

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NDA SOCIAL IMPACT & COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

1. Cumberland Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Social Impact & Communities Strategy. This response has been developed by officers in consultation with elected Members on the Council's Nuclear Issues Board.
2. With a significant proportion of the NDA's mission located in Cumberland, including many of its most challenging and hazardous facilities and materials, Cumberland Council engages with the NDA on all aspects of its work and welcomes the NDA's ongoing commitment to transparency and engagement with local communities. We expect the UK Government to continue to prioritise and fund the NDA's mission to make Sellafield safer sooner and enable beneficial new developments in Cumberland where appropriate.
3. The NDA's draft Social Impact & Communities Strategy expresses the NDA's commitment to achieving maximum positive social impacts for communities near its sites and to working closely with Local Authorities about how to ensure its work is delivered in a way that aligns with local objectives and ambitions.
4. With such high levels of investment going into projects at the Sellafield site, the most significant impact the NDA can have in Cumberland is by ensuring its expenditure on day to day operational activities supports development of a strong local supply chain and contributes to sustainable economic development in the region. We therefore welcome the NDA's recognition on page 4 of the draft Strategy that scope exists to generate beneficial social value through activities that fall outside the scope of the Strategy itself including:
 - Recruitment, skills and training;
 - Buildings, accommodation and land use;
 - Social value delivery through the supply chain & procurement; and
 - Bespoke planning agreements.

5. Given that much of the work and expenditure at Sellafield is delivered through the Programme and Project Partners (PPP) Framework, the NDA must ensure those enterprises operating under that Framework demonstrate a similar commitment to achieving social value for local communities from their activities. This is consistent with the six strategic themes of the Strategy set out on page 6 of the draft document, (notably Social Value Chains and Collective Impact) and with the expectation expressed on page 7 that social value contributions from activity at NDA sites, including supply chain enterprises, must align with the aims set out in this Strategy.
6. Cumberland Council welcomes the commitment stated on page 10 of the draft Strategy to the success of the Industrial Solutions Hub project at Cleator Moor. We believe this project represents precisely the type of initiative that can deliver long term benefits and help create a more sustainable and diverse local economy in West Cumbria.
7. Finally, we welcome the NDA's offer to assist Cumberland Council with development of an Economic Strategy for Cumberland. The NDA and Cumberland Council have a shared interest in making Cumberland a thriving and attractive place to work and live and it makes sense to work together in this area. There may be scope for similarly beneficial collaboration on development of the Council's Nature & Climate Strategy and we hope to engage further on that.
8. As a member of the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeaf), Cumberland Council has contributed to and supports NuLeaf's separate response to this consultation, noting in particular:
 - the proposed further dialogue with NDA about NuLeaf undertaking a review of how NDA approaches community benefits;
 - the suggestion that total social impact funding levels should be doubled from £15m to £30m with a view to getting the figure up to 2% of total NDA budget;
 - the suggestion that NDA sets out more clearly its approach to achieving social impact through operational activities which fall outside the scope of this strategy;
 - the call for NDA's commitment to achieving "maximum positive social impact" from its activities to be embedded in Strategy 5;

- the call for a better approach to measuring the outcomes and impacts of social impact activities.

9. As a member of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG), we have also contributed to development of their separate response. We note in particular the point the WCSSG makes about the scope for Cumberland Council and the NDA to work co-operatively on “long term workforce planning/recruitment and procurement/supply chain activities at Sellafield and LLWR”. We agree these represent areas of mutual concern in which there seems scope for beneficial co-operation between the Council and NDA.

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