

## LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

**SIG Name:** New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

**Joint Lead Member:** Cllr L Wagland OBE, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, Essex County Council, Cllr W Stamp, Leader, Maldon District Council.

**Lead Officers:** Graham Thomas, Head of Planning, Essex County Council, Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance

**Email:** [mark.woodger@essex.gov.uk](mailto:mark.woodger@essex.gov.uk)

[rebecca.rushmer@essex.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.rushmer@essex.gov.uk)

[charlotte.rushmere@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.rushmere@maldon.gov.uk)

[laura.ferdinando@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:laura.ferdinando@maldon.gov.uk)

**Address:**

Essex County Council  
County Hall  
Market Street  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

Maldon District Council  
Council Offices  
Princes Road  
Maldon  
CM9 4DL

**Telephone:** 0345 743 0430 / 01621 854477

**Website:** [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) / [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

### Membership

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

- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- Cumbria County Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Essex County Council (Joint Chair and Secretariat)
- Folkestone and Hythe Council

- Maldon District Council (Joint Chair and Secretariat)
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Somerset County Council
- 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 period from 2021-2022, the Joint Secretariat and Chair of the NNLAG has been transferred to Essex County Council and Maldon District Council.
2. Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE (ECC) and Councillor Wendy Stamp (MDC) were elected as Joint Chairpersons of NNLAG at the NNLAG Annual Conference in 2021.
3. The Secretariat charges members an annual fee to cover the costs of organising, co-ordinating and administering the Group. The fee for 2021 is £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. During 2021 Officer meetings will continue on a quarterly basis which will take place initially remotely via Teams with the view to make these in person events later in 2021/22 followed by an Annual Conference in 2022 at a time, of a type and venue to be determined.
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 virtually in September 2021 hosted by the Isle of Anglesey Council. 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, the Chair of the Nuclear Industry Association, and a number of Local Authorities from the NNLAG.

8. Given the recent submission of a DCO application for Sizewell C which as of September 2021 is at Hearing with the Planning Inspectorate; consultation and engagement on Bradwell B has currently been held in abeyance however this is programmed to recommence it is understood in 2022; the DCO decision on Wylfa Newydd being withdrawn prior to the examining authorities report to recommend that consent be withheld, and the recent initiative to promote Small Modular Reactor (SMR) developments with the Govt commitment to move towards low carbon energy generation, the work of NNLAG remains of vital importance to its' Member Councils as these significant proposals come forward.