



# Copeland's Nuclear Road Map: An Update



**Hello, and welcome to the sixth edition of the Copeland Nuclear Update.**

As you'll read about in these upcoming pages, we are seeing massive steps forward for the nuclear industry.

In late 2022, it was my pleasure to host the launch of a new company formed to bring new nuclear power to the constituency.

Solway Community Power Company Ltd has been created to bring Rolls-Royce Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to land adjacent to the Sellafield site.

The company – which is chaired by Paul Foster and will have its base in Copeland – in front of almost 100 delegates at Westlakes Science and Technology Park.

The launch heard that the site, technology and need for the SMR development have been identified, and the company has been formed as a vehicle to secure the project.

This is an exciting milestone for Copeland, and the announcement of this vehicle to bring Rolls-Royce SMR to our area is a highly significant step in the right direction.

Nuclear is a clean, proven and reliable source of energy, and new nuclear power stations need to be on the bars with some urgency.

I have always maintained that there is no better site in the UK – perhaps in the world – for Rolls-Royce SMR to locate their reactors than on land adjacent to Sellafield. We have the site, skills, experience and supply chain ready-made.

Now the job of the new development company is to ensure this happens – to continue the legacy of world-class skills and opportunity in our area – and with Paul Foster at the helm, I have absolute confidence that this will be achieved.

Each Rolls-Royce SMR will be factory built and capable of generating 470MW of electricity from a sustainable source, each – generating enough clean energy to power a million homes for 60 years.

Rolls-Royce SMR have prioritised a number of locations across England and Wales, including land close to the Sellafield site, with the potential to deploy the first in a fleet of Rolls-Royce SMR power stations.

For more information on Solway Community Power Company Ltd, click [here](#).



# Nuclear industry takes over Westminster

The Nuclear Industry Association's second Nuclear Week in Parliament promoted to Parliamentarians, businesses and stakeholders the opportunities that nuclear energy presents.

Copeland was well represented at events throughout the week, including the popular Skills and Apprentice Fair which welcomed apprentices and graduates from organisations including NNL, KBR and Sellafield Ltd (*all pictured*) and more.

Apprentices from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) also enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament (*pictured bottom*).





# Civil nuclear's £3.9 billion boost to North West economy



**A new study shows the UK's civil nuclear sector contributed £3.9 billion to the North West of England's economy in 2021, the equivalent to 2.1% of all regional output.**

The Delivering Value report, compiled by Oxford Economics and commissioned by the Nuclear Industry Association, shows the sector makes a greater contribution to the region than in any other part of the country.

The North West of England, home to Sellafield, the National Nuclear Laboratory and Heysham power stations, as well as Urenco and Springfields, directly employs 25,800 people and supports a total of 50,600 jobs across the region.

Each nuclear sector employee contributes an average of £102,300 in gross value added (GVA) to the economy, almost twice as high as the average UK worker, reflecting the highly-skilled nature of the workforce. 40% of the industry's Research & Development workforce is based in the North West.

In addition, the industry's activities supported £1 in every £49 of economic output across the region.

In total, the UK's civil nuclear sector contributed £6.1 billion to the UK economy in 2021 – twice as much as the air transport industry; and its 64,000 employees are part of the most productive workforces in the country.

Since every single nuclear station in operation and decommissioning is in coastal Britain, nuclear brings jobs and investment to some of the most deprived parts of the country in particular. In England, over a third (39%) of direct employment in the sector occurs in the most deprived 25% of local authorities.

The research shows this economic impact increases to £16.1 billion and 211,000 jobs when the sector's spend on associated goods and services in the supply chain and the wage spend by employees is considered.

For the full report click [here](#).

# Rolls-Royce SMR focuses on West Cumbria's nuclear heartland



**West Cumbria remains a focus for Rolls-Royce SMR who, supported by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), recently completed a siting assessment review into the potential options for deploying Rolls-Royce SMR power stations.**

This is the first phase in a programme of work which is considering siting, collaboration opportunities and the socio-economic benefits of deploying Rolls-Royce SMR units on land within the NDA estate.

Land close to Sellafield – along with Wylfa, Trawsfynydd and Oldbury – have been prioritised as the first sites in the UK which have the potential to host 15GW of new nuclear power.

A spokesperson for Rolls-Royce SMR said: "The Solway Community Power Company choosing to work with Rolls-Royce SMR and move forward at speed shows the innovative thinking we've come to expect from the UK's nuclear heartland.

"The collective drive, creativity and passion of Solway and Rolls-Royce SMR bring a huge opportunity for West Cumbria."

Further afield, Rolls-Royce SMR has been working with leading Czech utility company (CEZ) on plans to deploy SMRs as a way to support their own long-term energy security, meet net zero targets and decarbonise both electricity networks and industry in the Czech Republic.

There is a significant opportunity to export the British technology to the Czech Republic, and the wider region, in support of their low-carbon energy aspirations.

Deploying the factory-built SMRs overseas would support jobs directly and in the supply chain – much of which is based in West Cumbria.

For further information on Rolls-Royce SMR, click [here](#).



# Sellafield Ltd raises the bar with record apprentice intake



**Sellafield Ltd is once again raising the bar with its highest ever recruitment of apprentices, with the target of attracting 300 apprentices this year across a diverse range of career pathways.**

The latest recruitment campaign will take Sellafield Ltd's investment in the next generation to 2,200 apprentices over the past decade.

Over last week's National Apprenticeship Week 2023, the company has been celebrating the achievements of its apprentices.

This year's theme is 'Skills for Life', and that's what it provides through its apprenticeship schemes to help the next generation develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career.

Donna Connor, Head of Education and Skills, said: "Providing apprenticeships and routes into apprenticeships are an important part of our strategic ambitions to create opportunities for employment and economic growth.

"We're developing a broad spectrum of skills and capabilities and maintain and develop specialist and scarce skills, such as project managers and cyber security experts."

Sellafield Ltd's project management apprenticeship programme has just

celebrated its 10th year, creating 59 project management professionals with 57 more on the scheme.

Sellafield Ltd is also one of the top 100 large apprentice employers in the UK according to the Department for Education in 2022.

Three people who have first-hand experience of apprenticeship and graduate training have shared their stories in Westminster at the Nuclear Industry Association's Nuclear Week in Parliament event.

Sophie Armstrong, after completing her apprenticeship as a nuclear welding inspection technician, is helping to train the next cohort. Sophie has also started training for her next career step.

Nicholas Murray, a commissioning graduate for whom a childhood fascination with how toys worked was an early clue of his future career.

Rachel Gleaves, whose career in control systems appeals to her interests in problem solving and computing.

Donna added: "Achieving our purpose of creating a clean and safe environment for future generations will rely on us having a fully engaged workforce that includes the right people, in the right roles, at the right time, behaving in the manner set out in our manifesto, helping everyone to perform at their best.

"As such, we continue to operate as a major employer in our communities."

- Further details on Sellafield Ltd's graduate, apprenticeship and work placement programmes are available [here](#).

# Financial backing for ambitious enterprise campus in Cleator Moor



**Success in the latest round of Levelling Up Funding will see ambitious plans for the Leconfield Industrial Estate in Cleator Moor come to fruition as part of an initiative that will create more than 700 jobs.**

The £20m of government investment was awarded to Copeland Borough Council for the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) Enterprise Campus; phase two of the redevelopment.

Elected Mayor of Copeland, Mike Starkie, said: "This is fantastic news for Cleator Moor and West Cumbria. The level of investment from the government shows just how strong our vision for the Leconfield Industrial Estate is.

"The Enterprise Campus will create a diverse and sustainable local economy, and the benefits of the investment will be felt far beyond the boundary of Cleator Moor.

"Phase one of the redevelopment has now been given outline planning permission. This will see the creation of the hub building,

refurbishment of existing units and improvements to infrastructure.

"Now this investment will enable the council to implement phase two and complete the campus with an extension to the east and redevelopment of the rest of site."

Part of the funding will improve connectivity between the campus and the town centre with landscaped footpaths and cycleways. The Industrial Solutions Hub will be at the centre of the Enterprise Campus.

The iSH programme will create more than 700 jobs and deliver sustainable community regeneration and economic and social resilience, as well as environmental improvements, to transform people's lives in West Cumbria.

This funding will help give small, medium, and large-sized businesses, start-ups and industry the space to grow, creating jobs and opportunities as well as attracting other organisations to the area.

For more information, click [here](#).

# Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership on hand to answer communities' questions



**Mid Copeland Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Community Partnership is holding a series of interactive events for people to find out more about what a GDF could mean in our area.**

Community feedback in Mid Copeland has highlighted that people want to know more about the safety, transport and technical aspects of a GDF.

These events will include experts to explain how waste is currently being packaged to be passively safe; what GDF transport could entail and how the GDF would be safely constructed, operated and closed.

A GDF is an underground facility designed to safely and securely dispose of higher activity radioactive waste.

On display will be an example model of what a GDF could look like above ground, plus an interactive display board showing what it could look like underground.

The events will be held at:

- Friday, March 10: Thornhill Social Club, 12-7pm;
- Saturday, March 11: Gosforth Public Hall, 10am-3pm;
- Friday, March 17: Windscale Club, Seascale, 12.30-7pm;

- Saturday, March 18: Drigg and Carleton Village Hall, 10am-3pm.

Andy Pratt, Chair of Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership, said: "Please come along to the events and have a conversation, let us know what you think and ask your questions – we want to hear from you.

"We always take on board community feedback and use it to try and shape our future events by providing information people require. So, this time we are concentrating on safety, transport and technical aspects.

"We're still in the early stages of the GDF programme. If a suitable site is found in Copeland – a process which could take 10-15 years – a decision to develop a GDF here in Mid Copeland could not be taken until the community in the electoral wards directly affected has had a say and taken a positive Test of Public Support."

Community Partnerships are long-term groups made up of local people, the GDF developer and local authorities to consider the possibilities of hosting a GDF within an identified Search Area. The GDF programme requires both a suitable site and a willing community.

The Mid Copeland area now has access to its second £1million of Community Investment Funding (CIF) per year from the GDF programme. The Partnership awarded £1million in CIF to local projects during its first year.

For more information on the Community Investment Fund, the GDF search process – and how the upcoming local government reorganisation will impact the boundaries – click [here](#).



# South Copeland GDF Partnership supports community projects



**Twenty-one community projects have been awarded grant funding in South Copeland as the area takes part in the search for a suitable site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).**

A total of £709,651 has been awarded since the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership launched in December 2021.

Formation of the Partnership gave access to £1million of Community Investment Funding (CIF) per year from the GDF programme as discussions continue around what a facility could mean locally. The Search Area in South Copeland includes the electoral wards of Millom and Black Combe & Scafell.

The Partnership is expecting to have allocated the full £1million fund this year.

The projects to benefit from CIF in South Copeland so far include: Bootle & District First Responders, Cumbria Addictions: Advice and Solutions (CADAS), Cumbria Community Foundation, Friends of Eskdale School – St Begas CofE Primary School,

Inspira, Mental Health North West CIC, Millom Baptist Church, Millom Cricket Club, Millom First Responders, Millom Rugby Union Football Club, Millom STEM Club, Millom Town Council and St John's Waberthwaite Parochial Church Council.

Ged McGrath, Chair of South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, said: "It is great news that our Community Partnership has been able to assist with the award of grant funding to so many worthwhile causes, and I'm pleased to see these projects helping to make a positive difference."

"We're receiving applications from a wide range of community developments and organisations, and we encourage anyone with an existing project or an idea for a new project to get in touch with Community Investment Funding team to see what is possible."

For more information on the Community Investment Fund, the GDF search process – and how the upcoming local government reorganisation will impact the boundaries – click [here](#).



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# News In Brief

## **BECBC preparing for future opportunities**

**Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster (BECBC) is working closely with its members to maximise the current opportunities arising from the UK's commitment to nuclear energy, including the build of SMRs.**

A recent invitation to Paul Foster, from Solway Community Power Community Ltd, to speak at the business cluster's member meeting was met with great interest from the supply chain.

Dianne Richardson, CEO for BECBC, said: "Businesses in Cumbria are poised to deliver on the creation of SMR technology. Certainly, the county's supply chain is positioned to do so. This is not only a result of decades of expertise in the nuclear sector, but because people in this region offer the level of collaboration and integration across all levels of business and education that the nuclear sector will need going forward.

"Supporting new nuclear in this region will certainly leap-frog the levelling up agenda. As a business cluster committed to both business growth and social impact, we are excited at the opportunities which lie ahead."

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## **Award for supplier payments**

**Sellafield Ltd has been awarded a Fast Payer Award from Good Business Pays, a campaign that aims to encourage the UK's largest companies to fast-track payments to small suppliers.**

The awards recognise those who have demonstrated the best payment performance to their suppliers.

## **New role for Mina**

**Dr Mina Golshan CBE will join the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) Board as non-executive director (NED) and Chair of the Environmental, Safety and Security Committee, replacing Neil Baldwin MBE who has announced his departure at the end of his term after five years working with the organisation.**

Mina has over 20 years' experience in the nuclear sector and high-hazard industries both in the UK and internationally. She is a passionate advocate of women in the sector and actively supports the work of academia and the Nuclear Industry Association to attract and retain women in the industry.

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## **Success for Sellafield team**

**A Sellafield team is celebrating a breakthrough in dealing with one of the site's highest category risks.**

The Floc retrieval project has perfected a technique to suck up and move a sludgy substance known as Flocculant; it's an important job because the tanks the material is stored in are no longer fit for purpose.

A reliable method is needed to remove it and place it in modern containers. But the material is radioactive and the space to work in highly restricted.

So, a mock-up has been built at James Fisher Nuclear, in Egremont, a specialist engineering, manufacturing and technical supplier, where decommissioning experts can safely experiment with different ways of getting the job done.

# Nuclear In The Headlines



[Jeremy Hunt to speed up approvals for nuclear power and offshore wind farms](#)

The Times

[Bill Gates: Nuclear waste is not a reason to avoid nuclear energy](#)

CNBC

[Can Britain realise its nuclear ambitions?](#)

The Financial Times

[UK company to build prototype nuclear fusion energy system](#)

Engineering News

[Ministers bolster UK nuclear fuel capacity to squeeze out Russian influence](#)

Gov.uk



## Key Nuclear Messages

- One large-scale station can power Cumbria 8 times over
- Nuclear has saved the UK six years' worth of emissions, 2.3 billion tonnes, far more emissions than any other source
- By 2030, we are losing stations that can power around 13 million homes
- The UK will need four times as much clean power, and 10 times as much clean energy, by 2050 to hit net zero
- Nuclear is the UK's only proven source of clean, always-on, emissions-free power, and the only source that can produce low-carbon power and low-carbon heat
- Nuclear is the most jobs-rich form of low-carbon energy: a large-scale project can sustain around 70,000 high-skilled, well-paid jobs



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# **Get In Touch With Me** **Trudy Harrison MP for Copeland**



A huge thank you to each of the fabulous companies and organisations that have contributed to this update.

If you would like to feature in future issues, please get in touch with me using the email below.



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