

Summary: Proposed New Nuclear Power Stations – the potential to contribute to local economies:

Location Benchmarking Nuclear Sites

Stop Sizewell C

In June 2020, Development Economics Ltd prepared a paper that assessed the comparative economic performance of eight locations that had been selected by the UK Government in October 2010 as being potentially suitable for the development of new nuclear power stations.

For this assessment, 12 wide-ranging indicators of socio-economic performance were selected based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) data sets. These indicators covered aspects such as demographic characteristics and change, availability of jobs, labour market activity, workforce characteristics, structure of the employment base, earnings, annual contributions to wealth generation and levels of new business formation.

The specific criteria originally selected were as follows:

● Proportion of the population of working age	● Average annual rate of job growth
● Trend in working age population	● Business start-up rate per capita
● Employment rate	● Proportion of employment in Construction
● Spare capacity in local labour force	● Proportion of employment in the Hospitality sector
● Proportion of workforce in relevant occupations	● Full time earnings of residents
● Job density	● Gross Value Added per capita

These criteria were used in the assessment because they are widely used and are based on nationally recognised data that is widely available.

Having assembled the relevant data, an overall assessment of rankings by location was then obtained by aggregating the ranking for each individual indicator and generating an overall average score across all indicators.

The overall rankings from the June 2020 assessment across all indicators is summarised in the table below. Hartlepool (average score 2.75) emerged as the location that would potentially benefit the most from a decision to invest in a new nuclear power station, followed by Wylfa on Anglesey (3.67).

On the other hand, Sizewell in East Suffolk (5.58) occupied the second lowest of the ranking positions.

Overall rankings: 2020 analysis

Site	Local authority area	Average score	Ranking
Hartlepool	Hartlepool	2.75	1
Wylfa	Anglesey	3.67	2
Heysham	Lancaster	3.75	3
Moorside	Copeland	3.83	4

Bradwell	Maldon	5.17	5
Oldbury	South Gloucestershire	5.33	6
Sizewell	East Suffolk	5.58	7
Hinkley Point	Somerset West & Taunton	5.75	8

In January 2021, an update of the June 2020 assessment was undertaken by Development Economics, using more recent data for nearly all the same set of indicators as listed above where new data was available. The only datasets that had not yet been updated were those pertaining to Job density and average annual rate of total job growth (i.e., two indicators of the original set of 12).

However, for one indicator a change had to be made. The ONS is no longer updating the GVA per capita data series for individual local authorities. Instead, a similar ONS dataset was used i.e., the average value of GVA per filled job located in each local authority area. This indicator also has the advantage of better reflecting the average productivity of the deployed workforce in each local authority area, plus it also has the advantage of being available for a more recent year (2018).

The table below provides a revised set of location rankings based on the latest data available for 11 indicators, plus data for the replacement indicator described above:

Overall rankings: 2021 analysis

Site	Local authority area	Average score	Ranking
Moorside	Copeland	3.17	1
Hartlepool	Hartlepool	3.42	2
Wylfa	Anglesey	3.58	3
Heysham	Lancaster	4.00	4
Bradwell	Maldon	4.92	5
Sizewell	East Suffolk	5.33	6
Hinkley Point	Somerset W & Taunton	5.42	7
Oldbury	South Gloucestershire	5.67	8

The conclusion of the updated assessment is that the location that would benefit most from an investment decision is Moorside in Copeland (Cumbria), followed by Hartlepool and Wylfa on Anglesey.

On the other hand, East Suffolk occupies the third lowest of the ranking positions with only Somerset West & Taunton and South Gloucestershire possessing a lower aggregate score.

This revised assessment reflects the most up-to-date data available as of January 2021. The intention is to update this assessment on an annual basis using the most recent data available.