

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

**Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for
Community and Regulatory Services**

DECISION NO:

24/00070

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title of Decision: Nuclear compliance 2024

Decision: Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to agree to:

1. **APPROVE** The Reduction to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for offsite emergency planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station.
2. **APPROVE** the amendments to Kent County Council's Offsite Emergency Plan to reflect the reduction in risk around the site, following the defueling of the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station, to reflect current planning assumptions.
3. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure in their capacity as strategic lead for Resilience & Emergency Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, to take decisions on the future size of the DEPZ.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for Offsite Emergency Planning for the Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station. This includes the determination of a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the power station, based on the operator's (EDF) recommendation. The DEPZ identifies the area where urgent protective actions may be needed in the event of a radiation emergency. Due to defueling operations at the power station (as part of the decommissioning process), EDF are now recommending a reduction in the size of the DEPZ area.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

No Cabinet Committee consultation is possible due to timescales, to ensure that the Emergency planning team have sufficient time following the decision to update and amend the Dungeness B Offsite Emergency Plan before the next multi agency exercise and consider any changes to the KCC emergency plan prior to the exercise.

The decision will be reported to a future Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.

The Chair of the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee was advised of the need to take the decision prior to the next committee.

The Local Member, Mr Hills has been consulted and gave support to the progression of the decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- **Do nothing.**
 - Maintaining the current DEPZ would require a more extensive response in the event of a radiation emergency, and lead to the provision of protective actions to residents and communities who do not require them, thus diverting resources from where they may be needed.
- **Rely on national government, local mutual aid agreements or military support.**
 - National government (through the Maritime & Coastguard Agency) has responsibilities for at-sea clean-up operations, but not onshore cleanup.
 - Mutual aid agreements between local authorities are already in place but they are limited in scope and do not provide the capability which would be required in the event of a radiation emergency.

Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) may be sought in such an incident, but it cannot be guaranteed and does not provide the specialist equipment required. MACA also requires that all civil options have been exhausted before it can be undertaken, including the commercial providers who could be contracted under this this decision.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.

date **23 August 2024**

Clair Bell

Clair Bell
KCC Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services