

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2017

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Leader

Councillor M Chilcott
Councillor A Hadley
Councillor S Pugsley
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor M Dewdney
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor K Turner

Members in Attendance:

Councillor I Aldridge
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor P Pilkington

Councillor S Goss
Councillor R Lillis

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Assistant Director – Place and Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Assistant Director – Corporate Services (P Carter)
Community and Housing Lead – Energy Infrastructure (L Redston)
Meeting Administrator (C Rendell)

CAB32 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB33 Minutes

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 6 September 2017 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 6 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB34 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Cllr M Chilcott	All	SCC	Spoke and voted

**WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL
CABINET 01.11.17**

Cllr C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	All	Crowcombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke
Cllr S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke
Cllr P Pilkington	All	Timberscombe	Spoke

Councillor Trollope-Bellew further declared a prejudicial interest on agenda item 7, Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations - Allocation of Ecology Contribution and left the chamber during the discussion of this item.

Councillor Morgan further declared a personal interest on agenda item 6, Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board – Allocation of CIM Funding, as he was Vice-Chairman of the Board.

CAB35 Public Participation

Item 8 Hinkley Point C – Non-Material Change Response

Richard Cuttell spoke in support of the recommendations in relation to the non-material change response to the Planning Inspectorate. The use of the phrase 'non-material' was misleading. Concern was raised that the changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) would not be taken seriously due to the title 'non-material change'. This was the third application to amend the DCO and should not be viewed as non-material. The increase of 49% in the cubic capacity of the spent fuel store and the conversion from wet to dry storage was a material change. This would have a greater impact on the local community. The store would be in existence long after the power station was closed down and the proximity to the coastal path had not been assessed. The credibility of the process had been eroded and an impression that the planning process had been circumnavigated was given, due to three applications being submitted that amended the DCO so early in the construction program. Should this application be approved, he urged that a condition be placed that only spent fuel from Hinkley Point be stored on site. The store should not be expanded and the planning conditions needed to be examined with due diligence. He hoped that West Somerset Council continued to safeguard the interests of the community.

Peter Farmery spoke in support of the recommendations in relation to the non-material change response to the Planning Inspectorate. His main concern was that he did not want the site to be used for all the spent fuel for the whole of the United Kingdom. There were superior locations available for both geological and geographical reasons. He requested the percentage of the total amount of spent fuel from Hinkley Point that would be contained in the store so that officers could identify what was required for the life of the station. The Government should be pressurised to reprocess the fuel.

CAB36 Forward Plan

(Copy of the Forward Plan for the month of January 2018 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the month of January 2018 be approved.

CAB37 HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocation of CIM Funding

(Report No. WSC 113/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Planning Obligations Board for the allocation of monies from the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund secured through the Section 106 legal agreement for the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and provided information on the bids submitted to the Planning Obligations Board (POB).

The first application was a substantial bid submitted by the Somerset Education Business Partnership (SEBP). The total project cost for the project was £443,849, with an amount of £393,849 applied for under the CIM fund. The focus of the SEBP would be to forge links between business and young people via education in Sedgemoor and West Somerset. The SEBP would also take a strategic role and analyse gaps and help to standardise quality and provision across Somerset. It was a very well thought out application which proposed an effective way to deliver the service in the local context in terms of impact mitigation and maximised opportunities available as a result of the HPC project.

The second application was from North Petherton Rugby Football Club for a total amount of £300,000 for additional changing rooms. Although it was clear that the club was committed to improving its community and sporting facilities, the application missed essential details that provided assurance that an investment of this size to develop new changing rooms would be appropriate and would mitigate impacts of the HPC project for a significant number of the local community.

The third application was from Holford and District Village Hall Committee for a total amount of £125,000 to refurbish and extend the Village Hall. The project would enable educational, recreational, sporting and social activities for all age groups in the surrounding areas and offered improved quality of life for residents of communities nearest the HPC site. This was a very well presented, detailed and thought out project and application to the CIM fund and successfully met all nine criteria.

The fourth application was from Fiddington Village Hall for a total amount of £35,000 to renovate the kitchen and toilet in the Village Hall. It was clear that the hall required improvement to ensure that users who were impacted by the HPC development and the increased number of workers in the village were attracted to use the hall. However, the application did not focus on what services or activities residents required in the hall, the activities that would be provided, who would access the services and how they would mitigate the impacts of HPC on the community.

The fifth application was from Citizens Advice Sedgemoor for a total amount of £165,837 for Hinkley advice needs. The project aimed to deliver advice services needed across Sedgemoor that was a result of the HPC development. Although it was recognised that there was likely to be an increased need in demand for advice services for the resident community, new workers and families in Sedgemoor due to the HPC development, the application did not provide sufficient detail or evidence in relation to several of the criteria.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation of the report which was duly seconded by Councillor A Hadley.

Members praised the applications that had been put forward to the POB. They were especially pleased to support the bids for Holford Village and District Hall Committee and the SEBP and were glad that they had resubmitted a more detailed business case.

Members acknowledged and understood the reasons why the North Petherton Rugby Football Club bid had not succeeded in obtaining funds and were encouraged to see that the Fiddington Village Hall and the Citizens Advice Sedgemoor had been requested to submit more detailed applications to obtain funds for their projects.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to endorse the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board, as follows:

(1) To award Somerset County Council £393,849 from the 1st Annual CIM fund payment for the Somerset Education Business Partnership project.

(2) To not award £300,000 of CIM funding to North Petherton Rugby Club for the New Changing Rooms project on the basis that the project did not sufficiently meet the criteria to mitigate community impacts of the HPC development.

(3) To award Holford and District Village Hall £125,000 from the CIM Fund ring-fenced for West Somerset for the Holford Village Hall - Fit for Future project with the following conditions:

That no funding will be released until

- Planning permission has been granted for the proposed project.
- Match funding has been secured to cover the total project costs as set out in the application.

- Following the tender process and selection of a preferred contractor the CIM Fund Manager is satisfied that the project remains affordable.

(4) To not award £35,000 of CIM funding to Fiddington Village Hall for the Kitchen and Toilet Renovation project and to advise the applicants to return with a revised application.

(5) To note that the HPC Planning Obligations Board have deferred a decision on the application from Citizens Advice Sedgemoor for £165,837 towards the Supporting Hinkley Advice Needs project pending the submission of additional information by the applicant to support their application.

CAB38 **Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations – Allocation of Ecology Contribution**

(Report No. WSC 111/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to request that Cabinet recommends to Full Council that £250,000 be allocated to the East Quantoxhead Estate for the purpose of providing landscaping and other works to enhance the foraging habitat for bats as a result of the loss of habitat on the main Hinkley Point C site.

The Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure presented the report and provided background information.

As part of the Site Preparation Works at HPC an obligation was placed on EDF Energy to undertake radio tracking of bats to determine where bats had foraged and therefore where appropriate locations could be provided for landscaping to replace the habitat lost on the main HPC site.

The results of the radio tracking revealed that the bats had foraged in locations east of the HPC site which included East Wood, Hodder's Coombe, Waltham's Brake and Honibere Lane.

The areas to be enhanced needed to be maintained over a period of fifteen years which would allow time for the final landscape restoration scheme to have been planted after construction was completed on the main HPC site.

The East Quantoxhead Estate emerged as the preferred option and they were willing to take on the planting in association with tenant farmers and provide assurances for the long term maintenance.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

Members praised the support that had been given to an ecological project. They fully endorsed the recommendations to allocate funds to enhance the bats habitat. And hoped that the bats would not face the same fate that the badgers had.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that £250,000 be allocated to the East Quantoxhead Estate for the purpose of providing landscaping and other works.

CAB39 **Hinkley Point C – Non-Material Change Response**

(Report No. WSC 112/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to bring to Members' attention EDF Energy's proposed changes to the DCO 'plot plan' (essentially the detailed plans of the buildings on site during operation) and to formulate West Somerset Council's response to those changes.

The Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure presented the item.

On the 28 September 2017, EDF Energy had submitted a third non-material amendment which related to changes on the main HPC Site. EDF Energy's Application Statement set out the principal factors that drove the proposed changes.

Of the 71 buildings and structures on site that were part of the operational power station, 4 were new, 12 were larger, 4 were moved and 1 building had been removed. In addition, the proposal included the erection of additional pipework along the underside of the temporary jetty to discharge pumped groundwater that arose from dewatering activities undertaken that supported the excavation and the construction of the power station. This included discharged water produced by the tunnelling works required to construct the heat sink and treated sewage effluent generated from the welfare facilities on site.

The most significant and noticeable changes were to the interim spent fuel store, the sea wall and the temporary jetty. The spent fuel store had caused the most concern amongst Members.

EDF Energy had proposed to change the way in which spent fuel was stored at HPC. The original proposal was to store spent fuel waste in a wet store in pools. The proposal was now, after an initial period of storage and cooling in a pool close to the reactor building, to store the spent fuel securely in concrete and steel canisters. This was known as dry storage. The change resulted in a significantly larger interim spent fuel store to accommodate the concrete and steel canisters and the change away from a spent fuel pool. The size of the building required to accommodate the spent fuel was significantly larger than the previously approved building under the DCO, it was proposed to be 79m longer, 8m wider and 5m taller. The amended size would make it one of the most predominant buildings within the power station site.

The application for the non-material amendment included an assessment of the landscape and visual impact but it was noted that it was in the context of the operational power station even though the spent fuel store would be in situ long after the operational power station had come to an end of its life and had been decommissioned. The store would only be removed once all of the fuel had been moved to a Geological Disposal Facility.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

Concern was raised on the increased size of the building and its location and proximity to the coastal path.

Members were minded that the increased size of the building was due to the way the spent fuel had to be stored and officers supported their concerns and those raised by the community.

Members queried when did a non-material change become a material change and were concerned about spent fuel from other locations being stored at the site.

Members endorsed the comments made by the public speakers and supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED that the Assistant Director for Place and Energy Infrastructure be authorised to raise objections with the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of West Somerset Council as to the

- view that this change is being considered as a non-material change;
- lack of information regarding the environmental impacts of the change in Spent Fuel storage method; and
- visual impacts of the increased size and prominence of the waste store close to West Somerset Coastal Path and within the wider landscape in the long term.

With the agreement of the Chairman, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

CAB40 Planning Obligations Allocation

(Report No. WSC 117/17 – circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to make proposals for the allocation of monies secured through planning obligations to individual schemes.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report.

This was a proposal from Dunster Parish Council and Dunster Marsh Junior Playing Field Committee. They had worked closely together and with the community to ascertain their needs. The Playing Field was well used and it had also been identified in the Dunster Parish Community Plan and prioritised for improvement.

The proposal had been awarded £12,240 in July 2016 and had now sought the balance of funding from the Section 106 contribution. The additional funds would go towards the installation of the multi-use play area (MUGA) in the children's playing field. The funding would be used to prepare the area, lay an area of tarmac, add fences, goal mouths, basketball nets and line marking for different sports. The total cost of the project was £61,700.

The proposal was considered by the POB, who supported the application because it would help a long held community aspiration be achieved.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor K Turner.

Members supported the bid which promoted health and wellbeing within the community.

Members acknowledged a concern that once the MUGA was built, money would need to be allocated for the maintenance of the site.

RESOLVED that the allocation of £13,488 to Dunster Parish Council for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Dunster Marsh Junior Playing Field be agreed.

With the agreement of the Chairman, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 5.57pm.