

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2020 IN ANNAN TOWN HALL, ANNAN, DG12 6AQ**

This meeting replaced the December meeting, postponed due to the period of sensitivity prior to the general election. The Federation of Community Councils will nominate a new representative to replace Martin Brown. Eastriggs, Dornock and Creca Community Council has dissolved. A representative of Scottish Enterprise will be nominated following the restructuring. Cllr Dryburgh was congratulated on his MBE award in the New Year's Honours.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 August 2019 were approved. All actions were discharged but one of the NDA to provide specific data applicable to Chapelcross site which is still being researched.

Chapelcross Site Integration Manager's Report – Mr Mark Blackley

There has been good overall performance in all aspects of safety. Improvements are required in terms of dealing with legacy waste, whereby rainwater had ingressed into bulk items of solid radioactive waste while being stored on site in January 2019. A programme for dealing with this was submitted to SEPA in December, for which the site had secured additional funding. The site has a well-established group looking at wellbeing. One third of the workforce have taken part in defibrillator training. There has been a focus group on diet and fitness since the new year. Unions have requested a 4 day/wk instead of 5 day/wk for the workforce and this is currently the subject of consultation and a Union ballot. Various photographic examples of the types of activities taking place under waste operations were shown. Twelve applications have been made to the Socio Economic fund to date, nine of which have been successful, totalling £14k.

NDA Report – Mrs Kelly Anderson

The draft Business Plan is out for consultation until 14 February 2020 and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-draft-business-plan-2020-to-2023>. The Plan focusses on key activities and progress over a three-year rolling plan for all sites and all responses are welcome as part of the consultation process. Further consultation will take place on the Social Impact Strategy. The NDA's Radioactive Waste Inventory as at 1 April 2019 has been published <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2019-inventory-of-uk-radioactive-waste-published>. Consultation on Strategy IV will take place later in the year.

ONR Report – Mr Bill Kings

The ONR Report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Kings summarised the systems-based and themed licence condition inspections during the last year and noted that engagement from the site is very good. Contingency arrangements have to be demonstrated every three years and this exercise went very well, with one or two learning opportunities. ONR is pleased to see the drive on site to address the legacy low level waste. ONR's interest is in the storage of this – both arrangements and conditions.

SEPA Report – Mr David Stone

The SEPA Report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Update from Scottish Government – Mr James Fox

At his first meeting, Mr Fox updated on changes with Scottish Government's Radioactive Substances Team, as well as BEIS Policy Review, Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Review, NDA Strategy IV, Borderlands, South of Scotland Enterprise.

**External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh
Scottish Sites meeting – 31 October 2019**

Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr McClelland had met the new Magnox Executive Team and looked forward to the next meeting in April 2020.

CX Project – Mr Mark Fulton

A route map has been established to formalise the programme. A paper went to a full Council Committee meeting in September, which was well attended. Feedback from both the Council Committee meeting and the Workshop held was positive. A Mobilisation Plan is being prepared, bringing together leads from partners. A Strategy Workshop is being arranged for March 2020. Consultants have been commissioned to carry out two pieces of work – to explore economic potential and complete the SOBC with a target date of 15 May 2020. The CX Programme Delivery Board is expected to be formally set up in the first quarter of 2020.

Questions and Observations

After each presentation, a number of questions were asked by members, which can be read with the responses, in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the SSG Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Friday 1 May 2020 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall.



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 17 January 2020 at 10.00 am
at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan**

Present:

Mrs Kelly Anderson (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, NDA)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Mr Mark Blackley (Chapelcross Site Integration Manager)
Dr Nigel Calvert (Public Health Medicine, NHS Dumfries and Galloway)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)
Mr James Fox (Scottish Government)
Mr Mark Fulton (D&G Council, Strategic Project Lead, CX Project)
Mr John Grierson (Scottish Regional Lead / Closure Director - Chapelcross and Hunterston A)
Mr Aftab Khan (Cumbria County Council Resilience Unit)
Mr Bill Kings (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Henry McClelland (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Ms Jaime Nicholson (D&G Council, Principal Officer Facilities Annandale and Eskdale)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Mrs Joyce Wylie (Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)

In Attendance:

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Press Representative

Apologies:

Mr Quintin Donald (Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate)
Ms Teresa Dougall (National Farmers Union Scotland, NFUS)
Mr John Duffy (ONR, Civil Nuclear and Safeguards Division)
Cllr Douglas Fairbairn (representing Annandale North)
Mr David Mundell, MP
Mr Oliver Mundell, MSP
Cllr Ronnie Tait (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Mr Alex Thomson (Gretna and Rigg Community Council)
Mr Ian Winchester (Cumbria County Council Resilience Unit)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Dryburgh, Chair, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year, which replaced the usual December meeting, which had to be cancelled due to the general election on Thursday 13 December.

Cllr Dyrburgh welcomed James Fox from Scottish Government and Aftab Khan representing Cumbria County Council Resilience Unit to their first meeting.

2. Announcements and Apologies *(including Declarations of Interest)*

The Chair read out 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.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 August 2019 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Cllr Sean Marshall and seconded by Mr Willie McNairn.

Action points from the last meeting

1. Mr McNamara to organise a Skills and Training Overview for a future Site Stakeholder Group meeting – Jacq Longridge will give a presentation to the May Site Stakeholder Group meeting – action discharged.
2. Mr McNamara to present the NDA's new Mission Reporting system to the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting – Agenda item - Kelly Anderson will present this – action discharged.
3. Mr McNamara to look into providing specific data applicable to Chapelcross site – still being researched – action carried forward.
4. Mr Fulton to share Structure / Organisation Chart with the Site Stakeholder Group at the appropriate time - circulated with meeting papers – action discharged.
5. Ms Nicholson to circulate details of meetings to the Federation of Community Councils to Mrs Callander to allow meeting posters to be circulated to the local community – done – action discharged.

Mrs Callander had spoken to the Chair of the Federation of Community Councils who advised that Martin Brown has resigned from the Federation due to ill health so will no longer be the representative at Site Stakeholder Group meetings. A new representative will be nominated at the next Federation meeting. Thanks to Martin Brown for his attendance, input and support of the SSG over many years.

Cllr McClelland formally acknowledged and congratulated Cllr Dryburgh on his recent MBE award. Mr Grierson extended congratulations from Chapelcross site to Cllr Dryburgh.

4. Chapelcross Site Integration Manager's Report – Mr Mark Blackley *(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)*

Mr Grierson introduced Mr Blackley, who is responsible for the running Chapelcross site 50% of the time, when Mr Grierson is at Hunterston. Mr Blackley presented the site report as part of his Development Plan.

Mr Blackley introduced himself and covered Site News, Programme Update, Socio Economic, Magnox in the Community and Questions in his presentation.

Mr Blackley started with safety, where there has been good overall performance in all aspects. Improvements require to be made in the environment. There have been a number of external visits. Senior safety representatives and management from the Health, Environment and Safety Advisory Committee (HESAC) had made various site visits and were complimentary. The annual safety review held at Hunterston A site was also very positive. A demonstration of security arrangements went well.

Improvements are required in terms of dealing with legacy waste, whereby rainwater had ingressed into bulk items of solid radioactive waste while being stored on site in January

2019. There was no harm to people or the environment but the water was contaminated and a final warning letter had been received from SEPA.

A programme for dealing with this had been submitted to SEPA in December, for which the site had secured additional funding. SEPA is content with the programme of action and will continue to monitor this.

The site has a well-established group looking at wellbeing. One third of the workforce has taken part in defibrillator training. Curling taster sessions were offered and yoga sessions are being practiced on site.

Under Business, Mr Blackley reminded members that the contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership terminated on 31 August 2019 and Magnox plc has been a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA since 1 September 2019, with a new Executive Team now in place. The forecast spend for Chapelcross is £23M. Unions have requested a 4 day/week instead of 5 day/week for the workforce and this is currently the subject of consultation and a Union ballot. The majority of Magnox sites operate a 4 day/week with Hunterston A and Wylfa working 4.5 days/week. If the 4 day/week proposal is accepted for Chapelcross, this will take effect from April 2020. Staffing numbers are static with 162 employees, 18 agency workers and only 3 contractor workers.

Mr Blackley showed various photographic examples of the types of activities taking place under waste operations. Low level waste is being shipped off site. A new piece of equipment from Bradwell is in the process of being set up. Some Site Stakeholder Group members took advantage of the invitation to visit the new Interim Storage Facility where intermediate level waste packages will be stored. Commissioning of the plant is being completed to start operating. Mr Blackley showed a flowchart of the integrated commissioning procedure. After the commissioning report and regulator endorsement, the plant is expected to go live in March. A large contract has been let for the manufacture of storage drums for the CXPP tritium plant.

Photos were shown of several asset care activities and Mr Blackley described the work being done on oil removal from turbines, Seaford Embankment, cladding and glazing the reactor buildings and redundant pipework.

Twelve applications have been made to the Socio Economic fund to date, nine of which have been successful, totalling £14k. There is still £3k available in the Under £1k grant budget. Examples of stakeholder activity included Annan Town Band and various School and Club activities.

Mr Blackley finished his presentation by showing videos of the Interim Storage Facility and Intermediate Level Waste process.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson asked if the £23M budget includes the additional funding for waste removal. Mr Blackley confirmed that £23M is the site budget and funding for addressing the legacy waste issue is additional. The site expects to receive £1M/yr for the next three years to tackle the legacy waste. Cllr Thompson asked if Site Stakeholder Group members would receive information on this additional programme. Mr Blackley and Mr Grierson agreed to include updates on this in future presentations.

Cllr McClelland asked if the new effluent treatment equipment changed the disposal route or if this is still by way of a pipe to the Solway. Mr Blackley confirmed that the pipe to the Solway will still be the disposal route but the new plant has filtration to reduce activity in the effluent.

Cllr McClelland asked for an update on Milnby Weir, as discussed at the last meeting. Mr Grierson updated that the site is still engaged with Scottish Water and is seeking quotes to

have an eel and lamprey ladder fitted and carry out a survey to understand the impact of the weir removal.

The question of ownership is still an issue under debate. Mr Grierson has asked the NDA's Legal Team and Scottish Water's Legal Team to meet and resolve this issue.

Cllr McClelland asked the timescale for the installation of the ladder. Mr Grierson replied that this would be done this summer. It will take approximately one week to install and needs to be done in low water. Installation of the ladder will also improve the water quality which is a priority.

- Action – Mr Grierson undertook to bring more information on the eel and lamprey ladder to the next meeting.

Cllr Marshall noted that by the next meeting the first waste package will be done. He asked if it would be possible to include a programme of more detail and numbers over the next few years at the next meeting.

- Action – Mr Blackley undertook to bring a more detailed programme on waste packages to the next meeting.

Mr Park referred to mosaics, CXPP, pressure in dealing with the low level waste and the ageing workforce and asked what employment opportunities there might be for locals. Mr Blackley advised that it is intended to take on three apprentices in September to train them as Health Physics Monitors. This is currently done through the supply chain but the site would like to have its own, trained on site. Mr Park asked if three was a sufficient increase to the Low Level Waste Team. Mr Blackley responded that there is a limit on how many people can be meaningfully trained at one time. Mr Grierson added that graduates and other people on site are also being retrained. Three positions have recently been advertised and it is hoped that the Terms and Conditions for new starts will be resolved soon. Mr Grierson stressed that retention and succession is important to the site.

Mr Grierson reported on the 'safe start' on first day back in January, asking people to make an individual commitment to safety. Mr Grierson gave an example of himself making more conservative decisions when travelling after taking 4.5 hours to get to Hunterston in snow.

Mr Fulton asked if the pipeline will become redundant with the introduction of the new equipment. Mr Blackley replied that the pipeline will be required through till the end and will be the last activity to be decommissioned in 2026.

Cllr Marshall asked about the business case for the 4 day/week and thought for staff retention and work/life balance this would be a favourable outcome. Mr Blackley considered this to be of benefit to staff and hoped that it would help retain staff.

As Dumfries and Galloway Council's Mental Health Champion, Cllr Dryburgh noted that Post Natal Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has been high on the agenda in the last couple of weeks and asked that this is taken forward on site. Mr Grierson advised that Magnox is hosting the Company's Mental Health First Aider Conference the following week and he will request that this is added as a theme in one of the mental health campaigns.

5. NDA Reports – Mrs Kelly Anderson

On behalf of Mr John McNamara, Mrs Callander read out an email to Cllr Dryburgh: 'On behalf of the NDA, I wanted to warmly congratulate you on your recent New Year's honour. Your MBE is richly deserved for unstinting work in local government circles, and particularly for your support and championing on behalf of our armed forces, which we know is a subject close to your heart. All best wishes for 2020. As always, we look forward to working with you closely in your role as Chair of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group.'

Mrs Anderson was pleased to be back at Chapelcross Site Stakeholder meeting as she had not been for some time due to a change in roles and focussing on West Cumbria. She

updated on the Chair of the NDA completing his term and leaving in February. The recruitment process is Government led and taking place now. The Chief Financial Officer, David Batters, left last summer and has been replaced by Mel Zuydam.

With regard to publications, the draft Business Plan could not be published in the pre-election period but was released for consultation on 23 December 2019 until 14 February 2020. This has to be approved by Government by 1 April 2020 and is available to view on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-draft-business-plan-2020-to-2023>. The Plan focusses on key activities and progress over a three-year rolling plan for all sites and all responses are welcome as part of the consultation process.

The NDA's Radioactive Waste Inventory as at 1 April 2019 was published the previous week. This is compiled and updated every three years and is a good resource, which is available on the NDA website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2019-inventory-of-uk-radioactive-waste-published>.

The forthcoming Social Impact Strategy has been discussed with stakeholders and it is hoped that the draft document will be published by the end of January 2020 for consultation during February and March. The consultation draft will be circulated to members via the Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat.

Mrs Anderson thanked those who had been randomly selected to take part in telephone interviews to shape the Stakeholder Survey. This can also be completed online. Over 2,000 responses were received last year and this helps the NDA identify areas for improvement.

Strategy IV is regarded by the NDA as its bible and is published every five years. This document describes the strategic approach under topics, split into driving themes and critical enablers. Pre-engagement will take place in early 2020, with a statutory consultation period from 17 August 2020 to 8 November 2020, and the Strategy published by 1 April 2021. There will be a range of opportunities for the Site Stakeholder Group to be involved.

The NDAs Mission Progress Report was published on 4 July 2019. This reports on spent fuel, buildings, etc and shows the progress the NDA is making towards completing its mission.. Collating the detailed numbers was a two year project and all the information came from the sites themselves, which is a good example of 'one NDA' and has been very well received.

Strategic Outcomes list the 47 things that the NDA does as a business in standardised language across the sites. Three of the 47 outcomes have now been achieved: all Magnox sites have now defueled; all oxide fuel reprocessing at THORP (Sellafield) is complete; all plutonium at Sellafield has been consolidated. Each site will have its own version of this document and work has been taking place with Sellafield as a 'dummy'. Further meetings will be held to discuss detail, with the aim of having it ready for publication alongside Strategy IV. This is a step change in the way the business is being run as everything done by any site will link back to the 47 outcomes.

Questions and Observations

Cllr McClelland was pleased to hear the progress being made and particularly welcomed the transparency of the Strategic Outcomes at a local level.

Mr Fulton referred to outcomes for Chapelcross and asked if the strategy will honour the obligations under the 2004 Energy Act for transformation of the site and how collaboration with the NDA will work. He added that there is a common aim to work together and from a meeting with Lorraine Ward in December, a strong commitment to see the transformation delivered. Mrs Anderson explained that the outcomes are technical. There is an aspiration that the critical enablers will have their own mission reports and the Social Impact Strategy is the most appropriate place for this. Mr Fulton asked about the process of turning the

commitment of the Chair and Chief Executive of the NDA into something more tangible.

Cllr Marshall noted that there was always an understanding that a supplementary condition could be placed on the impact of the end state of sites. He understood that this used to be in the Strategy and will be written somewhere.

- [Action – Mrs Anderson to obtain further information from the NDA on how the transformation of the site will be achieved.](#)

Mr Park asked about the definition of 'One NDA' and how One NDA supports the longer-term nuclear skills development for decommissioning. Mrs Anderson replied that a Skills Strategy is being developed and will be the subject of a presentation at the next meeting by Jacq Longrigg. In terms of 'One NDA', Mrs Anderson explained that this refers to the different businesses that historically operated independently (NDA, Dounreay, Magnox) now working towards common targets, speaking as one voice, working closer together, doing the right things at the right times, learning lessons from each other, with no duplication of efforts.

Cllr Dryburgh noted that the second stage of reactors are coming to the end of life.

Cllr Thompson picked up on Mr Fulton's point and asked where Chapelcross fits into the NDA's Strategy and Business Plan. He asked if the most appropriate way of feeding into these was through the consultations on draft documents. Mrs Anderson encouraged members to feed into all consultations as the more something is said, the more it will be heard. The Strategy is the opportunity to influence and make changes.

Cllr Marshall noted that there are a number of consultations coming up and suggested that the small ad-hoc Sub Group of the Site Stakeholder Group reconvenes to collate individual member's comments and respond as a Stakeholder Group, although individuals are free to also respond individually.

Before the Regulator's reports, Cllr Dryburgh noted that Alastair McKinnon has retired from Scottish Enterprise and no new representative has yet been nominated. Mrs Callander had been advised that there is a restructuring currently taking place and it was agreed that the Chair would feed back as appropriate and a new member to be nominated in due course. Eastriggs, Dornock and Creca Community Council has now been dissolved. Cllr Dryburgh thanked Mr Sandy McKay for attending the Site Stakeholder Group as a representative.

6. Other reports from SSG Bodies – ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government

ONR

The ONR report, included in the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Kings advised that he had now been in post for 15 months as Inspector for Chapelcross and Hunterston A sites. He presented a summary of the year, which had been a very busy one for the site. Visits are scheduled at least once every quarter with some other visits. Inspections themed around licence conditions are more beneficial. A systems-based inspection had picked up retrievals from the ponds. A site visit would take place in the next few weeks to release the regulatory hold point if the Inspector is happy with the outcomes. Mr Kings stressed that engagement from the site is very good. Contingency arrangements have to be demonstrated every three years and this exercise went very well, with one or two learning opportunities. The site also performed well in a security exercise in October 2019. Although the warning letter is from SEPA, ONR is pleased to see the drive on site to sort out the legacy low level waste. ONR's interest is in the storage of this – both arrangements and conditions. Some improvements are required and some have already been made. ONR will lobby for additional funding for the movement of the waste. The ONR brought French Inspectors to the site in December and received a good presentation from Mr Grierson and Mr Blackley. Those present were very impressed with the organisation and the people.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh thanked Mr Kings for the personal feedback.

Cllr Thompson asked if contaminated steel work and asbestos would be regarded as high level legacy waste. Mr Blackley replied that the waste is prioritised into higher hazards so the low level waste has accumulated for up to ten years. Mr Grierson added that the low level waste would have moved earlier had priority not been given to the higher level hazards. This is a good time for the site to deal with the waste removal as there are no big projects generating new waste. Mr Kings added that the ONR's interest is in addressing the accumulation of low level waste on site.

Cllr Marshall thanked Mr Kings for the annual summary and thought it would be useful to receive slides on low level waste at the next meeting showing details and graphics to put this into perspective.

- [Action – Slides showing detail and graphics of low level waste accumulated on site to be presented at next meeting.](#)

Mr Khan asked how the ONR shares its learning. Mr Kings gave an example of benchmarking by attending inspections with colleagues at other sites and using similar situations at sites to share learning. It is assumed for example that Sizewell will address its accumulated low level waste in a similar way to Chapelcross.

Cllr Marshall noted that long-standing low level waste is an issue but considered that oil was a much bigger hazard, which is a good example of the prioritisation of waste.

SEPA

The ONR report, included in the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Questions and Observations

Cllr McClelland noted that 'best available means' is referred to several times in the report following two incidents, which would suggest that 'best available means' is not being followed. He would like to know how 'best available means' are determined and what the site is expected to do to comply with this as the norm and not retrospectively. Mr Kings explained that from an ONR perspective, it regulates primarily against the regulations and approved guidance. He explained the procedure for complying with regulations and guidance. Mr Grierson added that there is an assessment of the onward path which environmentally makes the best practice. He gave the example of contaminated water at Hunterston A site. This could be discharged to sea but this is not the best practical means as this would deposit plastics in the sea so it is being incinerated. Cllr McClelland asked if SEPA has the ability to determine the best practical means globally as this could impose significant costs to the site. Mr Grierson confirmed that cost is assessed as part of the best practical means.

- [Action – Cllr McClelland's question on the definition and implementation of 'best practical means' to be forwarded to SEPA for response by Mrs Callander.](#)

Scottish Government – Mr James Fox

Mr Fox was pleased to attend his first meeting and updated as follows:

Scottish Government Radioactive Substances Team

The Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Team in Scottish Government is now fully staffed after a period of transition. Pat McAuley has joined as the Head of Team, filling the post vacated by Charles Stewart Roper. James Fox has taken on Ewan Young's role as Policy Advisor responsible for community engagement. James and Pat report to

Thekla Garland, the new Head of the Environmental Quality Unit. Martin Macdonald remains in post as the Senior Policy Advisor in the Team.

BEIS Policy Review

The Team's immediate focus is to ensure that Scottish-specific aspects are reflected in the policy review being taken forward by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Its main objective is to tie together the UK's many policies on radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning into a single, comprehensive document. BEIS will launch a consultation on its proposals with a view to publishing its response and the paper later this year.

The Scottish Government has held preliminary discussions with BEIS on the policy paper proposals and will provide further updates to the Chapelcross SSG as matters develop.

Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Review

In 2011, the Scottish Government committed to review Scotland's Higher Activity Waste Policy at least every ten years. As a result, preliminary work on planning for the review due in 2021 is now being taken forward. The policy team will ensure all interested parties in the Chapelcross SSG are alerted once the review begins.

NDA Strategy IV

Engagement continues with the NDA on its fourth strategy which will be published in 2021. The policy team will continue to press for Scottish priorities to be reflected.

Borderlands

A proposal that could potentially utilise part of the Chapelcross site as a mixed-use employment facility is being considered as part of the Borderlands Growth Deal. The Borderlands deal aims to accelerate inclusive economic growth across the South of Scotland and North of England and is supported by £350m of UK and Scottish Government investment across a 10 - 15 year period.

Before any investment is made, all business cases need to be further developed and scrutinised on the way to agreeing the Final Deal. Local authority partners are now working to develop their proposals following the signing of Heads of Terms on 1 July 2019. The projects to be supported will be decided at the full deal stage.

South of Scotland Enterprise

Good progress is being made towards having the agency operational by 1 April 2020. The legislative framework is in place – the South of Scotland Enterprise Act received Royal Assent on 12 July. The new Chair has been appointed (Professor Russel Griggs OBE). The process for the recruitment of the Chief Executive is currently live. Nick Halfhide has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive of the new agency, South of Scotland Enterprise, from 3 February until a permanent CEO is appointed.

Recruitment is now underway for Board members and key operational staff, and work is well advanced on all other aspects of SOSE set up, in advance of its introduction on 1 April 2020.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Callander asked where the new SoSE team would be based. It is understood that there will be four office bases – in Eyemouth, Galashiels, Dumfries and Newton Stewart.

Public Health Medicine, NHS Dumfries and Galloway – Dr Nigel Calvert

Dr Calvert apologised for not attending a meeting for some time and Cllr Dryburgh invited him to attend any Site Stakeholder Group meeting that he is able to attend. Dr Calvert will liaise with Health Improvement colleagues on the socio economic aspect and found it useful to hear some of the technical background.

7. External Meetings and Invitations –

Scottish Sites meeting – 31 October 2019

Cllr Dryburgh advised that he had attended the Scottish Sites meeting on 31 October 2019 with Cllr McClelland, Mr Grierson and Mrs Callander and had met the new Magnox Executive Team. Topics under discussion were Hunterston B site and the SEPA REPIR Report. Cllr Dryburgh will attend the Site Stakeholder Group Chairs meeting in London the following week. Mr Fox advised that the next Scottish Sites meeting will take place in April 2020.

8. CX Project – Mr Mark Fulton

The written update report on the Chapelcross (CX) Site Transformation Programme (2095) was included in the meeting papers and taken as read. Mr Fulton reported that a route map has been established to formalise the programme. A paper went to a full Council Committee meeting in September, which was well attended. Feedback from both the Council Committee meeting and the Workshop held was positive. A number of questions were asked and answered and both events were useful for keeping Council Members informed. A Mobilisation Plan is being prepared, bringing together leads from partners. Mr Fulton is working with partners to put together a Strategy Workshop to be held in March 2020. Since September, there has been a meeting with the Chair of the NDA and a Board meeting. Proposals are moving forward for a solar farm but the detail of this is commercially sensitive. Consultants have been commissioned to carry out two pieces of work – to explore economic potential and complete the Strategic Outlined Business Case (SOBC) with a target date of 15 May 2020. The CX Programme Delivery Board is expected to be formally set up in the first quarter of 2020. It is hoped to have approval for the updated CX SOBC by August 2020, following which a report will go to Dumfries and Galloway Council Committee in September 2020 defining what the next stage is. The Structure / Organisation Chart requested at the last meeting is in the mandate and has been revised slightly.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh asked if the £495k committed by the NDA had been drawn down yet. Mr Fulton updated that an application had been submitted to the NDA in November 2019, which went to Committee on 7 January 2020. There are further discussions to be had on detail but the NDA is comfortable with the application. Proof of expenditure will be required. The agreement with the NDA will be reframed in line with the mandate over the next few months.

Cllr Marshall noted that there has been engagement with energy providers and Chapelcross has been identified as one of the main projects for Dumfries and Galloway. He asked what is being done in terms of improving infrastructure and asked for a guarantee that infrastructure is being addressed as he considered the U204 to be the busiest unclassified road in Scotland, as well as the other B and C class roads surrounding the site. Mr Fulton confirmed that infrastructure improvements have been included in the bid. The B722 road from the north to the A74(M) has been identified as requiring upgrading. The highways infrastructure has to be taken up by Dumfries and Galloway Council. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the B722 is a different road to that which directly passes the gates of Chapelcross and that all adjacent roads need upgrading as there is interest in other parts of the site as well as the north. Mr Fulton replied that it has been recognised that the access roads need improvements and these will be included and design and costs for these will be included. Mr McNairn lives on this road and confirmed that upgrading would be essential to the development of the site. He also noted that the telephone lines come from Annan, past the football ground and across Chapelcross site. These lines were originally installed in 1966 and new telephone and broadband lines will also be required. Mr Fulton acknowledged this.

Mr Park asked the current position on the Simplified Planning Zone. Mr Fulton responded that Planning colleagues have explained existing rules and thoughts. The 2015 Vision and Charette is included in Planning Guidance. Due diligence work will be done in advance of a decision being made by Dumfries and Galloway Council in September 2020. He added that the Growth Deal has a timespan of 10-15 years and mobilisation needs to be as fast as it can

be. Cllr Dryburgh clarified that planning permission will be required but the process should be simplified or accelerated.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Khan asked if there are any issues that Cumbria County Council Resilience Unit should be aware of. Mr Kings confirmed that Chapelcross does not require an outline planning zone in terms of REPPIR.

10. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

11. Next Meeting – Friday 1 May 2020

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 1 May 2020.

Cllr Dryburgh thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.58 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- Action – Mr McNamara to look into providing specific data applicable to Chapelcross site – still being researched – action carried forward.
- Action – Mr Grierson undertook to bring more information on the eel and lamprey ladder to the next meeting.
- Action – Mr Blackley undertook to bring a more detailed programme on waste packages to the next meeting.
- Action – Mrs Anderson to obtain further information from the NDA on how the transformation of the site will be achieved.
- Action - Slides showing detail and graphics of low level waste accumulated on site to be presented at next meeting.
- Action – Cllr McClelland’s question on the definition and implementation of ‘best practical means’ to be forwarded to SEPA for response.