



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
17 OCTOBER 2019**

**BRADWELL PLANNING CONSULTATION - FUNDING AGREEMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the initial funding agreement in place between Maldon District Council and BRB (developers of Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station) to fund the Councils work in supporting the Development Consent Order Process for Bradwell B.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the agreement that is now in place between Maldon District Council (MDC) and BRB for the period to 31 December 2019 covering MDC's resources to support the Development Consent Process for Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The proposed Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). NSIPs are large scale developments (relating to energy, transport, water, or waste) which require a type of consent known as "development consent". The Planning Act 2008 introduced a new development consent process for NSIPs which was subsequently amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.2 To build a new nuclear power station a Development Consent Order (DCO) application must be submitted to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This process involves a significant period of consultation and can take several years to complete. A DCO automatically removes the need to obtain several separate consents, including planning permission and is designed to be a much quicker process than applying for these separately.
- 3.3 Whilst not the decision-making body in the DCO process, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has a key role both as a consultee and in ensuring that the consultation is undertaken fully. The LPA in this application will be Maldon District Council. This is a resource intensive role if undertaken fully and diligently. The first stage of this will include attendance at a number of engagement and scoping meetings as the developer prepares for Stage 1 consultation. The LPA has a key role in

supporting the DCO process regardless of whether it is for or against the principles of the development.

- 3.4 Given the resources required to undertake this role, it is usual for the developer and LPA to enter into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). Further discussions will be held about this process with the developer, however, in the first instance an agreement has been reached between MDC and BRB for the developer to provide funding of up to £14,995 per month to support the role of MDC in supporting the DCO process. The initial agreement for a period of three months to the end of December 2019, has been agreed by letter (see **APPENDIX 1**).
- 3.5 The funding agreement is for the support of all planning meetings required within the period, and will be submitted as a monthly claim, backed up by timesheets. MDC will also be able to claim travel expenses.
- 3.6 In addition, MDC has agreed with BRB in principle that a sum of £5,130.66 can be claimed for resources used in support of the DCO process for the period of August and September 2019. An invoice will be submitted for this amount.
- 3.7 A further agreement will be negotiated for the period following December 2019. Further reports will also be brought forward in due course to give further details of the DCO process.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The initial agreement will cover the costs incurred by Maldon District Council in supporting the DCO process to the end of December 2019.

#### **5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES**

- 5.1 The funding agreement will support the outcome of ‘Fair Funding proactively sought, Outcome led engagement and smart partnering’.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Support Customers to engage in the DCO process.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Financial risk of supporting the DCO process mitigated.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Positive income, covering cost of resources.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Enables additional resource to be commissioned as required.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None, directly, process will help to address environmental risks linked to the application.

- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – The approach of the consultation is to provide communities with effective information to enable open and transparent consultation and feedback.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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