

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name:	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)
Lead Member:	Councillor Carwyn E. Jones – Portfolio Holder, Isle of Anglesey County Council
Lead Officer:	Liz Davies – Energy Island Programme Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council

Email:	PMO@anglesey.gov.uk
Address:	Isle of Anglesey County Council Bryn Cefni Business Park Llangefni Isle of Anglesey LL77 7XA
Telephone:	01248 752435
Website:	www.anglesey.gov.uk

Membership

Members of the NNLAG for 2019-20 included the following Local Authorities:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council (Chair and Secretariat)
- Allerdale Borough Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- Cumbria County Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Essex County Council
- Folkestone and Hythe Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Maldon District Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Somerset County Council
- Somerset West and Taunton
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Suffolk County Council

Aim

NNLAG's primary aim is to share knowledge, information and best practice regarding new nuclear, and to provide a mechanism for local authorities, as elected representatives of local areas, to discuss and make representations direct to Government regarding the development of new nuclear and of nuclear-related connection/transmission projects.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

1. For a two year period from 2019-2021, the Secretariat and Chair of the NNLAG has been transferred to the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
2. Cllr Carwyn E. Jones was elected as Chairman of NNLAG at the NNLAG Annual Conference in 2018.
3. The Secretariat charges members an annual fee to cover the costs of organising, co-ordinating and administering the Group. The fee for 2019-20 was £600 per Local Authority.
4. During 2019-20, NNLAG Officer meetings were held in November 2019 and March 2020. These take forward the sharing of knowledge and information on new nuclear, energy policies, and provide opportunities to learn from local authorities that have been through the Development Consent Order process on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The NNLAG also discusses certain issues that are raised by government. Much of this information is shared between the members utilising the Knowledge Hub site.
5. The NNLAG have recently published a study (independently undertaken by Oxford Brookes University) on the impacts of the early stage construction of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Nuclear Power Station. The study was deliberately limited to consider how actual impacts compare with predictions as part of the Environmental Statement (ES) and Development Consent Order (DCO) process. The study will be useful in the continued development of best practice and will help to inform the way that future new nuclear power station developments, as well as other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), are developed, consented, monitored and governed. The Hinkley Point C (HPC) project was one of the first NSIPs to be consented it is therefore the best opportunity to learn about the scale, nature and extent of the likely impacts of nuclear new builds, and to gather both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the impact in practice.
6. The group have made representations to central Government (Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy) on issues of common interest and concern – the most recent was the consultation response on the Regulated Asset Model for Nuclear and matters in relation to Community Benefits. In addition, the NNLAG has a representative on wider groups such as the BEIS Oversight Group on Advanced Nuclear Technologies.
7. A successful Annual Conference was held in the county of Somerset and hosted by EDF Energy on June 19-21, 2019. Councillors and Officers heard from a wide range of keynote speakers and senior officials. These included representatives from UK Government's Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, EDF, Oxford Brookes University, Bridgwater and Taunton College, and a number of Local Authorities from the NNLAG. They were also able to see first-hand a NNB development in progress as well as consider the benefits and challenges for host communities.
8. Given the current situation with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic, future NNLAG meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. However with the recent submission of a DCO application for Sizewell C, consultation on Bradwell B, and DCO decision on Wylfa Newydd upcoming, the work of NNLAG remains of vital importance to its' member Councils.