

Meeting Report

Regarding:

**EDF Hinkley Point C:
Workforce Uplift Update Briefing**

Participating:

Erland Plomgren, Holford Parish Council
Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council
Richard Cuttell, W.H.A.G
Malcom Reid, Nether Stowey Parish Council
Bruce Eyley, Kilve Parish Council
Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley
David Mears, Bridgwater Town Council
Neil Kimmins, Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing Team, Avon & Somerset Police
Stephen Pettitt, Cannington Parish Council
Robert Downes, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Joanna Whitehead, Somerset County Council
John Burton, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Leigh Redman, Somerset County Council
Jo Smoulden, Bridgwater Green Party
Andy Roberts, Highways England
Derek Wellings, Shurton Resident
Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP for Bridgwater and West Somerset
Hugh Davies, Somerset County Council
Penny Harvey, The University of Manchester, Dalton Nuclear Institute
Amanda Stanley, Shurton resident

Date & Venue:

**Thursday 28th January 2021 18:00 – 20:30
Online Web Conference**

John Roberts, Nether Stowey Parish Council
Joanna Manley, Sedgemoor District Council
Lisa McCaffrey, Highways England
Stuart Houlet, Sedgemoor District Council
Wayne Hawley, Fiddington Parish Council
Jane Taunton, Stogursey resident
Mike Facey, Burnham on Sea & Highbridge Town Council
Julie Evans, Otterhampton Parish Council
Richard Wand, Stogursey Parish Council
Lidia Bosa, local resident
Anne Reed, Wembdon Parish Council
Sue Spicer, Burton resident
Andrew Coupe, Somerset County Council
Angela Farmer, Sedgemoor District Council
Christopher Ford, Stogursey Parish Council
Alex & Claire Blackman, local residents
Ann Bown, Somerset County Council
Caeden Cann, SEC Newgate UK
Brian Buckingham, EDF
Jane Tomaney, EDF
Jean Buller, EDF
Sacha Hawthorne, EDF

EDF Energy Panel:

Andrew Goodchild , EDF
 Andrew Cockcroft, EDF
 John Pingstone , EDF
 Chris Young, EDF
 Andrew Wagstaff, EDF
 Immy Silby , EDF
 Anne Lawrence, EDF
 Rachel Lister, EDF
 Barbara Pocock, EDF
 Ruth Jones, EDF
 Sharon Dommett, EDF
 Andy Hunt, Quod
 Caroline Sherratt , Mott MacDonald
 Tony Sheach, Mott MacDonald
 Drew Aspinwall, SEC Newgate UK

The presentation given on the evening is available to view or download here:

https://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/workforce_uplift_-_update_briefing_presentation_26-01-2021.pdf

Item	Action
1 Introductions	
1.1 Drew Aspinwall (Zoom host) welcomed everyone to the briefing and ensured that all attendees were aware of the mute, raise hands and Q&A functions on Zoom.	
1.2 The panel then introduced themselves in turn and gave a brief overview as to the topic specialism. These were: Andrew Goodchild (Planning); Andrew Cockcroft (Community Relations), John Pingstone (Planning), Chris Young (Educations and Skills), Andrew Wagstaff (Passenger Transport), Immy Silby (Community Relations), Anne Lawrence (Site Nuclear Compliance), Rachel Lister (Transport), Barbara Pocock (Employment Affairs), Ruth Jones (Planning), Sharon Dommett (Employment Affairs), Andy Hunt, Quod (Planning – socio-economics and accommodation), Caroline Sherratt , Mott MacDonald (Transport Planning); Tony Sheach, Mott MacDonald (Transport Planning).	
2 Presentation	
2.1 A presentation was given which is available to view or download here: <u>https://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/workforce_uplift_-_update_briefing_presentation_26-01-2021.pdf</u>	

- 2.2** Andrew Goodchild (AG) welcomed everyone to the briefing, the structure of the presentation is as follows:
- Project Update – the impact of Covid-19
 - Background to Workforce Uplift and Context Setting
 - Community Engagement
 - Assessment / Discussions to Date
 - Timeline and Process for Decision Making
 - Questions and Answers – topic by topic
- 2.3** At the start of the presentation AG clarified that regarding the Impact of Covid-19, the expansion of the workforce in the years to come will only happen when it is safe to do so. This means that our projections for workforce numbers are based on an assumption that we will be able to operate un-constrained in the years leading up to the peak of construction.
- 2.4** AG led the presentation and walked through the proposals for workforce uplift covering Background and Context; the Development Consent Order (DCO); Assessment and Discussions to Date; Output from Spatial Distribution Work; Comparison of the Location of Non-Home-Based Workers and Home-Based Workers against original forecasts; and explained the Revised Workforce Development Profile.
- 2.5** Andrew Cockcroft (AC) outlined the approach to Community Engagement.
- 2.6** Sharon Dommatt, Head of HPC Employment Affairs Unit, gave an overview of workforce development and the education, skills and employment pipeline.
- 2.7** Barbara Pocock (BP), who leads on the employment workstream discussed the impact of Covid is having and expected to have on the job market; and the support the HPC Job Service provide. The Job service will continue to provide redundancy support to businesses and individual during Covid-19; has been successful delivery of skills specific recruitment events and virtual events to engage local communities.
- 2.8** BP gave an overview of the employment and job statistics including that results from a local survey received over 700+ expressions of interest from people in MEH (MEH stands for Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC - heating, ventilation and air conditioning) upskilling.
- 2.9** Chris Young (CY), Education and Skills Delivery Manager, gave an update on Apprenticeships; Young HPC and Inspire programmes for which he is responsible and explore the opportunities that the project brings, highlighting specifically the Centres of Excellence and the projects participation in the Governments ‘ Plan for Jobs’. CY also introduced the Hinkley Support Operative (HSO), which is focused on recruiting people from the local area, and to provide individuals with an introduction to the engineering construction industry. This will provide specialist development pathways including Electrical, Mechanical and Welding and supported by state-of-the-art training facilities at the Centres of Excellence.
- 2.10** AG then covered Transport (including Park & Ride and number of bus) ; Accommodation (including local housing market). AC outlined the approach to Community Engagement Health, Community Safety and Environment; then AG returned to talk about Health, Community Safety and Environment; Topic Papers and Process for Decision Making before opening up the floor for questions.
- 3** **Questions**

Transport

- 3.1 Q)** Will the Cannington P and R be large enough to accommodate the additional workers expected? Steve Pettitt
Answer: Andy Wagstaff (AW) replied: Yes, we anticipate that the P&R will be large enough. The majority of people who use the Cannington site have a permit based on their specific postal code catchment in the immediate area. AG mentioned that we are looking to re-introduce some of the more local bus routes to alleviate the pressure on Cannington P&R also.
- 3.2 Q)** Are there any changes proposed to the timetables or routes for the buses? Wayne Hawley
Answer: AW said the timetable are dynamic and designed to support the shift patterns in the most efficient way and reduce buses running with less people on them. Currently, a lot depends on the capacity of the waiting areas at the moment to enable social distancing. Where we identify where there is increased demand we can add an extra bus to collect those people and take them up to site.
- 3.3 Q)** "The influx of workers staying in the village of Nether Stowey caused horrendous problems with regard vehicle parking.
Whilst the vehicles are legally parked (mostly) and the buses are a superb idea, the result was that the village was often grid locked. This was brought up on numerous occasions and every time the answer we were given was HPC had complied with the DCO, end of story.
The proposed increase for the Cannington cluster will only exacerbate this problem further will the answer be the same or will there be more dialogue on this occasion, perhaps greater use of the park and ride." John Roberts
Answer: AW said we did experience problem last year so we move the primary pick up point to the bus stop at the top of the village; we anticipate that that will be the pick-up location again when it reopens rather than going through the village. We will try and keep buses out of Nether Stowey as much as it possible. We will also give permits for the Quantock Lakes P&R to encourage people not to park in Nether Stowey. We can react really quickly to fly parking issues, sometime with in the hour and issue tickets in line with our 3-strike rule.
AC added that discussions will continue within the Forums to continue to tackle issues as and when they emerge.
- 3.4 Q)** Will the buses from Stogursey be for picking up and dropping off in Stogursey only and not busses that have been routed through Stogursey? Christopher Ford
Answer: AW that is definitely our intention.
- 3.5 Q)** Stogursey is already heavily impacted by car parking issues due to non-home based HPC workers - the anticipated uplift will make these issues far greater . The parish requires car parking facilities as opposed to extra accommodation for HPC workers(which also serves to out price local residents) Susan Goss
Answer: AW reinforced the points he made regarding how responsive the fly parking team are and AG added that there is not one single answer to the question, it's a case of the project doing all we can and there are funds available for potential solutions.
- 3.6 Q)** How many extra buses will all this involve and are bus numbers covered in the DCO? Roy Pumfrey
Answer: AW said it was too early to give an exact number while routes are still being assessed but potentially with the use of the double deckers it would not be that many.
AG added that just over 500 buses movements a day would be required to get workers to and from site and that bus numbers are not covered in the DCO.
- 3.7 Q)** Christopher Ford (CF) asked can I have split of Walk and Ride and Local number or are they same?
Answer: AW clarified that in the presentation, it refers to bus journeys not number of buses but

the split can be provided following the meeting.

AG added that out of the 550 or so buses movements, only 15 of them will be going around the Stogursey, Shurton, Burton route.

- 3.8 **Q)** Once you go back to bus pick-ups, the fly parking will impact all towns along the route.
Leigh Redman

Answered in the Q&A: Thanks Leigh, we recognise that and as Andrew Wagstaff touched on our Fly Parking team will very much be on hand to monitor and manage fly parking.

- 3.9 **Q)** The minibuses picking up in Stogursey parish: how many runs and how often does that happen on a day and are their movements counted as bus movements? Richard Wand

Answer: AG said there are not more than a handful and yes they are counted and reported on via the Transport Report Group.

Workforce Development

- 3.10 **Q)** What is the definition of "local area" within Education and Skills as promoted by Chris Young?
Richard Cuttell (RC)

Answer: CY said that 'local area' is a 90 minute travelling radius. As mentioned in the presentation, 67% of the Apprentices have been from the 90 minute travelling radius. There are some differences within programmes, for example all of the Supported Traineeship Programme participants were from Somerset as all of the participants in the Elevate Programme as well.

RC added that residents of Shurton, Burton and Stogursey are asking him how they can actually get work, despite the information shared in the presentation and if they don't have their own transport they can't get from Stogursey to Cannington to get the park and ride.

BP said that we undertake a number of outreach and one to one exercises with people in those areas. AG said we have identified that transport can be an issue and we are picking people up in minibuses in a socially distant way. People who gain employment at site would be offer this option.

- 3.11 **Q)** RC – Local people have asked me to ask when will you be ramping up to worker number in excess of 8,000? And what percentage of those workers do you expect to be 'on the doorstep' of the site (not within 90 minutes travel).

Answer: AG said very much subject to having exited the pandemic, the peak would be towards the end of 2022/ early 2023. Conservatively, we are estimating that around 30 people who have lived in the 'Stogursey Cluster' for at least 3 months prior to gaining employment will be employed under workforce uplift.

- 3.12 **Q)** How is your on-site infrastructure - canteen, rest rooms, offices and more - going to cope with the increase you propose? Roy Pumfrey

Answer: AG said we have provision to host them, we will need to amend lunchtime sittings. A desk and locker capacity assessment has been undertaken and we are confident with some adjustments we can accommodate the increase without the need for additional facilities.

- 3.12 **Q)** Sue Spicer asked: For what period of time will the 8,000 plus people will be on site and when it will decrease?

Answer: AG the number we are predicting will be above the 8,000 mark for around 3 or 4 months. What we are showing is workforce of around 7,000 or more for a period of about 2.5 years. Subject to Covid and the implications of the pandemic.

- 3.13 **Q)** You claim that 80% of the new workers will be local. I know this involves up to 90 minutes drive time, so Cardiff and Plymouth count as 'local', especially if you're using J25. Given that unemployment locally is low, how can this happen without luring people away from their current job, thus leaving their current employer and the people they serve in the lurch? Roy Pumfrey

Answer: AG said these points were covered by BP in relation to the initiatives to get people into work and the support and backfilling we do in the wider community. BP added that half the people on the jobs service register are local, there are nearly 450 have been made redundant because of Covid, there are people who are willing to train and upskill, we also offer support to companies who have been impacted by HPC so to negate that that domino effect on local businesses.

Sharon Dommatt (SD) added that we are looking to get intelligence on the impact of Covid on the area.

CY added that the employment percentages shown on the presentation were up until November 2020 (and did not take into account the November lockdown or the latest lockdown either), therefore the percentage is expected to go up. Nationally it is being talked about unemployment peaking at about 7.5% in Q2 2021, so regional and locally there will be more people to support. We will be working with local partners / agencies to ensure they are aware of the opportunities at HPC. Through the Apprenticeship Levy we are able to transfer funds into local businesses to support apprenticeship creation and have been doing that for the last 12 month and will continue to do that both this year and beyond.

3.14 Q) Are you considering an uplift from the 1000 planned apprenticeships as a result of the uplift of workforce envisaged? Richard Wand

Answer: CY said the answer is no at the moment and we don't expect to either.

3.15 Q) Erland Plomgren (EP) asked: How many full-time positions will there be when HPC is operational and how many of those will be taken up by those from A&B Stations?

Answer: SD said 900 full time jobs, we don't have numbers from B stations at the moment but knowledge transfer is going on, which is very important.

Accommodation

3.16 Q) Can we have some information about rental costs i.e. are local people being priced out of the market as was feared? Anne Reed

Answer: AG said the local authorities do monitor this. There are many and varied initiatives to encourage people to stay in the home they are in but in the main we have not seen some of the fears being played out.

3.17 Q) What is the percentage occupancy of the campus accommodation by site? Wayne Hawley

Answer: AG said both of the campuses are almost full, particularly during the week. The Hinkley Campus has been fully occupied, particularly Tuesday – Thursday for well over a year. At the Sedgemoor Campus is equally well used during the week. We are keeping one unit back to allow a facility for self-isolation should we need it.

AC added that the latest figures from Host are 93% average occupancy across both sites.

3.18 Q) Can you give some in depth explanation of what additional accommodation you have uncovered in Nether Stowey? Malcolm Reid

Answer: AG said we are not suggesting that we have uncovered some new accommodation in the village. We are looking to make some additional funds available via the local authorities to support the creation of more bed space (furniture packs, under occupied properties, bringing properties back into use)

3.19 Q) Additionally, are you looking to have some interest in the new housing development in Nether Stowey? Malcolm Reid

Answer: AG said not directly but we have seen an increase in properties being let out to HPC workers than we originally anticipated.

3.20 Q) When does a worker become home based? how long after they buy a property do they

change? Leigh Redman

Answer: AG a home-base worker is only a home-based worker if they have lived at a property for 3 months prior to working for the project. They don't change status.

Approvals Process

3.21 No questions specifically posted on this topic

Other Questions

3.22 **Q)** What will the uplift mean for on-site power requirements including gensets and emissions from the site? Wayne Hawley

Answer: AG said that we are confident that the electrical system will give us sufficient power to accommodate the uplift. In future, the site will have moved to mains power heavily reducing the need for generators which are also being incrementally adjusted to hybrid systems.

3.23 **Q)** What did the last Nuclear Safety Culture Survey say about how the workforce understand the importance of nuclear safety in construction? How will an extra 2900 people be bought up to speed with nuclear expectations. Bruce Eyley

Answer: AG said we don't have answer to the first part of the questions to hand on the call but there is a comprehensive programme including worker induction, code of conduct, briefing, tool-box talks, plus all the wraparound work we do with nuclear culture, compliance, manual training. AC added that ONR also have a big role in having an oversight of the culture at site.

3.24 **Q)** Do you provide a health warning to all job applicants along the lines of 'there may be 8,500 working on HPC but you will be lucky if your job lasts 2 years and there will only be 900 permanent jobs if and when HPC is finished'? Roy Pumfrey

Answer: AG said no but everyone employed are aware that they are building a power station and when it is done they will move on to other projects, some will transition across to the operational power station.

AC added that we are working hard to ensure people working on site will be able to transfer their skills locally and regionally and working with local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership and others to ensure this.

CY added that the Hinkley Support Operative (HSO) was one of the ways that we are ensuring the people can get into the project and have long term skills which can be transferred elsewhere afterwards to other jobs in the local area.

3.25 **Q)** A strong rumour is that 30 tunnellers had Covid. If true how can this be explained and how will transmission rates be kept under control? Richard Cuttell

Answer: AC said that our transmission rate and cases on site are below the local and national rate. 1000's of workers on site have been tested.

3.26 **Q)** RP asked how can you claim you have low rates of infection?

Answer: AC said if RP would like to email in his question, with specific details it will be responded to directly rather than be answered as part of this briefing.

3.27 **Q)** What opportunity will there be for written feedback from interested parties e.g. parish councils? Susan Goss (SG)

Answer: AC said please engage with us at the virtual exhibition and drop-in session w/c 8 February and send in any further comments via the usual email:

hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

3.28 **Q)** Why should the people on the front line in Shurton and Burton and other areas believe that they will be listened too and taken notice of? This was not the case in the early days before the first spade went into the ground. Richard Cuttell

Answer: AC said he understood RC feeling and that the project is trying to be responsive to local concerns and to reduce impacts as far as we can.

3.29 Q) Andrew Cockcroft should not dismiss Covid numbers. If numbers are going to 8000 the local population are worried. As per Hugh's comment Richard Cuttell

Answered in the Q&A: Hi Richard, as I hope I set out at the beginning of the presentation, the workforce increase is dependent on Covid being behind us.

AC added that safety is the number one priority.

4 Any Other Business

4.1 Q) A general question, what is the timetable for this decision? Leigh Redman

Answer:

Answer: AG said that the timeline is that we hope to present the topic papers to the local authorities and other partners in February, we will factor in questions from this update and the virtual exhibition, so hope to be able to have decision making meeting in March.

4.2 EP said he would like to just congratulate everybody on a really well run, knowledgeable evening. It has been an eye-opener. Well done and thank you everyone.

4.3 Leigh Redman (LR) said that this briefing was the first opportunity to get a lot of more detailed information, and requested that Bridgwater Town Council have a presentation directly. He felt that the process for assimilating this information is too short. A did not think 6 – 8 weeks was long enough.

AC said there is a lot of information but would like to highlight that all the information is being put together in the topic papers. What is what have designed is above and beyond what is required. We are open to doing more but we hope the exhibition material will help.

AC added that we will come and join you at the Town Council. **ACTION.**

The mitigation measures in the DCO are essentially cross-checking that these will be enough to deal with the workforce uplift presented at the meeting.

ACTION

4.4 Hugh Davies wanted to echo Leigh Redman's comments and felt that due to Covid not a lot of people will engage and called for more time to get to more people.

4.5 SG questioned that these proposals are not a non-material change and will have a huge impact on the local area and felt it should be a material change.

4.6 AG said that the councils have written to the planning inspectorate and BEIS, they replied and requested that it be agreed locally with the local councils. When you look at the topic papers, we feel currently we can address the impacts with an amendment to the way we do things or amend one of the policies and does not warrant an application to amend the DCO.

SG added that the jury was out on whether it needs a DCO amendment.

Comments from the Q&A Zoom feature:

4.7 Is anyone at EdeF still in touch with David Eccles? I'd be pleased if you would pass on to him, "Roy says he told you so!" after today's statement that Unit 1 won't be completed until June 2026! At the earliest! Roy Pumfrey

4.8 Just to say I have had to leave look forward to seeing the slides, thanks Anne Reed

4.9 Thank you for a detailed presentation. Steve Pettitt

4.10 The Main Site Forum is not until 4 March! Richard Cuttell

- 4.11** I am sorry I have to leave the meeting now, thank you for your efforts. John Roberts
- 4.12** AC thanks everyone for talking part said that the presentation will be circulated following the meeting and to look out for information regarding the virtual exhibition and drop-in session w/c 8 February.
- 5** The meeting closed (20:30).