

## **Economic legacy**

### **Q: What has Somerset County Council received in return for EDF Energy building a nuclear power station in Somerset?**

We have worked with local, regional and national partners, including the Local Enterprise Partnership and our District Council Partners, to deliver these ambitions.

As part of the planning process, c£100m was secured to address the impact of the development across a broad range of topics including but not limited to:

- £16m Transport
- £15m Skills and Training
- £11m Accommodation/ Housing
- £20m Community Impact Mitigation
- £6m Community Safety
- £1m Landscape
- £800k Flood Defence

### **Q: When can we expect to see an increase of traffic on the local roads?**

A: It is reasonable to assume that traffic levels will increase in proportion to the scale of activity at the site but plans are in place to mitigate this effect as much as possible.

## **Travel and Transport**

### **Q: What schemes are planned to be delivered by EDF Energy?**

A: A £16 million package of road improvement schemes is being delivered by EDF Energy in Somerset to help keep traffic flowing during the construction of Hinkley Point C. Major improvements are already complete including a new roundabout at Washford Cross in West Somerset, a new Cannington bypass and works to increase the capacity at Taunton Road and Broadway Junction has been undertaken to help plan against the expected traffic and transport impact.

### **Q: Will the local roads be gridlocked with HPC traffic?**

A: The construction period for the new power station will be at least 8 years. EDF Energy's transport strategy during this period is based on bringing most of the bulk material in by sea, using park and ride for construction workers

and providing road freight management at strategic locations. This, together with selected road and safety improvements, will help to minimise the impact on local roads as much as possible.

**Q: How has Somerset County Council prepared for an increase of traffic on the roads?**

A: Somerset County Council will deliver a number of packages to deal with transport impacts that may arise from the construction of the power station. These involve but are not limited to:

- Road Improvement Schemes — this will include road safety improvements and new walking and cycling infrastructure along corridors throughout Bridgwater and surrounding areas
- A Communications Programme – we will ensure that we provide as much information as possible on the road network, peak times, hot spots and road safety information will be provided. This will enable road users to make informed choices on their methods of travel

**Q: Why was a Bypass not built so that HPC traffic could bypass Bridgwater?**

A: EDF Energy studied the need for a Bridgwater Bypass in 2008. From its findings, EDF Energy did not include a Bridgwater Bypass in its proposals to mitigate against increased traffic effects.

This decision was based on Government policy that prefers traffic management over new road building, as well as the environmental impact of a bypass.

The assessments and evidence did not support the view that a bypass was required in order to make EDF Energy's proposal acceptable.

In addition, a bypass would not be delivered in time to mitigate against the impacts of the development and in the long-term may be economically detrimental to the town as commuters and Somerset visitors bypass Bridgwater.

The Secretary of State welcomed the significant level of mitigation achieved through the negotiations between EDF Energy and the councils to address traffic and transport impacts.

This approach was also supported throughout by the Planning Inspectorate's report which ruled that a bypass wasn't necessary to mitigate against traffic and travel impacts.

**Q: Have the roads been maintained to a standard that is ready for additional heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements associated with HPC?**

A: The Department for Transport invested £1.6million of road maintenance funds for highways west of Bridgwater as part of the 'Hinkley Growth Deal'.

This funding is for improvement works in advance of the main Hinkley Point C build programme and has included works on the A39 and the C182.

**Q: How many HGV movements can we expect on the roads?**

A: Controls exist to ensure that no more than an average of 500 vehicle movements can occur per day in any quarter. Vehicle movements will be strictly restricted to no more than 750 HGV movements in any one day alone.

**Q: How will the EDF Energy's traffic be managed?**

A: Vehicle movements on the local road network are strictly controlled through planning conditions and a lot is being done to minimise disruption. EDF Energy is building a Freight Management Centre at Junction 23 of the M5 and another at Junction 24 to control the movement of lorries to the Hinkley Point C site. This means that vehicles will be gathered at the above sites and released in agreed numbers at the agreed times.

Deliveries will also be managed by a sophisticated electronic Delivery Management System. Cameras will track the vehicles to ensure that deliveries are only made via EDF Energy's prescribed routes and avoid the busiest times of day. The County Council has the ability to monitor compliance with all of the traffic and transport requirements imposed on EDF Energy.

## **Skills and Training**

**Q: How is the project benefiting the young people of Somerset?**

A: EDF Energy has developed the "Inspire" Education Programme to prepare young Somerset people for the job opportunities that will come with the construction and operation of Hinkley Point C.

It aims to inspire young people to continue to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and in doing so build a sustainable workforce of the future through a pipeline from education to skills and into future long term employment.

Alongside this, Bridgwater College has developed a range of training opportunities for young people in Somerset, as well as adults wishing to retrain. Co-investment with EDF Energy has created fantastic facilities for education and training relating to Hinkley and the supply chain with a multi-million pound Energy Skills Centre and a recently opened, nine-acre site of the Construction Skills and Innovation Centre. Both facilities provide real life, industry-standard working environments where students learn the most up-to-date skills and knowledge whilst gaining a qualification.

**Q: Is the “Inspire” Education Programme just for secondary aged students?**

A: The Inspire programme works with young people at all phases of education from Primary through to Higher Education and graduates, delivering age and curriculum appropriate activities, visits and energy industry links.

**Q: Will EDF Energy guarantee jobs for Somerset’s young people?**

A: EDF Energy and its contractors will need appropriately qualified and enthusiastic young people across a range of trades and professions. It is therefore a high priority for Somerset County Council and EDF Energy to ensure young people are aware of the opportunities and plan accordingly if they are interested in gaining training and/or employment. Jobs will not be guaranteed for Somerset residents, but the County Council plays a role in making sure the education sector is aware of the opportunity and can feed this message to young people.

**Q: How will EDF Energy know who is interested in training and jobs?**

A: For school leavers, there are a number of routes open to them if they wish to pursue a career in the energy industry and a Young People’s Talent Pool database is being developed for young people aged between 15 and 18 years old so that they can be kept in touch with the project, take part in developmental activities such as CV writing and hear about opportunities and developments as they happen.

For the adult population there is the HPC Job Brokerage – this can be accessed at: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/jobs>

Details of young people on the talent pool database will move automatically to the Job Brokerage database when they reach their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Q: Does the Inspire programme only work with schools in Sedgemoor?**

A: No. EDF Energy worked with Sedgemoor schools in the early stage of the Inspire strategy (late 2011 and 2012), but have been increasing their reach to include all parts of Somerset and over the county border, reflecting the accepted 90 minute commute zone identified for the HPC project.

**Q: Has EDF Energy built new training facilities?**

A: EDF Energy has made significant contributions (Approx £7.1m) to education infrastructure, including:

- £1.5m towards Construction Skills Centre, Bridgwater College
- £3m towards Energy Skills Centre, Bridgwater College

## **Community Impact mitigation fund**

### **Q: What is the Community Impact Mitigation fund?**

A: CIM (Community Impact Mitigation) is a type of fund or contribution scheme which is agreed between a developer and host authority as part of the planning process for a development.

The purpose of CIM is to mitigate the less tangible and residual impacts of a development on local communities.

A CIM fund totalling £20m has been secured in relation to the Hinkley Point C development. This is broken down between the application for site preparation works and the main development proposals. For more information, visit [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim)

### **Q: What is the purpose of the funding?**

A: The purpose of the funding is to mitigate the impacts of the Hinkley Point C project on the communities within the administrative boundary of the county of Somerset through schemes, measures and projects which promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of those communities and enhance their quality of life. More information can be seen at: [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim).

### **Q: Who can access the CIM fund and how?**

A: The scheme is open to all community-based organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis in the 'Priority Impact Zones'. More information on the priority impact zones can be found at [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/cim)

### **Q: Why can't businesses access the CIM fund?**

A: The Community Impact Mitigation Contribution has been paid for the purposes of mitigating the intangible and residual impacts of the Development on the local communities affected by them. The objectives are to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of those local communities.

## **School admissions and Early Years**

### **Q: How many extra pupils are expected in the county as a result of HPC?**

A: There hasn't been a comparable project of this scale and build length in Somerset, therefore the figures are estimates and a 10% margin either side must be considered. At peak, EDF Energy estimate there will be around 500 family households with around 425 children (not all of school age – e.g. some will be pre-school and others post-16) The numbers of young people coming to the county attributable to HPC will vary dependent on the stage of the build and when major contractors start and finish. This, therefore, requires a flexible

approach.

**Q: How has Somerset County Council prepared for this?**

A: This estimate isn't brand new information to Somerset County Council – the estimated figures have already been incorporated into the school place planning. The award of EDF Energy contracts will trigger the production of revised workforce plans and will give the council more reliable estimates of how many families may move to our area based on the contractor's normal employment pattern and the current location of their workforce.

**Q: Will new schools be built to create additional capacity?**

A: If additional students materialise as a result of this project, the young people will contribute towards the existing need for additional capacity at early years, primary and secondary in the Sedgemoor area, but due to the spread in age, location and need, it is not planned that a specific build will take place purely due to EDF Energy workforce children.

There is a School Capacity capital fund that was agreed in the planning process for HPC. This will be used alongside County Council funds needed to meet forecast growth due to housing, demographics and other significant projects if necessary.

## **Housing**

**Q: How many additional employees will be required for HPC?**

A: Around 5600 people will be employed on the Hinkley Point C site at construction peak, and overall 25000 employment opportunities will be created over the construction period.

**Q: Where will these new employees live?**

A: Approximately one third of the construction workforce will live in their own homes in the local area, one third will live in EDF Energy's purpose built campuses, either on site or in Bridgwater, and one third will live in the private rented sector.

To help manage effects on the private rented market EDF Energy has committed to establishing a £7.5million Housing Fund that will be used to increase overall accommodation capacity in the local area.

## **Business Benefit**

**Q: How will you ensure that local people are best placed to take full advantage of the employment opportunities that Hinkley Point C will bring to the area?**

A: Somerset County Council and the Somerset Chamber of Commerce are committed to ensuring that the businesses and residents of Somerset fully benefit from the skills and employment opportunities the project will bring. During its planned 60 year operating life, Hinkley Point C is expected to bring around £40 million into the local economy every year. The construction and operation of Hinkley Point C will provide a significant boost to local employment opportunities and we are pleased that EDF Energy aims to source as much of its workforce as possible from the local area.

A number of South West joint ventures were recently named as preferred bidders by EDF Energy, with combined contract values of more than £225 million, which represents a terrific boost for the local economy.

EDF Energy has also set up an employment brokerage in partnership with Job Centre Plus. It is designed to place local people into positions on the Hinkley Point C project as well as into other local business and employment opportunities in order to develop their skills and experience.

**Q: How can businesses benefit from HPC and its construction?**

A: As part of its procurement and supply chain strategy for Hinkley Point C, EDF Energy has been working closely with the Somerset Chamber of Commerce since 2010 to identify and support local and regional businesses that want to become part of the supply chain. The Somerset Chamber manages the Hinkley supply chain portal and its Hinkley Supply Chain Team is the first point of contact for Somerset and South West businesses wishing to engage in one of the largest civil engineering projects in Europe.

**Q: How can businesses get involved in the supply chain?**

A: Businesses can register their interest in supplying products or services for the project by registering free of charge on the Hinkley Point C Supply Chain web portal, which can be found at [www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk](http://www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk).

Once the online application has been completed, the entry is reviewed by the Somerset Chamber's Hinkley Supply Chain Team to ensure the supplier's capacity and credentials are appropriate to the industry sector against which they are listed. Those capabilities and competences are then mapped to forthcoming work packages, with suppliers fitting the work package criteria being invited to participate in the tender process. Where suppliers have gaps in their product or service offering, the Chamber will engage and support through the pre-qualification process.

## **Public Health**

### **Q: Are hospitals prepared for the potential influx of patients associated with HPC?**

A: As part of the planning process a Health Impact Assessment was carried out to model, amongst other things, the likely demand on health services, including hospitals. The construction site has a health centre that is planned to deal with most injuries and illnesses amongst workers, provide first response to injuries on site, and deliver an occupational health service to staff to identify and treat underlying conditions. This includes a GP service, physiotherapy, X-ray etc. All the measures in place should result in minimal additional demand on hospitals.

### **Q: Will my local surgery be swamped with new patients?**

A: No. Workers should be seen at the Hinkley Health Centre on site. Most workers will not bring families with them. Those who do will occupy housing in the area just like any other family. Funding has been made available to the NHS locally to cope with any increased demand from these families on the local GP surgeries. A monitoring programme is in place to identify any unplanned usage of NHS services by workers, with regular meetings between local practices, public health and EDF Energy.

### **Q: How has Somerset County Council prepared for potential impact on public health services?**

A: Public health has been involved in the preparations for Hinkley Point C from the earliest stages, when it was based in the PCT (NHS). Public health will continue to be involved in monitoring the impacts of the project on local population health.

### **Q: Will it cost the County Council more money to provide its public health services to the additional workforce numbers?**

A: It shouldn't, as the Hinkley Health Centre will be providing occupational health services to the workforce, including public health programmes such as help with stopping smoking, drug and alcohol monitoring, sexual health advice, and sun safety. However all parties are committed to monitor any community health and wellbeing impacts so that if any issues arise, we are able to respond.

## **Nuclear waste**

### **Q: How will nuclear waste be disposed?**

A: The new EPR reactor uses less uranium and produces less long-lived radioactive wastes compared with water reactors in operation today.

The UK needs to find a long term solution for the radioactive waste accumulated over the last decades – not just from the civil nuclear industry but from other industries as well. The UK Government's solution is the construction of a geological storage facility. The Government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme is currently working to identify a suitable site for a geological disposal facility to house the UK's spent fuel and intermediate level waste safely and securely.

**Q: Who provides guidance on the storage and disposal of radioactive waste?**

A: The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) provides independent scrutiny and advice to the UK governments on the long-term management of higher activity radioactive wastes. For more information visit the CoRWM website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management>

## **Crime**

**Q: Can we expect crime to go up as a result of HPC?**

A: EDF Energy will take responsibility for its workforce and has a worker code of conduct which has been secured by legal agreement.

Somerset County Council will work closely with public sector partners to ensure that issues are addressed quickly and appropriately.

## **EDF Energy Workers**

**Q: Where will EDF Energy's workers come from?**

A: At this stage, until all of the main contracts have been signed for the project, we do not know exactly where EDF Energy workers will come from. Allowing local people to fully benefit from the project is extremely important to the County Council and EDF Energy intends to employ as many local people as possible.

Those people that do come from abroad to work will always have to hold the necessary permissions to work in the UK, pass strict security vetting procedures and sign EDF Energy's worker code of conduct.

## **Reinstatement**

**Q: What happens if EDF Energy has to pull out of building the nuclear power station - will the site be restored?**

A: To safeguard the environment of West Somerset, planning conditions and obligations secure the reinstatement of the Hinkley Point C site in the event that works are not completed. Legal agreements incorporating financial

arrangements are in place which will enable the Local Planning Authority to reinstate the site in the event that EDF Energy is not able to do so.

## **Tourism**

As part of the planning agreement for the development of HPC, the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership (HTAP) was set up to manage the opportunities and challenges it would present to the industry and its customers. HTAP has representatives from the local authorities, industry bodies and EDF Energy. Below is HTAP's response to questions about the project in relation to tourism in the County.

### **Q: What is being done to ensure that tourists still visit Somerset?**

A: We will be planning and delivering marketing campaigns to showcase what Somerset has to offer visitors. We will be supporting visitors and tourism businesses by providing up to date information on travel; offering alternative routes where appropriate and suggesting itineraries.

### **Q: What effect will the project have on people's perception of the county?**

A: There have been nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point since the 1950s so residents and visitors are used to them and we are proud to be at the forefront of the new nuclear generation. The project will bring a whole new audience with those coming to see the plant which will have its own Visitor Centre and those working on it who will have friends and families coming to visit them and enjoy Somerset's many attractions.

### **Q: What will be the likely impact of construction traffic and how will you deal with it?**

A: The traffic related to the construction has been modelled and improvements to the highways are being put in place to deal with the increase. We will be providing regular travel bulletins to the tourism sector and Information Centres for passing on to their customers.

We will be working with EDF Energy and other partners to reduce disruption to journeys where possible. For many visitors, the level of congestion may not seem excessive compared with other parts of the country and provided they are informed about what is happening and given alternatives to consider, we feel the overall experience of visiting Somerset will be a positive one. Our monitoring surveys will provide evidence which can be used to adjust our approach if necessary.

### **Q: How else might visitors to the County be affected by the project?**

A: The project is on a large site in one of the more remote areas of the County so many visitors will be completely unaware of what is going on apart from news items. There are some areas close to the site which will become busier in terms of traffic and visitors which could lead to pressure on places to stay,

places to eat and services. This has been anticipated which has led to investment in infrastructure and property which will have the positive effect of increasing capacity.

**Q: What will you do if the traffic is worse than anticipated?**

A: There is huge level of co-operation already between all parties involved with the project and they will work together to find solutions. The monitoring of visitor experiences and traffic patterns will be useful in addressing issues that might not have been anticipated.

For further information on HTAP visit:

[http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Tourism---Leisure/Tourism/Hinkley-Tourism-Action-Partnership-\(HTAP\)](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Tourism---Leisure/Tourism/Hinkley-Tourism-Action-Partnership-(HTAP))