



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 15 September 2017 at 10.00 am at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan

Present:

Cllr Richard Brodie (representing Annandale South)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Cllr Ian Carruthers (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (new Chairman)
Mr Rob Eales (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Mr John Grierson (Scottish Sites Lead and Chapelcross Closure Director)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Henry McClelland (representing Annandale South) (new Vice Chairman)
Mr Willie McNair (2km Resident Representative)
Ms Jamie Nicholson (D&G Council, Principal Officer Facilities Annandale and Eskdale)
Mr Ronnie Ogilvie (retiring Chairman)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Mr Craig Peacock (retiring Vice Chairman)
Mr Steven Szostak (D&G Council, BCX Gretna, Lockerbie and Annan Project Officer)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Cllr Adam Wilson (representing Annandale North)
Mr Ewan Young (Scottish Government)

Apologies:

Mr Martin Brown (Federation of Community Councils)
Cllr Karen Carruthers (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Ms Teresa Dougall (National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland)
Cllr Doug Fairbairn (representing Annandale North)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, NDA)
Mr Alistair McKinnon (Scottish Enterprise)
Mr David Mundell, MP
Mr Oliver Mundell, MSP
Mr Scott Muir (Chapelcross Prospect Union Representative)
Cllr Ronnie Tait (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Mr Alex Thomson (Federation of Community Councils)

In Attendance:

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Rod Edgar (Press representative, DNG Media)
Mr Ian Lindsay (Member of public, former SSG Chairman)

1. Outgoing Chairman's Opening Remarks

The outgoing Chairman welcomed everyone to the September meeting, in particular new SSG Members, Cllr Henry McLelland and Cllr Adam Wilson, and Cllr Ronnie Tait (not present) and also Mr Rob Eales of ONR.

As outgoing Vice Chairman, Mr Peacock reiterated the thanks he gave at the last meeting, particularly to Mr Grierson, Mrs Callander and Mrs Adams. He also thanked the Regulators and offered some words of advice to the new Chair and Vice Chair to be elected. Mr Peacock said that whoever is successful in being appointed to the positions must be prepared to stand up for Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group at national meetings, work with the NDA, work hard, negotiate well, liaise with partners and leave a legacy for young people and the future.

Mr Ogilvie, as outgoing Chairman, had been involved with the Site Stakeholder Group and its predecessors for over 20 years and had seen many changes in that time. Of particular note in that time had been the Beyond Chapelcross project and the NDA's support for the Business Park. He was pleased to recognise the achievements and 'can do' attitude of the Chapelcross workforce who met deadlines and surpassed outputs. In terms of future challenges, he encouraged his successor to make sure that the NDA continues to give Chapelcross funding and ensure that the Business Plan is taken forward. He stressed that the continuity of employment is paramount and the retention of skilled personnel in the area. Mr Ogilvie thanked Mr Grierson and his predecessors, as well as Mr Hamilton and Ms Dickinson from the NDA and the officers of the Regulators – Scottish Government, ONR and SEPA. Mr Ogilvie finished by paying tribute to Chapelcross staff and the SSG Secretariat. He was pleased to see Mr Ian Lindsay, former Chairman in the audience, who had set the standard for Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meetings.

2. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair of Site Stakeholder Group

Mrs Callander explained the process for the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair. The two nominations received for Chair were Cllr Richard Brodie and Cllr Archie Dryburgh. Both Cllr Brodie and Cllr Dryburgh gave a speech outlining their experience and why they should be elected and voting took place. The votes were independently counted and verified by Mrs Adams and Ms Nicholson and the results were Cllr Brodie 1, Cllr Dryburgh 7. Cllr Dryburgh took the Chair. Nominations for Vice Chair were received for Cllr Brodie and Cllr McClelland. The same procedure followed, with the result being Cllr Brodie 2, Cllr McClelland 6. Cllr McClelland took the Vice Chair.

Cllr Brodie congratulated Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr McClelland on their appointments.

3. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

The Secretary read the Apologies as listed above.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting as a Councillor, representing Annandale South.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

As the June meeting was cancelled due to Purdah, the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2017 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Mr Ian Park.

Action points from the last meeting –

Mr Grierson to make a presentation on the waste stream process at the Site Stakeholder Group meeting in June 2017 – slides on the process are included in today's presentation – action complete.

Mr Grierson offered to host a site visit for any new members after the local government elections in May 2017 – this has been arranged for Tuesday 7 November – Mrs Callander will circulate further details – action complete.

5. **Chapelcross Closure Director's Report – Mr John Grierson**

(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)

Mr Grierson thanked Mr Ogilvie and Mr Peacock for representing the site and the area well during their term and welcomed the new Chair and Vice Chair to their roles. He was pleased to see Mr Lindsay in the public gallery. He presented his report, which covered the six months since the last meeting, using the attached slides, under the headings of: Site News, Care and Maintenance Programme, Socio Economics, Magnox in the Community and Final Thoughts.

Mr Grierson explained the visit by emergency services, which was reported in the press months ago, involving an incident in a storage container and a further injury to a contract worker's foot from a crane, to which modifications had been made, prior to arrival on site. This was a shock to the site and made it refocus on the fundamentals of safety. Other areas covered under EHSS&Q performance included asbestos management, electrical safety and fire hazards (after Grenfell disaster) on which detailed assessments had been done. The attendance of emergency services to the accident showed that the routine demonstration arrangements worked well in real life situations.

Under Business, the site is slightly behind in work schedules but is delivering more economically than budgeted. Implementation of Magnox's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy is now beginning put in place with stand downs across the site and mandatory training sessions scheduled for all employees and supply workers.

For the benefit of new members, Mr Grierson explained the structure and relationship with the NDA and Parent Body Organisation (PBO). Succession planning for key leadership roles is underway to ensure a smooth transition in two years when the PBO Contract between Cavendish Fluor Partnership and the NDA is mutually terminated. It is now 5.5 months since Mr Grierson took over as Site Closure Director at Hunterston A site, as well as Chapelcross, and it has been a very busy and difficult, but enjoyable, period. Mr Grierson spends two days/week at Hunterston, which also has a busy programme of work but is slightly further ahead, and 3 days/wk at Chapelcross.

Mr Grierson showed a diagram explaining the different categories of waste and particularly for new members, recommended a booklet from the Scottish Government which explains this very well at a basic level. Work is underway to reduce waste in each category: Higher Level Waste (HLW) (not present at Chapelcross or in Scotland); Intermediate Level Waste (ILW); Low Level Waste (LLW); Very Low Level Waste (VLLW). Mr Grierson offered to explain this further at the site visit on 7 November 2017.

Heat Exchanger HEX 12 is complete. HEX13 is almost complete and maintenance on the crane will be carried out after this. By the end of November 2017 there will be four cranes on site. Since March 2017, progress on the Heat Exchangers has been hampered by winds. Depending on weather, work is expected to be complete by March 2018.

Mr Grierson showed photos of the ponds and the processing area for flasks and explained the process of cutting up miscellaneous activated components. The mobile effluent treatment plant has now been designed and is scheduled to be installed on site in July 2018. Due to the amount of concrete in the cooling towers, the water has a high pH content. A permanent solution for this has been put out to the supply chain to avoid continued treatment with asiltbuster.

Under Asset Care, Mr Grierson advised Members that the plant is now 60 years old and the boiler system is no longer required. This has been replaced by new electrical heating systems. A new fire alarm system has also been installed. New doors and roofs have been installed in the processing plant.

Mr Grierson showed photographs of the works being undertaken by Iberdrola for Scottish Power on the south site, which is leased to Scottish Power.

Work on the Interim Storage Facility will become more visible. Ground slabs have been laid and the shield walls are being erected in 10 sections. In November the steel frame of the building will be erected. Interserve are the contractor for this project and are doing a good job.

Under Magnox Social Economic Scheme, £52,098 has been awarded, with the Devil's Porridge receiving a substantial contribution. Other Stakeholder Activity continues with Active Schools and a Netball competition being examples of activities supported.

Mr Grierson concluded his presentation, as always, by emphasising that safety is the site's number one priority. The site is very busy and, with Hunterston A site, the two Scottish sites are currently the busiest in the Magnox estate.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson referred to the waste flow chart and asked if this could be made available to those not able to attend the site visit. Mr Grierson agreed that this could be circulated as it is a public document but considered that members would benefit from an explanation on site to assist their understanding of the process.

Mr Park asked about the timeframes for work streams. Mr Grierson explained that as the site gets near to the end of the heat exchanger work, it will be looking at the Advanced Vacuum Drying (AVDS) system, mobile effluent treatment plant and the Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (ILWEP), which will be included in his next presentation. All of these will require trained staff resources. He emphasised that Magnox policy is to give Magnox jobs to Magnox people and displaced employees would be offered the opportunity to upskill. Virtual roles are also considered but there will be a gradual reduction in staff numbers over the years.

Cllr Marshall asked about consolidation and the timeline for Care and Maintenance and if this would be included in the site visit. Mr Grierson replied that the timeline has not changed. The Management Summary Schedule takes Care and Maintenance preparations to 2026. The waste facility is being built now, then waste will be retrieved for storage. The Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store will remain.

Cllr Marshall thanked the former Chair and Vice Chair for their work and referred to the plan to go into Interim Care and Maintenance this year. He was pleased that the lobbying for Care and Maintenance until 2026 had paid off as it means more people are employed for a longer period of time. Mr Grierson confirmed that Interim Care and Maintenance was part of the old Plan and the savings created by Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) in their competition bid meant that the Interim phase could be removed.

Mr Peacock noted the impending termination of the NDA contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership which was very disappointing after the time and expense of the Tender Competition. He was concerned about how this may affect the remaining two years of the Contract and asked about the proposed new model and how this might impact on sites. Mr Grierson responded that the new model is not yet known and it is for NDA to take a proposal to the Government. Mr Grierson added that despite the disappointment for the Parent Body Organisation (PBO), Cavendish Fluor Partnership, in the termination of the contract, this was mutually agreed with the NDA and there had been no behaviour changes. CFP have been driving people initiatives and there has been unstoppable momentum and value to the taxpayer, as well as hazard reduction. Bradwell is almost at closure and the Government is happy with how the PBO has managed the contract.

6. NDA Reports

The NDA report, provided with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hamilton was not

present at the meeting.

Observations

Cllr Thompson had expected to hear an NDA representative speaking at the meeting on Skills Development, as offered at the last meeting.

- **Action – Mrs Callander to liaise with the NDA on a presentation on Skills Development at the next meeting.**

7. Other reports from SSG Bodies –

ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government

ONR – Mr Rob Eales

The ONR report for the period April – June 2017, circulated with meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Eales was pleased to attend his first meeting and explained that he is required to attend one meeting per year and would like to attend more but this would depend on other commitments and pressures. Mr Eales is also the Inspector for Hunterston A site. Mr Eales apologised for an error in the report. Under Inspections, the Licence Condition numbers had been correctly listed but the accompanying text was incorrect and Mr Eales clarified the Licence Conditions. Mr Eales recapped on the ONR's grading system of Green (no formal action required), Amber (ONR seeks improvement), Red (ONR demands improvement). The findings of all inspections in the period had resulted in green ratings. The ONR visits the site every three months and is content with operations on site. Inspections carried out in the last two weeks will be included in the report to the next meeting.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall noted that the ONR meets with Safety representatives when on site and these meetings are very valuable, with a frank exchange of views.

Mr Park added that he meets with the ONR on site and believes that the site benefits from this. He added that this is fully supported by management.

SEPA

SEPA's report, distributed with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

Mr Young congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments.

Mr Young gave a detailed report:

European (Withdrawal) Bill

Scottish Ministers have re-iterated commitment in principle to establish common UK frameworks where beneficial (as per the position set out in Scotland's Place in Europe), and are keen that principles and any frameworks are agreed between the administrations in the UK. These discussions are ongoing.

The following information is provided to assist with understanding:

- The Scottish Government has been consistent throughout on the potential for cross-border co-operation with the other UK administrations that seek the best possible outcomes for the people of Scotland in the event of exit from the EU.
- The Scottish Government recognises this may include the need for policy coordination in some areas and proposed an approach set out in Scotland's Place in Europe, including the mutual agreement and ongoing operation of frameworks in agreed areas.

- The Scottish Government is clear that the current proposals in the EU (Withdrawal) Bill to impose restrictions on devolved legislative and executive competence are neither necessary nor appropriate. Without significant changes to the Bill, the Scottish Government will not recommend that the Scottish Parliament give legislative consent nor will it agree frameworks for policy coordination. Any discussion on common frameworks is without prejudice to the need to make such changes to the Bill.
- Frameworks should be developed in line with a set of principles to be formally agreed between the administrations prior to discussion of individual frameworks. Both the principles and frameworks should be developed multilaterally (i.e. through discussions involving all the DAs, recognising the varying devolution settlements).

Euratom

The Scottish Government is committed to maintaining protection of the environment and human health to robust international standards where it has devolved responsibility, including for radioactive substances, where some standards are currently set in Directives under the Euratom Treaty. The Scottish Government looks to the UK Government to ensure the same for reserved matters. It shall continue to work, including in cooperation with the other three administrations in the UK, to assess the impacts of exiting from the Euratom Treaty, and to mitigate any negative effects on Scotland. As this is a constantly evolving item regular checking of the Scottish Government website is recommended, in particular the news page for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>.

Nuclear Safeguards Bill

This Bill was referred to as part of the measures required to be taken prior to the UK leaving Euratom. The Bill will address with critical nuclear safeguarding issues to ensure that there are no doubts about ownership of and responsibility for nuclear materials and that the UK can demonstrate compliance with international agreements.

Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD)

Work is progressing in Scotland and across the UK on the transposition of the BSSD. Although the UK Government plans to take the UK out of the Euratom Treaty framework, it is still currently a member and has an obligation to transpose this Directive, which will become a part of domestic law on leaving Euratom. There are several strands of work to the transposition, with forthcoming consultations on the Public Exposures measures, and on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Consultation. The public exposures consultation will contain measures on planned, emergency and existing exposure situations.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Consultation

There is to be a six week consultation across the UK on the implementation of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive, relating to Emergency Preparedness and Response. The consultation will seek views on the policy proposals for implementing the requirements of the Directive, and considers nuclear and non-nuclear sites, and the transport of radioactive materials. The implementation deadline for the Directive is 6 February 2018. The consultation will be run by BEIS on behalf of the whole of the UK including the Devolved Administrations.

Background

The BSSD is a complex and wide ranging Directive. It lays down minimum radiation safety standards for medical patients, workers, and members of the public. The requirements cover planned exposure situations (e.g. nuclear medicine, nuclear power, and other industrial activities that use radioactivity) as well as existing exposure situations (e.g. the management of legacy radioactive contaminated land). The Directive also covers arrangements for responding to emergency exposure situations, ranging from spills in hospitals to major nuclear emergencies incorporating the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident. This consultation will focus on the transposition of the **emergency planning and response (EP&R)** elements of the BSSD.

Implementation of the Directive will lead to significant improvements to the UK's emergency management framework and will, bring the UK a step closer to implementing the latest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety best practice, which the UK has supported and which represents best practice in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety and EP&R. This is a joint consultation document in which the policy has been developed with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who have policy ownership for EP&R in relation to non-nuclear sites (e.g. hospitals, industrial facilities). BEIS has responsibility for EP&R in relation to civil nuclear sites and the transport of all radiological material.

The proposal

The proposed approach to transposition is to build upon the well-established regulatory regime and strengthen it further by making it more commensurate, proportionate and transparent. To do this, BEIS and HSE are proposing to repeal and replace the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPiR) and to make amendments to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 (CDG). The key changes proposed to make, as detailed in the Consultation Document, are:

1. How we define our radiological emergencies and how that definition shapes the emergency management system;
2. How we assess the risk of an accident and what scenarios we use for planning purposes; and
3. How we in turn plan for emergencies (including severe) and build real world capabilities.

Arrangements for protecting the public, environment and property and ensure proportionate and prompt action to mitigate an emergency, irrespective of the cause or consequence will be enhanced through these changes. The consultation proposes moving to an outcome-based approach so duty holders will be empowered to demonstrate to the regulator how they intend to meet the requirements in the regulations in light of local conditions, rather than making them comply with prescriptive one-size-fits-all requirements that do not take account of the particular features of a site.

Defining Prescribed Sites and Transport

The UK Government's response to the consultation on defining prescribed sites and transport, insurance certificates, and excepted matter (for nuclear liability purposes) under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 has now been published. The consultation response is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-defining-nuclear-prescribed-sites-and-transport>.

The most significant comments received concerned the definition of low risk sites and the inclusion of fissile material mass limits in the definition of low risk sites, and the definition of intermediate sites. The UK Government's other proposals were broadly welcomed. In light of the comments received, a further consultation has been published on the criteria for defining intermediate nuclear sites in the Nuclear Installations (Prescribed Sites and Transport) Regulations.

The closing date for this further consultation is 15 September, which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/defining-intermediate-risk-prescribed-sites-further-consultation>. The publication of the response to the earlier consultation means that it should be possible to lay the Nuclear Installations (Insurance Certificate) Regulations and Nuclear Installations (Excepted Matter) Regulations when the House of Commons returns in September.

The insurance certificate regulations will not come into force until the ratification of the 2004 Paris and Brussels Protocols (current target date 1 July 2018). The excepted matter regulations are intended to come into force on 5 April 2018.

Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC)

This piece of work makes proposals which would result in the final stages of decommissioning and clean up being regulated under the existing environmental and health and safety legislation that applies to radioactive and non-radioactive substances at all non-nuclear sites. This would be by the various environmental regulators across the UK rather than the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). This work is being led by BEIS and a steering group has been set up to look at how this work can be taken forward. The current position is that the steering group has concluded that a non-legislative approach does not provide the certainty that the regulators need. This means that amendments will be required to both primary legislation (NIA65) and secondary legislation (EPR16 in England and Wales and RSA93 in Scotland). In order to achieve this, a schedule has been put in place. The proposed schedule includes two consultations: The first is on the principles and this is expected to be published in January 2018. The steering group will shortly be considering a draft. The second consultation will provide details of the proposed amendments to NIA65 (but not a draft text, since this is primary legislation) plus details of the proposed amendments to EPR16 and a draft text. BEIS lawyers have intimated that the amendments to the secondary legislation cannot come into force until the amendments to the primary legislation come into force. Discussions have taken place across the relevant regulators about amendments required to EPR16. BEIS is now seeking to discuss amendments to RSA93 and both Scottish Government and SEPA will be meeting BEIS in the near future to take this forward.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Group

This Group, which focuses on the nuclear sector, both civil and defence, is next due to meet on 12 October 2017. The remit of the Group is: to enable two way engagement between Scottish Government and stakeholders on issues which affect the nuclear sector, and; to provide a forum to facilitate discussion of cross-Scotland issues and information sharing for site operators, site stakeholder groups (SSG's) and other stakeholders. At this meeting the Group will receive an update on how the Scottish Government is addressing the way forward in respect of Euratom and its possible implications to the nuclear industry and associated areas. There will also be a presentation on a subject which will be of interest to the members.

Questions and Observations

The Chair noted that a Sub Group of the Site Stakeholder Group would formally respond to consultations, in consultation with members.

Cllr Marshall asked for an update on the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Strategy. Mr Young replied that there had been no changes since the Implementation Strategy had been published. The Scottish Government will continue to engage and bring any updates to the attention of Site Stakeholder Groups.

8. **External Meetings and Invitations –
Scottish Sites meeting – 23 March 2017
Magnox Chair's meeting – 6 September 2017
NDA Summit – 18/19 September 2017**

Mrs Callander noted that it had not been appropriate for anyone to attend the Magnox Chair's meeting in September due to the handover in Chairmanship.

9. **CoReS / Beyond Chapelcross
The CX Project Successor Programme - Mr Steve Szostak**

Mr Szostak's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Szostak explained that the Beyond Chapelcross project, which was now complete after the original five year project and an additional year, was considered by all to be a success and well regarded by the NDA. The project will exhibit and present at the NDA Summit the following week, summarising what it had achieved and what the future might hold.

The Chapelcross Development Framework, to be implemented over the next five years, had been submitted to the NDA in May, and a response is awaited.

The bid has been endorsed by CoReS and CoReS itself is changing and will have a new and important role in the CX Future Programme. A new governance arrangement will be required for the body taking forward the CX Future Programme.

Mr Szostak stressed that the difference between licensed and non-licensed land is very important. The predecessor to the NDA acquired double the land required for Chapelcross and of the 200ha site, 100ha has never been used for nuclear activity and the opportunities for development are on the non-licensed area. Improvements to the site and motorway are being costed out. Mr Szostak has been on site looking at how to create development plots and has been working with a number of end user development companies. The CX Future Programme has aspirations for a bigger economic impact and to ensure that Chapelcross is known as a site of significant national and international importance. The report outlined the proposals for which Mr Szostak is seeking the support of the Site Stakeholder Group.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson asked about the zoning for the site and the costing options. Mr Szostak explained the need to create a vision for access, road networks and infrastructure, which is the subject of discussion with Local Authority colleagues and engineers. Cllr Marshall asked if this would include links to the A75 and motorway. Mr Szostak replied that this would be included and technical appraisal work is being undertaken, with an estimated cost in excess of £20m, which national Government has been alerted to.

Cllr Thompson asked about the timeline for initial investigations. Mr Szostak responded that he has been on site twice and initial ideas have been agreed with Planners in principle. He expected it to take 3-4 months for a detailed proposal to be put before the NDA and Local Authority to discuss the feasibility to take to the next stage. It is still hoped to start this process early in 2018 and working with the NDA, Scottish Government and Local Authority, hoped it would be achievable within two years.

The Geothermal Feasibility Study went to central Government four weeks ago and two questions have been asked. This is a catalyst programme which is weeks away from approval.

Cllr Carruthers had concerns over the infrastructure costs of £20m+ and would like more information on the new body. Mr Szostak reassured members that he was under no illusions that £20m+ was a large amount of money and would need external input but noted that the Scottish Government was replicating the Government's approach and putting £100m's into cities like Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. This project has significant strategic proposals and a collaborative approach would benefit the Borderlands of Carlisle, Northumberland, Scottish Borders as well as Dumfries and Galloway.

Cllr Brodie thanked Mr Szostak for his report and good ideas and asked about the size of the site and whether the cost of the road links would be too prohibitive. Mr Szostak reiterated that the non-licensed site was the target for disposal and development. Perhaps in 100 years the whole site could be developed but it has to start with the non-licensed area. Mr Szostak admitted that the £20m+ cost of infrastructure was slightly audacious but an aspiration worth bidding for and not much compared to the £100millions being invested in City Programmes. The £20m estimate was also the result of a very detailed appraisal and evidence.

Cllr Marshall reminded members that the concept of the Borderlands and four Local Authority areas stemmed from CoReS and agreed that Chapelcross should be looking for a 'City Deal'. He agreed that it was right to focus on the two MoD sites and Chapelcross for development. He noted that discussions with CoReS and the NDA all came with endorsement from the Site Stakeholder Group and all due local planning processes had been followed. He considered that a primary role for the Site Stakeholder Group was to get the right kind of businesses on the developed site and to see the bigger picture of the Borderlands while supporting these proposals.

Cllr McClelland echoed Cllr Marshall's comments. He felt that this was an incredible opportunity and too often saw talented young people leave the region for the central belt. He considered that the economy of the region has to be driven forward and the opportunity to provide quality, technical, professional type work should be taken, whilst being mindful of the wishes of local people. Cllr McClelland asked if rail links had also been considered.

Mr Park stressed that he will always be conscious of the workforce perspective when looking at new proposals and considered that as the land is owned by the public / Government, whatever it takes must be done to ensure that there is employment for the workforce.

Cllr Carruthers confirmed that he is supportive of the CX Future Framework and the Borderlands project but felt that this was a longer term vision and had concerns about a vacuum which needed to be addressed in the short term as businesses are looking for sites now and care needs to be taken not to miss more immediate opportunities.

Cllr Dryburgh noted that the elected MP is trying to get a City Deal in November 2017, with the backing and efforts of the five Local Authorities.

Mr McNairn pointed out again that the correct name of the road is the A74(M), not the M74, which starts at Abington. Cllr Carruthers noted that the report references the M74 corridor.

The Chair read out the recommendations of the report and asked for the support of members in agreeing to the proposals. Members approved the four recommendations of the report.

10. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

Mrs Callander advised that the Federation of Community Councils has confirmed Mr Alex Thomson from Gretna and Rigg Community Council as their second representative.

➤ Action – Mrs Callander will circulate meeting dates for 2018 before the next meeting.

11. Public Forum

Mr Ogilvie considered that the body that takes forward the CX Project Successor Programme needs to be one entity that people can relate to.

12. Next Meeting – Friday 15 December 2017

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 15 December 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.53 am.