDA

Karen Dickens is relatively new in her position as Manager of socio-economics for the NDA, however she has a wealth of experience of dealing with socio-economic issues from her previous roles.

The NDA's socio-economic plan is in its formative stages and as such definitive figures cannot be quoted, although their plans will be announced later this year. Of the 20 sites that the NDA looks after, West Cumbria is of prime importance as 60% of all nuclear wastes are held here. Given that most of the socio-economic issues are based around West Cumbria, Dounreay & Wylfa, it is of the utmost importance to the NDA that they use their influence to support the socio-economic providers e.g. North West Development Agency to ensure we maintain sustainable communities.

There is currently no financial provision within the NDA for the funding of socio-economic projects, this is currently made through the site contractors to the tune of £5 million per annum. In addition to this the NDA are clawing back efficiency savings from the operators of the sites, some of these savings will be ploughed back into decommissioning with the rest going back into the communities.

One of the aims of the NDA is to diversify the local economy and increase opportunities for local people to become involved in decommissioning work.

The NDA will look into using charitable trusts to administer funding and will work with sites to ensure spend is based on needs, whilst also being sustainable; with a better balance between long-term positive effects and being a "good neighbour".

The NDA recognises the need to -

1. Work with regional development agencies and local councils to understand needs
2. Understand manning profile
3. Support the local supply chain
4. Encourage skills development (diverse skills)

The NDA will work with Government, devolved administrations and their agencies e.g. Community Trust to help achieve their aims.

Questions & Answers

Q. What does supply chain mean?

A. Companies who supply the sites.

Q. How will major projects be prioritised?

A. Stakeholders will be invited to present their portfolio proposals e.g. West Cumbria Masterplan.

Q. With regards to the allocation of efficiency savings, has the split percentage been decided between decommissioning and the communities?

A. Not yet decided.

- Q. Will NDA form a view on the national waste strategy? – this would have socio-economic impacts.
- A. Karen Dickens' role is to ensure that socio-economics are considered as part of the decision-making process.
- Q. Will there be a national competition for the funds that will be available or is there a pre-conceived split?
- A. Savings will be clawed back by the NDA but a portion of them will be redistributed to socio-economic projects in a manner that is yet to be decided
- Q. Should the sites that have generated the savings, receive those savings back to their community, rather than them being put into a communal pot?
- A. The NDA will look at this.
- Q. What are charitable trusts?
- A. These are organisations established to effectively administer charitable funds. For example, locally we have the Cumbria Community Foundation.
- Q. Savings – compared to what?
- A. Aiming for 2% year on year.
- Q. If no savings are made, does this mean that there will be no money for socio-Economics.
- A. Don't think this is a concern. No government budget provided currently, so if no savings were made then we would have to look at how to deliver a socio-economic plan. There is a commitment to at least commit to current contractor's spend.
- Q. Speculation re: cost of decommissioning rising?
- A. This is over a very long period and is only speculation
- Q. There seems to be a north/south divide with CBC & ABC recipients of Largesse.
- A. Most funding is currently targeted where most employees live, i.e. Copeland and Allerdale. There have been a number of BNFL initiatives in Barrow & the NDA is also looking at this area.