

The WCSSG Socio-Economic Committee is still in quite an embryonic state and has only recently held its second meeting. As WCSSG members know its role is to provide a forum for the members of the Committee to scrutinise and input into the socio-economic implications of the Site Licensing Companies the WCSSG represents and the NDA.

To carry out this function there has been a lot of preliminary work understanding the plans of the NDA, Sellafield Sites Ltd and the LLWR.

Some of the headline information the organisations have provided has been:-

NDA – The NDA do have a socio-economic plan but it was emphasised that this was secondary as the prime job was decommissioning and clean up. They have identified £10 Million of funding (savings dependant) for socio economic but this is divided between the four identified priority areas, obviously West Cumbria being one of them. They also explained that the direct funding they allocate is being directed towards strategic transformational projects.

They can also influence and apply contractual additions to the Site Licence Company (SLC) and hope that the SLC cascade this down throughout the supply chain, something the committee will need to scrutinise. Information was provided on financial spend for 07 which identified:-

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| • Cottage Hospitals Gap Funding | 7 million |
| • 300 th Anniversary for the Royal Charter For Whitehaven Harbour | £80,000 (underwritten) |
| • Citizen Advice Bureau | £79,950 |
| • Made in Cumbria | £135,000 over 3 years |

The NDA have placed socio-economic contractual conditions on the PBO and it is our intention to receive a presentation from them on their plans at our next meeting.

Sellafield – Sellafield Ltd presented their plan which identified:-

- The Sellafield Socio-economic Footprint
- Public sector funding dominated for >60yrs
- Cornerstone of the local 'knowledge' economy
- Predominantly local manufacturing branch economy

The Local Socio-economic Conditions

- Detachment from UK economic hinterlands
- Slowest economic growth of any UK area
- Problem retaining young people
- Low levels of enterprise

- Two tier economy – general affluence alongside pockets of deprivation

Regenerating West Cumbria Economy

- Energy Coast Masterplan – Blueprint for regeneration
- Aspires to deliver a strong diversified and connected economy
- Aims to develop globally recognised nuclear energy, environmental and related technology business clusters.

Contribution to Sellafield Ltd

- Leverage of benefits from supply chain
- Continued investment in knowledge and skills
- Unlocks know-how to stimulate expertise
- Improves competitiveness of supply chain
- Financially contributed £3.1 million

It would be fair to say this was Sellafields contribution sustained over a long period of time, they are now in a transition stage but they are still working hard identifying opportunities for the new PBO.

The NDA have also commenced work on preparing ‘Bespoke’ plans for each of the four priority areas. When drafted and agreed these plans will describe in more detail how the NDA will contribute to the different socio-economic needs in each area. The socio-economic sub committee will I’m sure want a role in this process.

LLWR – the LLWR as colleagues know has been under new management since 1st April 2008. They have been working hard to achieve a strategy that integrates the LLWR efforts with those of the NDA, Sellafield and other nuclear industries in the community. LLWR Ltd, despite being a small endeavour in a commercial sense is an important player as it is backed by very large and experienced parent companies, is highly visible as the national nuclear waste management scene and brings great experience to the arena of community involvement.

The socio-economic contributions can be described in simplified categories:

Participation in community affairs by LLWR employees and managers – both on and off the job

Execution of incidental community support activities in the form of ‘in kind’ services from LLWR employees

SLC Cash Contributions to support community activities and organisations from the NDA – sponsored fund (approx £30,000 per annum)

PBO Cash Contributions to support community activities and organisations from commercial profits. These profits are variable and are largely driven by the ability to deliver LLWR Management savings to the NDA. They expect their fees to generate at least £35,000 for community support.

Encouraging and Guiding similar contributions from business partners and suppliers.

They will deliver these contributions to

- Local and National Centres
- Supporting community pride events
- Supporting Parish and Borough Community Projects
- Supporting economic and development projects
- Supporting educational and career development opportunities

West Lakes Renaissance have presented at the sub committee meetings on projects within the Energy Coast Masterplan. These have been welcomed and members see this as an opportunity to be kept updated on the key regeneration plan for the area.

Social Investment Strategy

It was reported that meetings had been held with major stakeholders to substantiate which actions and priorities are required to guide what was broadly termed 'social investment'. The Energy Coast Masterplan provides the leadership for the economic regeneration of the area, but to readily transform an area the community has to be taken along and aspirations and pride has or needs to be raised. There is a gap that the social investment strategy needs to fill, aswell as providing the guidance to funding organisations of where and what social investment is needed. With the support of the LLWR a consultant was engaged to work with organisations and a draft strategy will be produced shortly.

As colleagues can read there has been a lot of information provided, and a lot still needed to ensure we influence the plans and consequently the spend of the funding organisation. Just as important is ensuring the NDA and SLC are delivering on the skills agenda for the existing and future workforces and that a continued legacy of excellence is retained at Sellafield