

The Sizewell C Project, Ref. EN010012

Open Floor Hearings on 18 May 2021: Written submission of oral case by Cllr Richard Rout, speaking on behalf of the Leader of Suffolk County Council

Suffolk County Council Registration ID Number: 20026012

Deadline 2

2 June 2021

1. This submission is a transcript of the oral case by Cllr Richard Rout at the Open Floor Hearings on 18 May 2021, speaking on behalf of the Leader of Suffolk County Council.
2. “Thank you, to the Examining Authority for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the county of Suffolk. I speak today on behalf of Cllr Matthew Hicks, the Leader of our Council, who has asked me to convey to you Suffolk County Council’s stance. As a statutory consultee we can make our views known over the next few weeks, so I think it is most important that today you start to hear from the community, so I will keep my contribution short. But equally I must say our community expects you to hear from us as their recently elected voice for Suffolk.
3. I welcome you to our county which is not only rural it is one of the most beautiful areas of the United Kingdom and I do not say that lightly. The coastal area where it is proposed to construct these two nuclear reactors is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on a Heritage Coast so the approach to all landscape and natural environment matters must be exemplary. To make a nuclear power station fit for Suffolk we really must go the extra mile.
4. Our Cabinet decided some time ago, in response to the Government’s Energy Strategy, that we would support, *in principle* the development of a nuclear power station at Sizewell. We could see that the nuclear programme had to form part of the nation’s energy strategy and it is in that spirit that we will make our representations to you in the coming weeks. Having made our Council’s in principle support for Sizewell C clear, we must add that the development as it stands is currently a disappointment to many of us who wish to support it.

5. The County Council wishes to see the opportunities that the development could bring but I now want to express our council's strongly held view that whilst we do want to get behind this development, it must be done properly.
6. We want our local school and college students to have the opportunity and ambition to secure skilled jobs. EDF Energy estimate that the Sizewell C development will provide between 5 and 6 thousand jobs during construction. At its peak that figure could even rise as high as 8,000. Do we want those opportunities to be open to the people of Suffolk? Absolutely we do but again our council must tell you that it is deeply concerned and we say Sizewell C must be done properly so these opportunities can become a reality.
7. It is paramount that the cumulative impact of the Scottish Power Renewables development still being examined by your colleagues in the East Anglian 1N and East Anglian 2 Development Consent Order Examinations must be considered alongside Sizewell C. I am proud of the contribution Suffolk can make to the nation's energy supply, but it must be done properly to manage the impact of both these important developments. We urge the Examining Authority to consider very carefully the cumulative impact of all the energy projects in the Sizewell area in a way that enables their overall impact to be assessed and taken into account.
8. Now I want to turn to EDF Energy. We are ready to work with EDF Energy to make Sizewell C a success, but the proposal before the Examining Authority is not there yet. We want to work with EDF Energy and the Examining Authority so the Secretary of State can conclude that on balance the advantages of EDF Energy's proposals outweigh the disadvantages. We fear today that the proposal as it stands does not tip the planning balance in favour of the Sizewell C development.
9. Returning again to the rural and beautiful nature of Suffolk, with so much material to be transported, EDF Energy must make the transport solution as sustainable as possible and that means the greatest possible use of sea and rail must be made. We welcome the movement EDF Energy have made in making efforts to move from their largely road based solution but we feel there are still important matters to consider carefully. We want reassurance that all the transport proposals are deliverable and we want caps in place in case EDF Energy fail to deliver crucial aspects of the transport infrastructure in a timely manner. I welcome the range of questions you have already posed, as an Examining Authority, on this important matter.
10. We also wish to see improvements in reducing or offsetting the impacts that the development will undoubtedly have on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, recognising all aspects of its diverse natural beauty and its importance for residents and visitors alike.
11. There are huge opportunities for Suffolk in this development and our Council wants to work with EDF Energy but I am convinced you will hear of important concerns from the eloquent voices of Suffolk. We hope for the sake of our county that these voices will play a decisive role in improving the development.
12. To conclude Suffolk County Council, wants to work with EDF Energy to develop its proposals but I must say today that the proposals are not yet ones we can fully support as they stand. I have asked our officers to do everything conceivably

possible to improve this development so we can have a Sizewell C which can work for Suffolk. A crucial few months for the future of our beautiful county lie ahead. Thank you for inviting me to speak.”