

FOI/17/01339 - Richard Leonard MSP - Briefing and Minutes of 1 March Task Force - steering brief (FOI version)
LONGANNET TASK FORCE: SIXTH MEETING – WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2017
FALKIRK STADIUM **MEETING MINUTE - DRAFT**

Co-chairs

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy
 Councillor David Ross, Leader, Fife Council

Attendees

Member Organisations	Representatives	Position
Scottish Government:	Oonagh Gil	Deputy Director, Enterprise and Cities Division
	Margaret Sutor	PACE Policy Manager
	Michael Westwater	Planning and Architecture Division
(Joint Secretariat)	Karen Jackson	Enterprise and Cities Division
(Joint Secretariat)	Graeme Malcolm	Enterprise and Cities Division
(Joint Secretariat)	Walter McConnachie	Enterprise and Cities Division
Fife Council:	Robin Presswood	Head of Economy, Planning and Employability
	George Sneddon	Service Manager Economic Development
(Joint Secretariat)	Kirstin Marsh	Task Force – project manager
(Joint Secretariat)	Andrew Sim	Task Force – project manager
Falkirk Council:	Baillie Joan Coombes	Falkirk Council
	Pete Reid	Growth & Investment Unit, Economic Development
	Douglas Duff	Head of Economic Development & Environmental Services
Clackmannanshire Council:	Garry Dallas	Executive Director
	Ian Fraser	Strategic Policy Manager
West Lothian Council:	Jim Henderson	Business Development Manager
DWP	Martin Nowakowski	Fife Customer Services Operations Manager
Public Sector:		
Scottish Enterprise	Danny Cusick	Senior Director, Food & Drink, Tourism and Textiles
Scottish Enterprise	Lawrence Wyper	Senior Manager of Cities & Regions, Customer Operations
SDS	Calum McLean	PACE Manager
Private Sector:		
Scottish Power	George Camps	Decommissioning Manager
Scottish Power	Lisa Moir	Non Operational Site Manager
Unions:		
Unite	Billy Parker	Senior officer

Local politicians:		
Local MP	Douglas Chapman MP	Member for Dunfermline and West Fife
Local MSP	Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP	Member for Dunfermline
Fife Council	Cllr Bobby Clelland	Chair of South West Fife Area Committee
Community Representation:		
Valleyfield Ash Lagoons Liaison Committee	Cllr William Ferguson	Chair of Valleyfield Ash Lagoons Liaison Committee

Apologies

Member Organisations	Representatives	Position
Scottish Government		
	Mary McAllan	Director of Enterprise
	Alison Irvine	Head of Strategic Transport Planning, Transport Scotland
	Adam Priestley	Senior Transport Planner, Transport Scotland
	David McPhee	Head of Business and Digital Unit, OCEA
	John McNairney	Chief Planner
	Fiona Hepplewhite	Energy
	Dermot Rhatigan	Energy
Local Authorities		
Fife Council	Cllr Lesley Laird	Depute Leader, and Executive Spokesperson (Planning and Economy)
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond	Chief Executive
Fife Council	Lucinda McAllister	Service Manager, Employability & Employer Engagement
Fife Council	John Mitchell	Service Manager, Asset Management & Sustainable Transport
Falkirk Council	Cllr Craig Martin	Leader of Falkirk Council
Falkirk Council	Mary Pitcaithly	Chief Executive Falkirk Council
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Jim Stalker	
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Robert (Bobby) McGill	
West Lothian Council	Cllr John McGinty	Leader of West Lothian Council
West Lothian Council	Graham Hope	Chief Executive
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Joe Cullinane	Leader of North Ayrshire Council
North Ayrshire Council	Elma Murray	Chief Executive
Private Sector:		
Scottish Power	Lee Warren	Head of UK Thermal
Clydeport	Andrew Hemphill	Operations Manager
Clydeport	David Jerome	
Hargreaves	Ian Cockburn	Group Finance Director
Fife Chamber of Commerce	Alan Mitchell	Chief Executive
Employee Rep:		
Unison	Gerry Crawley	Regional Organiser
GMB	Jim Moohan	Scotland Senior Organiser
STUC	Grahame Smith	General Secretary
Prospect	Richard Hardy	Officer
Party Representatives:		
Scottish Labour	Alex Rowley MSP	Member for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Scottish Liberal Democrat	Cllr Tony Martin	Fife Council, Dunfermline South Ward
Scottish Conservatives	Murdo Fraser MSP	Member for Mid-Scotland and Fife

Action Description	Lead/s
<p>Action – local authority representatives and Business Gateway to meet with Brown & Mason to discuss potential opportunities for local companies arising from demolition activity.</p> <p>Action – Fife Council to agree with Scottish Power how discussions regarding the future use of the Longannet site are taken forward.</p>	<p>LAs, Scottish Power, Brown & Mason</p> <p>Fife Council, Scottish Power</p>
<p>Action – future SDS focus to be on former Scottish Power employees / contractors in the “unemployed” category.</p> <p>Action – PACE support to continue for those facing redundancy at Carron Phoenix.</p>	<p>SDS</p> <p>PACE</p>
<p>Action – Fife Council to forward details of the criteria for the Fife Community Choices Participatory Budget scheme to Douglas Chapman MP.</p>	<p>Fife Council</p>
<p>Action – LAs and SE to report findings from the sub-regional business park consultancy study and strategic transport pre-appraisal to a future meeting of Longannet Task Force.</p> <p>Action – Secretariat to include an agenda item on Energy Strategy for the next meeting of the Task Force.</p>	<p>LAs / Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Joint Secretariat</p>
<p>Action – Secretariat to make arrangements for a written update for Task Force members in summer 2017 on the local authority projects, following the Local Government election period.</p> <p>Action – Secretariat to consider arrangements and timing for a further formal meeting of the Task Force in Autumn 2017 including an agenda item outlining outcomes of scoping regional partnership options.</p>	<p>Joint Secretariat</p> <p>Joint Secretariat</p>

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 Mr Wheelhouse welcomed attendees, and introduced Baillie Joan Coombes who welcomed members of the Longannet Task Force to Falkirk.

2. Minutes and matters arising

2.1 The note of the 6 December 2016 Task Force meeting was agreed as an accurate record of the discussion. Most matters arising were covered by the substantive agenda items.

2.2 Mr Wheelhouse noted that he had met with Cllr Craig Martin, Leader of Falkirk Council, on 24 January 2017 and a further meeting was planned.

3. Future Use of the Site including Medium Term Economic Recovery (Strand 5) and Environmental Mitigation (Strand 6).

3.1 Mr Wheelhouse invited George Camps, Scottish Power, to update on progress with decommissioning and next steps. The main points of the discussion were:

- Scottish Power had now purged the on-site systems including utility services.
- The demolition contract had been awarded to Brown & Mason following a tendering exercise.
- Brown & Mason had been on site from 1 February 2017. Ongoing work included surveying buildings and progressing statutory consents in addition to scoping for local recruitment and service provision.
- Demolition was expected to take up to five years given the size of the site.
- Scottish Power was engaged in discussions with SEPA regarding the Ash Lagoons at Valleyfield and at Longannet.
- It was hoped that planning consent for remediation of the Valleyfield Ash Lagoons might be obtained by the end of the year.

3.2 Mr Wheelhouse enquired about the opportunities for local recruitment relating to demolition. George Camps indicated that there were opportunities in some specialist areas including surveying, demolition, project engineering, catering and scaffolding. There were also training opportunities.

3.3 Cllr Ross welcomed these local opportunities. He asked about the implications for ScotAsh of the demolition work. George Camps advised that Scottish Power was committed to working with ScotAsh and was currently engaged in detailed discussions with the company but that an authorisation process had begun which would see ScotAsh remain onsite for the foreseeable future.

3.4 Cllr Ross then asked about the future use of the site. George Camps indicated that Scottish Power was currently looking at preserving the assets on site e.g. the jetty and the gas pipeline. George indicated that Scottish Power was now happy to begin discussions regarding the future use of the site.

3.5 Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP had met with Scottish Power and Brown & Mason on 24 February 2017 and was pleased to note potential opportunities to link to Fife College and utilise local services such as the existing on site rail line. George Camps confirmed Scottish Power's commitment to supporting training opportunities and that the rail line remained an important asset. It was also noted that an officer

from Opportunities Fife had been identified to liaise with the contractor and to provide links to local training providers via Fife College.

3.6 Cllr Bobby Clelland asked whether there were any alternatives for future use of the site being considered e.g. film studios. George Camps confirmed that this was not being considered, largely due to age and nature of the building.

3.7 Baillie Joan Coombes noted existing and future links with Grangemouth. It was agreed that potential sub-contracting opportunities relating to demolition should be discussed directly between Brown & Mason and Business Gateway representatives, including respective local authorities.

Action – Local authority representatives and Business Gateway to meet with Brown & Mason to discuss potential opportunities for local companies arising from demolition activity.

Action – Fife Council to agree with Scottish Power how discussions regarding the future use of the Longannet site are taken forward.

4. Workforce Support and Training (Strand 1)

4.1 Mr Wheelhouse invited Calum McLean, SDS, to outline the work being undertaken to support affected individuals. The main points of the discussion were:

- There had been no further redundancies on the site since the fifth meeting of Longannet Task Force and no further redundancies on the site were planned.
- 370 former Scottish Power employees / contractors were listed in the data system used by SDS to record support for Longannet employees.
 - Of these 192 (52%) were employed full time; 2 (0.5%) were employed part time; and 5 (1.5%) were self-employed.
 - A further 23 (6%) were in education or training
 - Overall, 32 individuals (9%) were unemployed and 69 (18%) were inactive/unavailable for work
- All 370 former employees/contractors had been contacted, and engaged with PACE initially. To date, 47 (13%) had chosen not to access further support.
- After adjusting for those who are inactive, and those who have chosen not to access further support, 87% have secured a positive destination (employment, self-employment or training) of which 70% were in work.
- 166 Scottish Power staff / contractors had enquired about training. All customers with confirmed training requests had completed training, were currently undertaking training or had a commitment to training and are awaiting a start date. There had been two recent training requests.

4.2 The recommendation that efforts should focus on those in the “unemployed” group was agreed.

4.3 Mr Wheelhouse thanked Calum McLean for the update, and noted that the emerging information was encouraging. He recognised, regarding numbers of benefit claimants, that there were a number of factors at play as to why all those eligible to claim benefits did not.

4.4 Cllr Ross welcomed the clarity on those who did not want to engage and the reassurance that these individuals had not “fallen through the gaps” but had made a decision not to seek support.

4.5 Douglas Duff highlighted the situation at Carron Phoenix, where 180 redundancies had been announced (with just 20 jobs retained). He sought assurance of SDS support. Calum McLean confirmed that SDS was actively engaged, and that those facing redundancy (and currently working through a long notice period) were being supported. It was noted that energy companies and registered social landlords were experiencing skill shortages in the areas of smart meter installation and energy efficiency.

Action – Future SDS focus to be on former Scottish Power employees / contractors in the “unemployed” category.

Action – PACE support to continue for those facing redundancy at Carron Phoenix.

5. Supporting Community Regeneration (Strand 3)

5.1 Cllr Ross invited George Sneddon, Fife Council; Garry Dallas, Clackmannanshire Council; and Douglas Duff, Falkirk Council, to provide an update on progress with the community regeneration work. The main points of the discussion were:

- Applications by Fife Council, Falkirk Council and Clackmannanshire Council to the Scottish Government Community Choices Fund had been approved. A summary of progress in each local authority was provided, with projects underway in all three areas.
- The Coalfields Regeneration Trust was leading delivery of a charrette in Kincardine, with financial support from Scottish Government and Fife Council. A design team had been appointed on 20 February 2017.

5.2 Cllr Ross welcomed the Kincardine charrette, recognising the genuine community involvement that a charrette supports.

5.3 Mr Wheelhouse highlighted that the credibility of the charrette process had the potential to underpin and support future funding applications, and he looked forward to further updates.

5.4 Douglas Chapman MP enquired about the criteria for the Fife Community Choices participatory budget scheme. It was highlighted that the criteria were determined by the communities, and reflected the issues and priorities that they had identified. George Sneddon agreed to provide a copy of the criteria to Mr Chapman.

Action – Fife Council to forward details of the criteria for the Fife Community Choices Participatory Budget scheme to Douglas Chapman MP.

6. Business Support (Strand 2) and Business Infrastructure and Investment (Strand 4)

6.1 Cllr Ross invited George Sneddon, Fife Council, to lead the discussion on the audit exercise relating to a sub-regional business park. The main points of the discussion were:

- A consultancy brief and commission had been prepared by the respective local authorities and Scottish Enterprise. A total of six submissions had been received with a decision on appointment to be reached by 2 March 2017.

- The study would assess the business justification for investment in the creation of a new strategic business park to serve the sub-region (Upper Forth) closest to Longannet Power station. It was being progressed by a cross-authority steering group and would complement other work, including the appraisal of the strategic transport network and the implementation of capital projects.
- A final report was expected during May 2017. It was agreed that study findings would be reported to a future Task Force meeting.

6.2 Cllr Ross invited Garry Dallas, Clackmannanshire Council, and Robin Presswood, Fife Council, to provide an update on progress on Capital Stimulus Fund projects and City Region Deals in Stirling and Clackmannanshire; Edinburgh and South East Scotland; and Tay Cities. Cllr Ross highlighted that the local authority leaders of Fife, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council respectively had scheduled a meeting to explore regional partnership proposals but this had to be cancelled, however the principle of this remained important. The main points of the discussion were:

- Clackmannan Town Centre Economic Stimulus project – £2.0m had been allocated to support the creation of business units and a community enterprise hub in Clackmannan. Formal Council commitment would be made at a meeting on 9 March 2017. Demolition and construction works were out to tender and four acquisitions were being progressed. A Community Development Trust would take forward the Enterprise Hub, and Heads of Terms were in place with Kingdom Homes. Growing businesses in the town were being supported to allow them access to larger/more suitable premises.
- Kincardine Economic Stimulus Project – Enterprise Hub and Business Units - £2.7m had been allocated to develop facilities to support diversification and business growth. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust was in the process of acquiring a former bank in Kincardine to house an Enterprise Hub. The Trust would enter into a Service Level Agreement with Fife Council for ongoing use of the facility. A further proposal for the construction of business units in Kincardine was also being progressed, but remained subject to the conclusion of site investigation works.
- Cross-authority working, initiated by scope of the Longannet Task Force, would continue with work underway to explore options for future ways to support economic growth.

6.3 Mr Wheelhouse welcomed the progress being made with the Capital Stimulus projects in Clackmannanshire, Fife and also North Ayrshire, and underlined that the commitment to Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region continued, along with support to develop a City Deal for the Stirling/Clackmannanshire area. He added that Growth Accelerator models with three local authorities were also underway in Ayrshire.

6.4 Douglas Chapman MP highlighted objections from local residents relating to the proposed business units site. He requested that Scottish Power consider the provision of support for the local community, perhaps utilising the former power station sites at Kincardine and/or Longannet.

6.5 Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP also noted concern from local residents but indicated her expectation that these would be dealt with through the formal planning process in due course. She highlighted other large-scale closures in Scotland where

a site was gifted to the local community such as the Johnnie Walker site in Kilmarnock, noting that there was a precedent of land being gifted to the local community.

6.6 Fife Council was aware of concerns raised by local residents, but stressed that at that stage only initial feasibility work was being undertaken and there was no firm commitment to developing the site. If the site was suitable for development, there was potential to enhance it, including dealing with an existing flooding issue. Scottish Power had indicated a willingness to discuss future use of the former Kincardine Power Station site, but it was a complex site to redevelop and not likely to offer a quick solution. Mr Wheelhouse welcomed the ongoing dialogue with Scottish Power.

6.7 Falkirk Council noted that whilst they had not received any Capital Stimulus funding, there had been positive discussions since the 6 December Task Force meeting regarding options for a Grangemouth Investment Zone. Falkirk Council suggested that further development and clarity was needed on this matter.

6.8 Mr Wheelhouse highlighted the ongoing consultation on the draft Energy Strategy, a paper on which had been circulated to Task Force members. The draft Energy Strategy offered an opportunity for consultees to shape the future energy strategy and was out to consultation until 30 May 2017. The Minister also noted the accompanying consultations on Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme; Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies and District Heating Regulation; Onshore Wind Policy; and Unconventional Oil and Gas. It was agreed that a more detailed discussion would be arranged for the next Task Force meeting.

6.9 The Scottish Government also highlighted a consultation on the planning system – this outlined 20 key proposals for change. This consultation was scheduled to close on 4 April 2017.

Action – LAs and SE to report findings from the sub-regional business park consultancy study and strategic transport pre-appraisal to a future meeting of Longannet Task Force.

Action – Secretariat to include an agenda item on Energy Strategy for the next meeting of the Task Force.

7. Next Meeting

7.1. The Minister thanked all members of the Task Force for their contributions, noting the high level of activity and focus. He indicated that the next meeting might include consideration of when and how to wind up Longannet Task Force, given that a five-year demolition programme was now getting underway and immediate workforce actions were at a well-developed stage. A solution would need to be explored about how best to take forward longer-term discussions about future use of the site.

7.2 Cllr Ross added that a further meeting would be organised, following council elections. He offered his thanks to all involved and highlighted the need to keep working together to address challenges in the area.

Action – Secretariat to make arrangements for a written update for Task Force members in summer 2017 on the local authority projects, following the Local Government election period.

Action – Secretariat to consider arrangements and timing for a further formal meeting of the Task Force in Autumn 2017 including an agenda item outlining outcomes of scoping regional partnership options.

**Task Force Secretariat
28 March 2017**

DRAFT