



West Cumbria Sites
Stakeholder Group

Meeting of the 13th Socio-Economic Sub committee
Held on Tuesday 7th June 2011
At the Ennerdale Country House Hotel

Attendees

Cllr Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
Mr J.A. Clark	S.A Robotics
Mr Steve McClure	BEC Business cluster
Mrs Carol Leak	Sellafield Ltd
Mrs Rosina Robinson	Sellafield Ltd and WCSSG Secretariat
Brian Hough	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr H Wormstrup	Copeland Borough Council
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository Ltd

Observer:

Phil Jardine	BEC Business Cluster
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Apologies

Mr Iain Irving	Sellafield Ltd
Gary McKeating	NMP
Deb Muscat	Cumbria Foundation
Cath Giel	LLWR
Alan Holliday	CBC
Peter Kane	GMB Sellafield Ltd
Steve Nicholson	Prospect Sellafield Ltd

Agenda Item 1 :- Welcome introductions by Cllr Elaine Woodburn

Cllr Woodburn began proceedings by welcoming members and reminding members that at the last meeting it had been decided that this meeting would be the last meeting of the Socio Economic sub committee.

Agenda Item 2:- Update from Sellafield Ltd on Sellafield Performance Plan – Mrs Carol Leak

Mrs Leak explained that the Sellafield Ltd Performance Plan had now been signed off by the NDA. Work has since been undertaken engaging with stakeholders to produce a public facing document which includes key performance indicators and targets. A workshop had been held with stakeholders with a future workshop scheduled for the 22nd June for further input. The public facing document would form the basis of the next West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) on 7th July, where the plan would be explained in more detail.

Agenda Item 3: NDA update – Mr Brian Hough

Mr Hough reported that the NDA Socio Economic team work closely with Britain's Energy Coast, he commented that within the latest CSR settlement the £3.1 million committed annually through the contract with Sellafield was secured. NDA separately contribute around £2.5 million annually, this was separate from skills and Research and Development funding.

In terms of performance, Mr Hough wished to highlight three areas:

1. He handed out a paper from Britain's Energy Coast (BEC) which captures the outputs and impacts of projects that will be monitored by the BEC team. (Copy attached)
2. Suggested performance indicators had been received from Copeland Borough Council (in consultation with Cumbria County Council) which are being reviewed at the moment.
3. This, along with ongoing work on Sellafield procurement processes will hopefully result in an agreed set of indicators for both direct socio economic funding and indirect benefits through the supply chain spend and their commitments to the socio economic agenda. The hope was to complete this work in readiness for the publication of the Sellafield Performance Plan.

Discussion took place about the 5% weighting placed on contracts. Cllr Wormstrup in particular was unhappy with the investment in West Cumbria from contracts. He felt that promises two and a half years ago by Nuclear Management Partners in terms of nuclear renaissance in West Cumbria had not been delivered.

The point was also raised that there is a massive opportunity for West Cumbria although Joe Clarke raised concerns that it is apparent that there is a 'creep across the county' with regards to the nuclear portfolio, ie: Studsvik at Lillyhall, the VLLW landfill proposal and he felt the carbon footprint needed to be contained. He felt that Windscale would be the ideal location for further new build reactors.

Discussion took place around some of the projects that had been delivered including the delivery of Energus, it was also commented that the supply chain currently has no issues with the way in which socio economics is progressing and that work is ongoing to ensure West Cumbrian businesses are in the best position possible moving forward.

One comment received was based around monitoring of the supply chain and the delivery of socio economics. Although it was agreed that there had been progress, it was difficult to evaluate exactly what progress had been made as there is no official way of monitoring it.

Further discussion raised the point that it was still apparent that local businesses do not have the desire to expand as they are comfortable with Sellafield as their main supplier. This was of concern as the committee would like to see a diversification away from Sellafield Ltd dependence.

This generated discussions around the need to look at the bigger regeneration picture, new power stations, relocation of businesses, there are some major opportunities in the future that need to be taken advantage of.

Cllr Woodburn clarified that it is Copeland Borough Council that is leading on 'new build' and not Britain's Energy Coast as was presumed by several members of the committee.

Mr Hough continued his report by handing out a spread sheet covering details of NDA West Cumbria socio economic skills and related investments – copy attached.

The committee spent some time discussing the contents of the spread sheet, resulting in a discussion about the Apprentice Scheme that Copeland Borough Council is currently involved with, Cllr Woodburn commented that there is a poor response from the supply chain in terms of taking on apprenticeships within their organisations. Discussion took place around how to help resolve the situation.

Carol Leak suggested that she could help promote the apprentice scheme through the supply chain and offered to take the action away.

Action : Carol Leak to speak to Stuart Wilson, Supply Chain Ombudsman – regarding possible opportunities to promote apprentice scheme.

It was also reported that Britain's Energy Coast Campus has suggested they would be happy to act as a coordinator for information about all apprenticeship schemes in the area. This would need to be progressed through the links the BEC Campus are forming with the BEC Business Cluster and Local Authority partners.

Agenda Item 4: The future of the Socio Economic Sub Committee, Cllr Elaine Woodburn

At the previous meeting discussion had taken place that this meeting would be the last meeting of the socio economic sub committee.

Moving forward socio economic issues will become an agenda item at the main WCSSG meetings.

The main meetings are currently under review and the view moving forward is that they will concentrate on delivery of the public facing performance plan within which, socio economic key performance indicators and targets are highlighted.

The next meeting of the WCSSG is scheduled for 7th July at Cleator Moor Civic Hall, where the public facing performance plan will be discussed in detail. The October scrutiny meeting of the WCSSG will be held on 6th October at Cleator Moor Civic Hall, where an agenda item will be placed to cover socio economics

This concluded the socio economic sub committee.