

## Appendix 1

### **Britain's Energy Coast – West Cumbria – Response to questions by CORE (Martin Forwood) at WCSSG meeting on 7th January**

**Q1: Given nuclear's critical and prioritised role in the Masterplan and its dependence on the construction of new reactors in West Cumbria, will BECWC tell the meeting whether or not it has formulated a 'Plan B' in the event that its multi-faceted nuclear vision fails to materialise at all or fails to materialise in the currently projected timescales ?**

The role of Britain's Energy Coast – West Cumbria Board and Delivery Team is to implement the programme set out in the Energy Coast Master Plan which is being updated to take into account the opportunities resulting from the UK's strategic need to become a low-carbon economy.

We believe that West Cumbria's unrivalled skills and unique assets in the nuclear sector can act as a catalyst for the development of a more diverse, vibrant, outward-looking economy. Some of our proposals are aimed at facilitating new nuclear-related investment.

However, we fully recognise the need for a balanced programme which creates a legacy from which everyone in our community benefits. So, our programme includes projects aimed at:

- Stimulating and supporting enterprise and innovation culture and economic diversification.
- Supporting the development of necessary office and industrial space, housing, and transport infrastructure.
- Improving cultural, sporting and leisure facilities, and providing community buildings and space.

Our vision for West Cumbria in 2030 is based on the Britain's Energy Coast Master Plan (2007) which has been brought up to date. It is articulated under three headings, - Place, Prosperity, People and may be summarised as follows:

- A place where people wish to live and work
- A sustainable, outward-looking economy
- Opportunities for all

Our 2010 – 2013 Investment Plan will be launched at the beginning of April. It is expected, from that time, that it will be available on our web-site <http://www.britainsenergycoast.com/> and you can see the wider detail.

**Q2: Will BECWC provide details of its Plan B and say how it intends to deliver its £2Bn regeneration programme in the absence of new-build and other nuclear aspirations ?**

The Plan is a dynamic document to reflect changing priorities, at both a local and national level. At present it reflects the aspirations of the current Government to establish a low carbon "energy mix" that includes nuclear as well as renewable energy. If the Government's strategic approach was to change then the Plan would change in line. At the present time, we believe we can make an important contribution towards Britain's response to climate change and energy security through low carbon and renewable energy.

Regardless of what happens, the decommissioning work at Sellafield will continue for decades yet. Indeed, another key project in the Plan is to work with Sellafield Ltd, the NDA and the locally-based supply chain to secure the maximum amount of benefit for the area from the very significant spend on supply chain contracts at the site.

Renewable energy has always been key to our Energy Coast ambitions and will remain so whether we have new nuclear or not. You have no doubt seen the huge renewable energy potential of West Cumbria, and Cumbria as a whole, in the recently published *Scope for Renewable Energy in Cumbria* written by renowned scientist Sir Martin Holdgate (available at [www.cumbriavision.co.uk](http://www.cumbriavision.co.uk)). Considerable work is being undertaken to ensure we can deliver renewable energy across Cumbria. This work has not received the same profile to date as our nuclear work, which remains a key point of focus at the moment given the consultation phase and impending Government decision on new sites.

As outlined in the answer to Q1, the Energy Coast plan is a balanced plan with projects ranging from low carbon energy as well as improvements to business development, skills, tourism, housing, health, education and much more. These are interlinked because Energy Coast seeks to make West Cumbria a superb place to live, work, live, learn and invest. The Masterplan may bring these elements together but they are not dependent on any new nuclear development or investment.

**Q3: Would BECWC say what measures have been taken, since the inception of the Energy Coast Plan, to canvas Cumbrian opinion on the Plan; which communities have been canvassed; what polls have been carried out and what have been the results to justify MP Jamie Reed's claim that the Plan - including new-build in West Cumbria -has 'the support of the entire community' (Whitehaven News 29/10/09) ?**

The public has been made aware of the ambitions of the plan through publications, events, PR and marketing activities. The overwhelming majority of feedback has been supportive of the Energy Coast ambitions.

The vast majority of residents in West Cumbria support new build particularly around the Sellafield site and the continuation of a nuclear industry beyond decommissioning, because they feel the economic benefits of it. This was echoed at the recent Sellafield public consultation meeting convened by DECC last month.

Britain's Energy Coast West Cumbria

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