

NDA local social and economic impact strategy - 2020 update

Consultation Responses

Below is a summary of responses received to consultation on the strategy which ran from 31 January 2020 to 13 March 2020. Responses have been summarised and grouped as 'general' or 'site specific'. Many of the comments have been used to improve the guidance for grant applications, which is found at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/working-with-our-communities

General Comments

No.	Theme	Response summary	Respondee(s)	NDA Response
1	Alignment of NDA plans	Greater alignment needed between this and other NDA plans (inc Business Plan, LTPs, Strategy 4, Mission Progress Reporting etc).	Romney Marsh Partnership, Dounreay Stakeholder Group, Copeland BC, NuLeaf, Welsh Government	New section added to document to demonstrate alignment with other NDA and site plans
2	Alignment with policy and other strategies	we believe there should be some aligning of this strategy to other key policy drivers such as the Nuclear Sector Deal - specifically on matters such as supply chain development which can and should play a key role in improving local economies.	Welsh Government	New section added on linkage with NDA and other policies
3	Decommissionin g and site plans	Greater clarity needed on how changing approach to decommissioning will influence the NDA's socio economic activity.	Anglesey Energy Island / Isle of Anglesey Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Dorset LEP	See 1

4	Decommissionin g and site plans	We welcome the commitment for a longer term approach to manage the transition of local economies when decommissioning activity ceases. Developing a longer term vision for these local communities is therefore critical and more importantly long term investment through the NDA Goup's Socioeconomic funds.	Welsh Government	Noted – no change to document
5	Programme Timeframe	Programme timeframe for applicants needed to help with planning and resourcing.	Romney Marsh Partnership	Guidance available with published document
6	Application and Assessment Criteria	Further information requested on application process, assessment criteria, decentralised decision making etc.	Romney Marsh Partnership, Dounreay Stakeholder Group, North Ayrshire Council, Anglesey, Nuleaf, Welsh Government	Guidance available with published document
7	Governance	Further information required on Governance and membership of assessment committee	Cumbria County Council / Cumbria LEP, Nuleaf, Welsh Government	Guidance available with published document
8	Capacity Building	The intent of the NDA to help build capacity and capability for business case production has been welcomed – further information on this is requested	Romney Marsh Partnership, Maldon District & Essex County Council, Anglesey, Nuleaf	Capacity building is one identified area in which NDA supports funding applications. The process for accessing funding is outlined in the guidance document

9	Capacity Building	We welcome the important recognition for additional support needed for local and regional partners being better prepared for external funding opportunities. However, we would also highlight the need for continued project delivery and governance support throughout the lifetime of funded initiatives.	Welsh Government	Addressed in guidance document to be published alongside the strategy
10	Size and scale	Feedback provided suggests that NDA should continue to support small community grants as well are larger transformational projects.	Maldon District & Essex County Council, Dounreay Stakeholder Group, Copeland BC	Noted and reflected in the strategy and our guidance on grants
11	Overall Funding	Clarity requested on the level of overall funding commitment	Copeland BC, Welsh Government	Now addressed in strategy introduction and guidance available
12	Distribution of funding	Feedback received on the scale of funding (past and future) provided in different areas of the NDA estate. How will NDA ensure that funds are not disproportionately allocated across the UK?	Various	Reference to governance has been strengthened in the introduction. Further information on how decisions will be made fairly is available in the guidance document.

13	Distribution of funding	The direct economic impact of the 10,000 + workforce in Sellafield is incomparable with other sites and should therefore merit a possible re-allocation of some of the West Cumbria budget allocation to the Magnox fund which has more sites and some of the most socio-economically challenged areas.	Welsh Government	We do not accept this point. The West Cumbrian economy is uniquely dependent on NDA work and funding and therefore has to remain a priority.
14	Supporting areas of deprivation	Feedback to suggest that more could be done to target funding towards areas with pockets of deprivation and/or weaker economies	Snowdonia Enterprise Zone, Cumbria County Council/Cumbria LEP, North Ayrshire	Use of 5-case model in assessment process will ensure need is properly assessed
15	Supporting areas of deprivation	we believe that both NW Wales sites face some of the most economic challenging futures of the NDA estate. This is reflected in the socio-economic impact study commissioned by the NDA which places both Trawsfynydd and Wylfa in the most dependent and low strength score categories. On this basis we believe that the NDA should ensure that both sites continue to have a high degree of long term priority.	Welsh Government	This is reflected more clearly in section 1 of the strategy and consequential changes
16	Proximity principle	Support given to proximity principle and the desire to support the economic wellbeing of communities most local to NDA sites.	Anglesey Energy Island / Isle of Anglesey Council, Nuleaf	Noted

17	Spend Management	Clarity requested on management of underspends and potential to defer spending into future years and/or reallocate between areas.	Anglesey Energy Island / Isle of Anglesey Council, Nuleaf	Addressed in guidance available with published document
18	Skills Development	Greater emphasis suggested on supporting local supply chains, creating opportunities for apprentices and enhancing/diversifying the local skills base.	John Idris Jones/Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Advisory Board, Nuleaf	Reference strengthened in the published strategy introduction
19	Skills Development	We believe that some form of broader summary on the NDA's key role in skills development would have strengthened the document and helped provide a clearer picture as to how some of the wider programmes would align with local and regional activities.	Welsh Government	Changes made in section 2 of document
20	Partnership Working	Partnership and collaboration are important. In addition to financial support it is important for the NDA to actively engage with partners to improve knowledge, transparency, decision making and effectiveness. A commitment should be given to engaging with local authorities and other relevant organisations/ groups at an early stage in the implementation of the Strategy	Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council/Cumbria LEP, Gloucestershire, Nuleaf, North Ayrshire	Reference strengthened in the published strategy introduction

21	Partnership Working	The NDA is well placed to encourage essential integration between stakeholders, partners and local authorities.	West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group	Noted
22	Partnership Working	Suggest specific reference to the role of the individual Site Stakeholder Groups as representing their local communities and the role of the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)	Gloucestershire County Council	Noted – no revision to text as detailing of all individual interest groups is not possible.
23	Partnership Working	Lack of reference to engagement with Scottish Government.	Dumfries & Galloway	Strategy text revised to include this.
24	Business Engagement	Information about how businesses, community groups and other interested parties would be able to engage with or take advantage of the strategy would also be welcome at this stage.	Vale of the White Horse	Addressed in guidance which will be available with published document
25	EDF/Nuclear New Build	The strategy should explain how NDA intends to engage with EDF and new nuclear providers, and how this Strategy might be adapted to future developments such as the potential for NDA to have a role in decommissioning the AGR fleet.	NuLeaf	Noted, but not within the remit of this strategy.

26	Partner funding	Re aspiration to 'attract in significantly higher levels of funding through joint working with local and national government.' (p25). How will this be achieved and how will success be measured and reported on.	NuLeaf	Now addressed in strategy document. Addition of monitoring and evaluation in strategy document
27	Supply Chain	More needs to be done to grow the supply chain and the R&D offer in order achieve agglomeration and clustering benefits.	Cumbria County Council / Cumbria LEP	Noted – but not within the remit of this strategy
28	Supply Chain	Given the critical role local and regional supply chains can have on sites, we would encourage the NDA to consider engaging with established fora such as the Wales Nuclear Forum to help inform and ensure the effective delivery of the strategy.	Welsh Government	Noted – no change to strategy text
29	Supply Chain	The use of this well regarded theory seems sensible however, given the rural nature and the limited amount of clustered businesses in a number of the 17 sites (Wylfa and Trawsfynydd in particular), there does need to be further thought as to how this model will work. Other regional and local strategies will also need to be aligned with such an approach.	Welsh Government	Changes made in section 1 of the strategy

30	Strategic Aim	Suggest that a strengthened 'Strategic aim' for NDA's social impact activities.	West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group	Strategic aim is covered in the introduction of the strategy document
31	Strategic Aim	The document should present some strategic ambition/long term objectives to help drive the strategy and enable an overarching assessment of success over the five year period.	Welsh Government	Clearer focus on reducing dependence on NDA work as a measure of success
32	Outcomes	There could be a clearer articulation of the outcomes to be achieved for the period 2020-2026 at the project level.	Cumbria County Council / Cumbria LEP	Addition of outcomes, monitoring and evaluation in strategy document
33	General	Belief that NDA misrepresents its obligations in the Energy Act and that the PAC should consult on whether the action has been responded to	Copeland Borough Council	Noted – not within the remit of this strategy
34	General	The draft document references both Economic and Social Impact, whilst the report seems to focus more on the economics rather than the wider role that these sites could play to develop the social fabric of some key locations and the benefits that this may bring to local communities.	Dumfries & Galloway	Noted

35	General	Given the critical role that Welsh Government plays in supporting local and regional economic development in two of the most economically challenged areas and wider supply chain opportunities with the other fifteen sites, early engagement on the development of the document would have been welcomed.	Welsh Government	Noted – no action possible
36	General	There is no reference to the performance of previous investment, which is critical in helping to articulate to partners and the public the NDA's thinking behind this new strategy.	Welsh Government	Changes made to section 1 of the strategy
37	General	This strategy does rightly highlight some of the negative wider socio-economic impacts of decommissioning activity, but does not outline how there can or could be action to help mitigate such issues - e.g the Copeland and Allerdale examples highlight the need for possible broader partnership working on improving housing availability in such localities. The ability to use some of the NDA's funding to address such important related socio-economic challenges would or could be worth exploring before the formal publication of the strategy.	Welsh Government	We believe our strategy covers this point and welcome further discussions with the welsh gov

38	Research & Underpinning	More information requested on what research has or will be undertaken and how it is intended to use this to influence and guide the NDA's approach.	NuLeaf, Welsh Government	Research will be published alongside strategy
39	Key Themes	The key themes (p8): there are only 5 themes listed even though the Strategy states there are six.	NuLeaf	Amended
40	Key Themes	The themes are sensible and reflect a number of national and regional Welsh Government Strategies. However, we would argue given that there maybe a number of sites that have new build or Advanced Nuclear technology ambitions a dedicated low carbon nuclear theme could or may have also been warranted. Additionally, with dependency on tourism and the foundation economy in these mostly rural locations, could there have been an additional theme to cover these areas?	Welsh Government	Changes made to reflect the point on tourism and making places good to live and work in
41	Community Benefit	In line with the proposals set out in NuLeAF Policy Statement 7: believe that NDA should establish a formal system of community benefits and would welcome further dialogue with NDA on this issue.	NuLeaf	Noted – not within the remit of this strategy

42	Monitoring and Reporting	Suggestion that the NDA work with NuLeAF, local authorities and other stakeholders to develop a suitable suite of indicators, targets and data needs that should be reported on annually.	NuLeaf	Monitoring and evaluation section added to strategy and further detail available in the guidance document, including the use of TOMS.
43	Monitoring and Reporting	Transparency and overall impact - as noted throughout this response, reference or summary information on previous project/programme would have strengthened this document to help provide clarity on the thinking of the new strategy. More focus on some summary information (or sign posting to other documents) on outcomes and benefits would help provide a more balanced document.	Welsh Government	NDA now publishes this information annually
44	Employment	There is little or no reference to the economic impact of direct economic employment at the 17 sites and how the NDA Group's (Magnox specifically) resources can be deployed to ensure that there is a greater socio-economic impact.	Welsh Government	Changes made in section 1 of the strategy

45	Public consultation	We're unclear if there has or will be any direct public consultation with some or any of the respective sites on the overarching approach, or if there will be some planned activity in the future	Welsh Government	Noted – no revision to strategy required, will be discussed directly.
46	Site by Site approach	We welcome the site by site approach taken by the NDA which provides an opportunity to develop bespoke responses to reflect relevant local needs. However, we are concerned that the strategy does not provide an overall prioritisation framework to help inform the overall funding strategy - reflecting our broader response on and concerns with the significant socio-economic challenges in north-west Wales we believe that this could lead to lower funding support coming to Wales.	Welsh Government	Changes made to text to strengthened the language on dependency and how this is used to prioritise.

Site/Area Specific Comments

SITE: Berkeley / Oldbury

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
47	Gloucestershire County Council	Question why Berkeley, Oldbury and Hinkley have been grouped together - they should be considered separately or at least separated from Hinkley Point A site.	Gloucestershire sites and Hinkley now separated in the strategy
48		It should be noted that Gloucestershire has produced its own Local Industrial Strategy, which is separate from the Heart of the South West Industrial Strategy and should be referenced in the document	Text in strategy amended to reflect this.

SITE: Bradwell

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
49	Maldon District and Essex Council	Concerned that we have yet to truly achieve a beneficial decommissioning legacy in regards to the Bradwell site. Plan to scope an 'umbrella' program of projects to ensure future economic growth in the area and renewing the pursuit of an Innovation Hub/Enterprise Centre and Coastal Visitor Centre. This will form the basis of a large transformative bid to the Magnox fund and cement the legacy of the Bradwell Site.	The NDA welcome the intention to submit a transformative bid.

SITE: Chapelcross

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	RELEVANT
50	Dumfries & Galloway	The opportunities associated with the Chapelcross site require both local and national support and the Scottish Government are likely to play a key role in the future as such should be recognised with the draft document.	Strategy amended to reflect this priority area
51		Reference to coal - Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019, with an aspiration to become a carbon neutral region by 2025. Coal and coal storage would have no place in a low carbon economy and weakens the argument for innovation and transformational change at the Chapelcross site as such this reference should be removed	Reference removed
52		Additional text provided to support section on Borderlands.	Included in strategy revision

SITE: Dounreay

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
53	Caithness Chamber of Commerce	Clarity required around the Performance Plan, staffing levels, redundancies and whether the NDA will terminate the PBO contract early.	Noted – not within the scope of this strategy
54		Wish for the study on the future of Dounreay, including a skills audit of the site, to be co-ordinated through CNSRP.	Strategy amended to reflect this

55		Surprised to see the £300k given to the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund listed as part of the overall socio-economic funding. This amount was specifically a community benefit, agreed as part of the planning and approval for the low-level waste disposal facility.	We can clarify that £300k is part of community benefit
56	Dounreay Stakeholder Group	Request that the study of Dounreay and skills audit to be coordinated through CNSRP.	Strategy amended to reflect this
57	Personal	The skills audit should look at skills deployed on and offsite and how they can support the whole area	Noted – to be included in skills audit

SITE: Dungeness

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
58	Romney Marsh Partnership	RMP are proposing to adopt a more programmatic approach towards seeking grant funding from the NDA in the future. Requested confirmation that this proposed approach is consistent and acceptable to the NDA.	Yes, this is in line with the strategy and welcomed by the NDA.

SITE: Harwell

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
59	Vale of the White Horse	Challenges outlined by the Vale's BIS report include the lack of available, good quality workspace in the area. This could be positively affected by the freeing up of land at the decommissioned site allowing further development at Harwell Campus.	Noted
60		It is advised that the NDA continues to engage with STFC and Harwell Campus management, particularly the energy cluster team, to investigate pathways to support businesses in attracting and retaining skilled staff.	Noted – guidance will provide more information on how local stakeholders can access funding for such initiatives.

SITE: Hunterston

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
61	North Ayrshire Council	Net zero and sustainability are key themes for both NDA and NAC. NDA and NAC should jointly consider opportunities for NDA to support North Ayrshire's climate ambitions and realise the economic opportunity of the 'green economy'.	Noted and reference strengthened in strategy

62	In terms of Community Wealth Building, NDA should specifically cor an anchor institution within North Ayrshire. Believe there are opporte focus on four pillars with regards to Hunterston:	
	 Procurement Employment Land and Assets Financial Power 	

SITE: Sellafield / LLWR

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
63	Copeland Borough Council	NDA should play a role in delivering Copeland's SE strategy and economic vision	NDA would welcome engagement and involvement in the development of partner strategies.
64		We expect NDA to address the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation to strengthen oversight of Sellafield activities and communicate how this has been implemented.	The establishment of the One NDA Committee and a single set of processes ensures consistency across the NDA estate.

65		The NDA should divest of land outside of existing nuclear site license boundaries for which it has no identified use, where this land could enable or support new missions in line with the nation's and community's interest (e.g. advanced nuclear technologies).	Noted – not within the remit of this strategy
66	West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group	The document does not identify and clearly articulate an overarching strategic aim for the NDA in order to deliver its Energy Act obligations in West Cumbria, nor indeed for Cumbria in general. Neither does it identify or qualify, where appropriate, the key focal points it will need to deliver in order to achieve this strategic aim.	Obligations set out in the Energy Act are referenced in the opening paragraph of the strategy
67		Would welcome focus on ensuring that every pound which will be spent annually at Sellafield is done so in a manner which helps deliver the desired future state, and thus has that social impact.	Noted and agreed
68		There is currently no local archive offering relating to Sellafield. WCSSG would support the exploration of opportunities and scope to work with councils and the NDA on archives/records storage to ensure our nuclear legacy is available to all generations.	Noted – not within the remit of this strategy
69	Cumbria County Council / Cumbria LEP	The Council as the statutory authority for education could work alongside NDA to better address some of the education and skills challenges in west Cumbria.	Noted and welcomed
70	Cumbna LEP	In developing NDA's future socio-economic plans, there is the opportunity to achieve good alignment with the LEP's Local Industrial Strategy.	Agreed – this is referenced in the strategy
71		A joined-up approach by the nuclear industry, the County Council and government is essential to ensuring that Cumbria's infrastructure can meet the demands of the nuclear industry.	Noted

72	The list of 'anchor projects' provided for West Cumbria reflects a list of projects that are currently in the system. It does not set out any detail around new programmes and projects that would be of a scale to achieve the level of impact and transformational change required for communities.	Partners are invited to submit bids for support for additional / transformational projects. Please see guidance for more details
73	Following the review, NDA should undertake an assessment of options for how best to improve performance from this CCF investment to achieve better value for money.	Noted – the NDA will give consideration to future work to address this. Monitoring and evaluation now discussed in strategy document

SITE: Sizewell

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	RELEVANT
74	Suffolk County Council	SCC would welcome it if the strategy highlighted some of the priorities in Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth and consider how it could contribute to them	Strategy revised to reference the framework

75	 We would like to see reference to County Council's commitments to inclusive growth. This includes educational attainment, skills and productivity, but also: Improvement to health and quality of life – including the issues arising from Suffolk's ageing population. Protection of natural capital and landscape - notable due to Sizewell's presence in an AONB and the important part natural capital and landscape play in the tourism economy of the area. High quality infrastructure, including transport and digital infrastructure. 	Strategy revised to include this.
76	The Strategy refers to the Norfolk Local Industrial Strategy. We would appreciate if this was changed to the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy.	Strategy amended

SITE: Trawsfynydd

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
77	Personal	Would welcome development of the site for future use, including:	Noted
78	Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Advisory Board	We assume that the reference to renewable energy does not refer narrowly to energy from wind, sun and water. Such developments do not create sustainable work. We assume that this reference includes other low carbon Technologies – especially because of the NDA's previous support for the work of Snowdonia EZ.	Reference includes all and any potential renewable and low carbon opportunities.

79		It would be excellent to see the NDA take a more prominent role supporting groups such as the Wales Nuclear Forum – supporting the work of developing the supply chain to take advantage of wider opportunities.	Supporting the supply change is vitally important and NDA welcomes opportunities to engage.
80	Welsh Government	We would agree that there are a number of similar socio-economic characteristics for both Wylfa and Trawsfynydd but also welcome further distillation of individual site specific challenges e.g. the in work poverty challenges in the Dwyfor-Meirionnydd area. Some further recognition of the significant challenges in and around the Wylfa site would have been welcomed especially given the recent closure of several key employers in north Anglesey.	Changes made in the text noting the rapidly changing economic environment
81		North Wales Regional Plan - we would welcome the inclusion of the Welsh Government's evolving North Wales regional plan as part of the future strategy.	Changes made to reflect this point
82		Skills - the ability to develop improved skills, training and apprenticeship capacity and capability in the area would be welcomed.	Changes made to reflect this point

SITE: Winfrith

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
83	Dorset Council	Would welcome a specific site action plan to support objectives for rural Dorset and its economic growth. This needs to be balanced with the smaller grants which help the local communities in these areas.	Noted for future work – outside of the scope of this strategy

84	Dorset has recently adopted a council plan which includes the following objectives: • Improve rail services, public transport and reliability of journey times by	Strategy amended to reflect these priorities
	working with providers, lobbying Government and focussing on schemes to ease congestion	
	Enable growth of good quality jobs at Dorset Innovation Park, our designated Enterprise Zone	
	 Support growth in key sectors, including advanced engineering/manufacturing, agritech, maritime commercial opportunities, aquaculture, tourism and the care sector 	

SITE: Wylfa

No.	RESPONDEE	COMMENT	NDA Response
85	Anglesey Energy Island / Isle of Anglesey Council	The IACC remains fully committed to the Wylfa Newydd Project and would like the project to be supported in the document.	Noted – it is not within the remit of this strategy to give support to individual developments.
86		The lack of entry-level employment opportunities in North Anglesey (for school leavers, Post-College or University) remains a major concern for the IACC – investment in education and skills is therefore vital.	Strategy revised to reflect this priority in the local section.
87		It is essential that the final version of the Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy aligns with the Welsh Government's Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 (WBFGA).	To be cross referenced prior to publication.

88	Welsh Government	We would agree that there are a number of similar socio-economic characteristics for both Wylfa and Trawsfynydd but also welcome further distillation of individual site specific challenges e.g. the in work poverty challenges in the Dwyfor-Meirionnydd area. Some further recognition of the significant challenges in and around the Wylfa site would have been welcomed especially given the recent closure of several key employers in north Anglesey.	Changes made in the text noting the rapidly changing economic environment
89	Wylfa	The commitment and support by the NDA to the listed projects is extremely important to help and improve the economic conditions within the Island and we welcome the NDA's possible continued support. We would however wish to highlight that Welsh Government in partnership with key partners such as YMCC have also been responding to this uncertainty (and any possible new development) through: • The preparation of an evolving regional framework plan, • The preparation of the north Wales Growth Deal - which includes the Holyhead Gateway project, Nuclear Centre of Excellence • Continued support for the Anglesey Enterprise Zone	Changes made to strategy document
		We would therefore welcome the inclusion of these key initiatives to from part of any future strategic collaboration with the NDA. There are also specific projects such as the engineering campus at Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai and broader opportunities for innovation and R&D through M-SParc Cymru that we believe should merit inclusion.	