

# Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group

**Response to: Department of Energy & Climate Change Draft Nuclear Policy Statement**

**From: Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group**

## **Background information**

The Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG) was formed in 2009 to represent the views of Parish and Town Councils that surround the nuclear industry site at Sizewell. 24 councils belong to SPLG. The constitutional aims of SPLG are focussed upon the need to produce a binding “Social Contract” between the Nuclear Industry, Government and local community. A contract would require identification, at the local planning stage, of infrastructure, employment, training, health, housing, social and transport needs and who should finance them. Sellafield in Cumbria has provided an exemplar to SPLG of such a “Social Contract” approach to the nuclear industry.

## **A general view on the nuclear power programme**

SPLG is concerned with the building and long term impact of the nuclear power industry situated in rural communities. SPLG is not collectively concerned with whether nuclear power should be developed but about how it can exist in harmony and with benefit to the local community.

## **Questions for the Department of Energy & Climate Change**

In the report “Appraisal of Sustainability of the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement- Communities: population, employment & viability; supporting infrastructure (S.11.8 page 17)”, the assertion that the locality will benefit economically and the development of jobs is not supported by any meaningful or enforceable contract. An example of an unresolved resource is a need for training. SPLG asked EDF to offer a comprehensive training programme at Sizewell, particularly a career in the international nuclear industry for young people.

The EDF representative replied that the company supported eight trainees and felt it unnecessary to expand their training programme beyond immediate local needs. This limited perspective on UK training is unlikely to change without a contract backed by government. Meanwhile, the nuclear industry recently built a state of the art specialist training facility. Why not Sizewell?

SPLG recognises the government's statement that it requires nuclear power to fill an urgent UK gap in electricity generation and to meet its political policy to reduce carbon emissions. But is the government willing to require the nuclear industry, at the planning stage, to sign a "Social Contract" as part of that approval? Will all the appropriate departments provide local infrastructure resources to support the government's nuclear policy? These are vital questions that need to be addressed now in preparation for the local planning stage.