

# **Addendum to PSM24**

09 July 2012

The Council wishes to draw to the Inspector's attention further information in relation to the Matters of Disagreement with Horizon Nuclear Power Limited.

## **Points 1 and 2:**

Relate to matters of disagreement with Horizon – these are matters that the parties have not been able to agree should be included in SoCG 26. These matters have been included in the Statement of Common Ground with National Grid SoCG 27.

## **Point 3:**

Relates to National Grid's post consent community benefit scheme.

## **Point 4:**

Relates to explanatory text that the Council proposes to add to Chapter 18 of the Core Strategy to clarify on what basis community benefits may come forward.

## **1. The relevance of emerging, local and neighbourhood plan policies**

In relation to SoCG26 paragraph 4.2 (a):

1.1 The Council considers that policies CS36 and CS37 are consistent with relevant national policy, which refers to both adopted and emerging plans and the weight that should be given to these (including paragraphs 185 and 216 of the NPPF). The Council does not consider it necessary to repeat this national policy in the Core Strategy. In line with this, it is clear that were local or neighbourhood planning policy or supporting documents be contrary to National policy or not aligned with the Core Strategy, then they would not be considered relevant or capable of application.

1.2 If reference to emerging and supporting documents were deleted, the Council would have no policy basis against which to seek to ensure delivery on relevant emerging local and neighbourhood plans and documents. This would run counter to the principles of localism and would disadvantage NSIP host communities.

1.3 PSM24 4.4 (i) explains the relevance of Council or locally produced plans to MIPs. The Council also considers that reference to emerging local plans and supporting documents can also be advantageous to project promoters since they can help inform and shape their development proposals, thereby potentially improving the acceptability of MIP proposals to the local community.

## 2. Relevant policy from Cumbria

In relation to SoCG26 paragraph 4.2 (b)

2.1 As set out in PSM24 (paragraphs 2.8, 2.9, and 4.4 (x)), the Council considers the inclusion of this criterion to be important and appropriate given precedent, the clear statement in South Gloucestershire's Sustainable Community Strategy and recent reference in Government policy.

2.2 In addition there is also a relevant policy reference to community benefits in Cumbria County Council's Adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 2009 (Examination Library Ref. RD65), which includes the following policy and supporting text:

- Core Strategy Policy 3  
*Where large national or regional waste management facilities are proposed, particularly for the nuclear industry, the County Council will expect that packages of community benefits will be provided to help offset the impacts of hosting such facilities'.*
- The supporting text states:  
*'Community benefits packages will be expected to contribute to the sustainable development of an area and the well-being of its local communities. They can be secured through the provisions of the Local Government Acts, the Planning Acts or other legislation'.*
- In relation to predictions of increases in radioactive waste management, they state:  
*'Cumbria local authorities consider it reasonable to expect that proportionate benefits packages should be secured in order to offset the consequences of hosting such a large proportion of the country's nuclear waste'.*

2.3 If the Core Strategy criteria relating to community benefit were to be deleted, this Council would have no local policy basis against which to seek community benefits. These may be by voluntary agreement with a developer, or under legislation outside S106 and CIL (as cited by Cumbria County Council in their Adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy).

## 3. National Grid's recently published 'Investing in communities: Bringing energy to life' scheme

3.1 The Council's attention has recently been drawn to National Grid's stakeholder, community and amenity policy (Examination Library RD67), and their 'Investing in Communities' 'Bringing energy to life' scheme (Examination Library ref. RD66), which seeks to address the principles of providing community benefits in areas affected by the construction of National Grid's

infrastructure works. The Council considers that these principles are consistent with those proposed in policy CS36.

3.2 In respect of 'Enhancing the environment around our works' (RD67 point 7 page 5), the policy states, 'When undertaking works, we will consider what practicable measures can be taken to enhance areas in the vicinity of the works for the benefit of local communities and the natural environment'.

3.3 National Grid's post consent community benefit scheme (RD66) states a commitment '...to putting measures in place, which more than offset the environmental impacts of our construction works.', providing '...economic, social and environmental benefits to communities...', and funding '...projects that deliver positive impacts for communities affected by the construction of new grid connections, vital in securing our energy supply for future generations'.

#### **4. Proposed additional clarification to be added in support of policy CS36**

4.1 In view of the questions that have been asked about the inclusion of policy criteria relating to community benefit in CS36(5) and CS37(13), the Council now proposes to clarify in the supporting text to policy CS36, the potential routes under which community benefits may be sought. The following new paragraph is proposed to be added to follow on from paragraph 18.16iii:

*18.16iii (a) 'Community benefits may be secured through the provisions of the Local Government Acts, the Planning Acts, or other legislation, or alternatively through voluntary agreement with the project promoter, or in accordance with an industry protocol such as Renewables UK: A Community Commitment (relating to on-shore wind power) or National Grid's Investing in communities scheme (relating to electricity transmission infrastructure).'*