

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY REVIEW EXAMINATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY SS1: DISTRICT SPATIAL STRATEGY IN RESPECT OF DUNGENESS POWER STATION

1. DUNGENESS POWER STATION

Following representations made to the Core Strategy Review by Avison Young on behalf on the NDA and Magnox; the Council looked at how the policies in the CSR could be amended to take account of the future role of Dungeness Power Station on the Romney Marsh and reflect the NDA's new approach of 'continuous decommissioning'.

Suggested amendments to Policy SS1: District Spatial Strategy and subsequent supporting text have been prepared jointly by Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Magnox and is set out below. Text underlined denotes additional new wording.

Proposed supporting text to be added to the Romney Marsh section (paragraphs 4.36 to 4.38):

Dungeness Power Stations

"For over 50 years, Dungeness Power Stations (A & B) have been a cornerstone of the Romney Marsh economy.

Dungeness A ceased generation in 2006 and is currently undergoing decommissioning. Initially it was expected that from 2019 the site would enter a period of Care and Maintenance (C&M) lasting some 85 years pending final site clearance. The commencement of C&M would have had a serious impact on employment (in December 2019 approximately 220 people were employed on the site) as well as the local economy. It is now likely that the C&M phase will be replaced with decommissioning work continuing instead over the coming decades. This could mean that skilled staff are retained, employment is increased, and land is released for new economic uses, or for clearance, earlier than would happen through the C&M approach.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is expected to announce its decision on whether this approach will be adopted for Dungeness A in the near-term.

EDF's Dungeness B station is expected to continue generating electricity until 2028, following which it will be decommissioned over a lengthy period. The EDF Director's Report Dungeness B June 2017 reported that the station employs over 550 employees, which is supplemented by over 200 contract partners, so its closure would have major socio-economic impacts although, as with Dungeness A, these would be experienced gradually. It is important to recognise that there is likely to be a significant impact on jobs in the latter stages of the plan period.

In the wider context of other current economic challenges and uncertainties, the decommissioning of the Dungeness Power Stations will create significant economic and social challenges for Romney Marsh. In addition to jobs being lost, businesses will find it increasingly difficult to operate successfully in an area which already has some pockets of significant deprivation and therefore the case for supporting local employment opportunities and the future of the Dungeness Power Stations site becomes an important consideration."

Proposed amendments to Policy SS1: District Spatial Strategy (final paragraph)

Policy SS1: District Spatial Strategy [final paragraph]

"The strategic growth of New Romney is also supported through Policy CSD8 to allow the market town to fulfil its potential to sustainably provide for the bulk of the housing, community infrastructure and commercial needs of the Romney Marsh Area. Development will also be planned at other identified settlements in line with the Settlement Hierarchy sufficient to ensure the achievement of growth requirements. In particular, development that helps to maintain and support the local role of the market town of Lydd can meet priority needs.

(New additional policy wording) Therefore, Dungeness A should be retained for B1-B8 employment uses; employment-related training and educational purposes; and operations and uses associated with the decommissioning of the nuclear power station.

Should redevelopment plans come forward for alternative uses unrelated to the function of the nuclear power station (including other energy generation sector uses).

the council will work with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, local community and other stakeholders to prepare and adopt an Area Action Plan for part or the whole of the site.

Should development proposals come forward for the further expansion of London Ashford Airport at Lydd, the council will work with the airport, local community and other stakeholders to prepare and adopt an Area Action Plan for the site.”