



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

to
COUNCIL
17 DECEMBER 2020

**BRADWELL B POWER STATION WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION:
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SMALL MODULAR REACTORS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Bradwell B Power Station Working Group that a letter of support for the ongoing development of Small Modular Reactors be sent to John Whittingdale OBE MP, and to Stephen Speed, Director of Nuclear at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

2. RECOMMENDATION

That a letter of support for the ongoing development of Small Modular Reactors be sent to John Whittingdale OBE MP and to Stephen Speed, Director of Nuclear the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 In 2010, the Government announced that Bradwell was one of eight sites it considered suitable for the siting of a new nuclear power station. Currently CGN and EDF are partnering in the development of the station and have formed a jointly owned company, Bradwell B Power Generation Company Limited (BRB).
- 3.1.2 The development of a new nuclear power station falls within the scope of the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (NSIPs), as set out in the Planning Act 2008. In these instances, the developer applies directly to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) rather than to the Local Planning Authority for planning permission. Maldon District Council will be a consultee as part of the DCO process.
- 3.1.3 BRB undertook a Stage 1 Consultation on its initial proposals and options for the development of a Bradwell B power station and associated development earlier this year. This Council endorsed a response to the Stage 1 Consultation, submitted jointly with Essex County Council, at its meeting on 23 June 2020. The Stage 1 Consultation proposed the construction and operation of two UK HPR 1000 nuclear reactors, together with associated buildings, structures and components.

3.1.4 Whilst the adopted Maldon District Local Plan strongly supports the principle of the development of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell-on-Sea, the Council on 1 October 2020 resolved to reconsider this position at the next planned review of the Local Development Plan. This followed the additional level of information made available during the Stage 1 Consultation and concern about the scale of the development and potential local environmental effects.

3.2 Small Modular Reactors

3.2.1 Small modular reactors (SMRs) are a type of nuclear fission reactor which are smaller than conventional reactors. This allows them to be manufactured at a plant and brought to a site to be assembled. There are several designs for SMRs but a consortium led by Rolls Royce has been developing proposals for a SMR that it hopes to introduce to the nuclear market in the coming years.

3.2.2 The Rolls Royce SMR project is due to finish its conceptual design stage in early 2021 and will need substantial further investment to progress to the next stage where it could apply for a Generic Design Assessment by the Office of Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency. Rolls Royce intends to design and sell SMRs within the UK and abroad. It would need developers and operators to provide the SMR units on sites.

3.3 Bradwell B Power Station Working Group

3.3.1 The Bradwell B Power Station Working Group (the Working Group) at its meeting on 20 October 2020 considered that SMR technology could have advantages when compared with the conventional nuclear technology, as smaller units could have less environmental impacts, be quicker to install and potentially easier to finance.

3.3.2 The Working Group are fully aware that SMR technology is not a part of BRBs proposals for the site. However, in light of concerns about the scale of the current proposals and the associated scale of likely effects, the Working Group felt that should the current proposals for a power station fall aside for whatever reason, and that the Government continues to consider Bradwell B as a potentially suitable site for new nuclear development, that SMR technology could be considered as an option for the Bradwell B site in preference to conventional nuclear development.

3.3.3 Support for the continued development of SMR technology was therefore considered beneficial and a recommendation made by the Working Group that the Council considers sending a letter of support for SMRs to John Whittingdale OBE MP and also to Stephen Speed, Director of Nuclear at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Bradwell B Power Station Working Group recommends to the Council that a letter of support for the ongoing development of Small Modular Reactors be sent to John Whittingdale OBE MP and also to Stephen Speed, Director of Nuclear at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – No direct impact.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Staff time
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – No direct impact.

Background Papers:

None.

Enquiries to:

Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance, (Tel: 01621 854477).