

View from the top...

Planning Permission Secured - "It's about time!"

That is how most people respond when they hear that we have managed to secure planning permission for the new vaults and for the final closure of both the vaults and the trenches.

What they mean by this, is that it has taken far longer to get the approval from Cumbria County Council than expected. But very few people (apart from a few individuals within the County and the individuals who wrote the application) understand how important and complex the decision is, and looking back, it shouldn't be surprising that it has taken us several years to get the approval.

I do think that we could have come to an agreement quicker, but I am also aware that the applications was thoroughly reviewed by the Waste Planning Authority, by the regulators, and by the statutory consultees. Generally, when there is a robust review of any key decision, the final product and decision is a better one, and this is the case here.

So, now that we have it, what are the implications? What does it mean? I can think of three key things:

We are now a fully-fledged Repository

The planning approval acknowledges and accepts the conclusion of the Environmental Safety Case which demonstrates the long term (thousands of years) performance of the Site.

Prior to this approval, the Low Level Waste coming to the site was only being stored. Now, this waste can be safely disposed.

Sustained economic benefit

The planning approval will bring a sustained benefit of £1.5 million to the Borough each year, through Copeland Community Fund.

Under this arrangement, £50,000 of this will go to Drigg & Carlton Parish, and an additional £15,000 to the Seascale Parish.

This is a fantastic benefit, and it is now up to everyone involved to ensure that the money is used to ensure that we develop an economic legacy for our community.

Work on the cap will soon commence

Although the planning application covers the construction of the next two vaults, the reality is that because of our successful waste minimisation, we will not need to build Vault 10 for many years.

However, we will commence with the capping of Vault 8 and the northern section of the trenches in 2017.

In many ways, "it is about time" for us to get on with the business of the Repository, and I am glad that with the planning consent, we can get on with delivering what we are here to do.

**Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director**

Our safety culture again recognised by RoSPA



In the frame: Katie Atkinson collects the prestigious safety award

LLW Repository Ltd's outstanding safety record has been recognised at the UK's most sought after safety awards in London.

The company picked up a second President's award at the RoSPA Health and Safety Awards following an 11th consecutive year of 'sustained achievement' in the field.

In 2015 LLWR qualified for its first President's award in recognition of receiving 10 consecutive Gold awards for its overarching occupational health and safety management systems.

While expressing her delight at the latest accolade, Elaine Burrage, LLWR's Health & Safety Manager, warned there was no room for complacency.

"It's a tremendous achievement for the organisation's outstanding safety culture to be recognised for an 11th year in a row, and is a great reflection on all who work for LLWR either directly or as contractors," she said.

"Safety is our No 1 priority, and a lot of hard work and effort goes into maintaining and improving our high standards. We have a very real and ongoing commitment to safety and we recognise there is no way we can allow our high standards to slip."

LLWR was represented at the ExCeL Centre gala dinner by Hannah Evans, Donna Crozier, Katie Atkinson and Simon Martin. Each was recommended for attendance by their line manager for their outstanding efforts in terms of safety and positive safety attitude.

2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the RoSPA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents - Health and Safety Awards.

Donna said: "I was honoured to be selected to represent the business at the RoSPA Awards alongside Simon, Katie and Hannah. In addition to attending the awards dinner, we had the opportunity to attend the Safety Expo which was a great opportunity to see products, suppliers and approaches from other industries. I think the whole group was able to learn from this and bring back things which can be fed into our tasks at LLWR".

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ON THE LEVEL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

Our close links with NDA reaffirmed with Board visit

NDA Board members led by Chairman Stephen Henwood were updated on significant progress made at the Low Level Waste Repository during a familiarisation visit to the site, near Drigg. Executive and Non-Executive Board Members, and the NDA site facing team, were welcomed by Dennis Thompson, Chief Executive of LLW Repository Ltd, and members of his Lead Team. The day started at Pelham House with an introduction to LLWR, managing the Repository and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Board Members then toured site, viewed Vaults 8 and 9 and the extensive new security fence, and then walked on the trench cap.

They also stepped inside decommissioned Magazine 4, part of the successful PCM Programme on site, which is saving the NDA estate around £30m on its accelerated schedule.

Stephen Henwood said: "The Board were really impressed by the progress being made at the Repository in meeting its key role in managing the country's low level waste.

"To see Vault 9 in full operational use and to be shown excellent progress in decommissioning the PCM stores was particularly notable.

" Added to this, the site's pro-active approach to safety, the significant progress in waste diversion and the positive attitude of everyone we met, is a testament to a high-performing workforce and site."

The visit concluded with an update on the NDA's Integrated Waste Strategy, from Adrian Simper, its Strategy and Technology Director, and a briefing on LLWR's vision of its future during a prospective third term contract starting in 2018, from its Executive Director, Martin Walkingshaw.



One vision: Members of the NDA Board and LLWR's Lead Team take a look inside the decommissioned Magazine 4, on site.

Dennis Thompson said: "We work on a day-to-day basis with the NDA, so the organisation is kept fully-briefed about developments on site, but it was still really useful to enable Board members to view progress for themselves and discuss issues with us face-to-face, including thoughts on what may lie ahead for LLWR post-2018.

"This was the first visit of its kind by the NDA Board and we appreciate the Interest and the input. They are always welcome on site." Stephen Henwood and Adrian Simper were joined on the visit by fellow NDA Board members John Clarke, David Batters, Volker Beckers, Tom Smith and Rob Holden.

Big day for smaller businesses

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), in association with Site Licence Companies, including LLWR, will host its 'Deliver success together' event in Manchester on 3rd November. A key aim is to encourage greater visibility and opportunities for the supply chain, and in particular smaller businesses.

The event will provide networking opportunities, with a chance to meet 'buyers and sellers' from the NDA estate and further afield.

Local SME first to benefit from our new purchasing system

West Cumbrian company Prima Uno, a specialist project controls, risk, dispute resolution and programme management consultancy, beat off national competition to be awarded the first contract under LLWR's new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

The DPS, billed by LLWR as the Business Services Marketplace, is designed to establish a 'level playing field' between local suppliers, Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and larger businesses, when bidding for contracts with the organisation.

Elaine Kirkwood, Senior Procurement Officer with LLWR, said: "After all the hard work we put into setting up the BSM, presenting the benefits to SMEs, it was encouraging to see the first competition was won by a local SME.

"Our technical and commercial evaluation teams completed in-depth evaluations of five submissions, culminating in a win for Prima Uno. They provided a technical submission that brings significant benefits to LLWR, in addition to a competitive commercial tender."

LLWR needs access to a wide range of professional services, primarily in functional support areas, to support the business. A DPS enables it to consult a large number of potential suppliers of standardised works, supplies or



It's a deal: Sarah Purdham, fifth left, with staff at Pelham House

services, whose capabilities have already been verified. The DPS increases competition and suppliers go through selection once only, plus requirements can be broken down into small one-off packages, making it easier for smaller organisations to bid, and the cost of tendering/evaluation is reduced.

Sarah Purdham, Managing Director of Cleator Moor-based Prima Uno, said "Winning this framework means so much to me, Prima Uno and all our staff. We can continue our relationship with LLWR on a journey to deliver

its long term goal and mission. "We have been given a chance to make a difference. Our demonstrable experience helping blue chip clients achieve sector-leading performance puts us in a wonderful position to deliver value to LLWR.

"Through our programme delivery and performance improvement approaches we support clients to achieve increased levels of efficiency, cost savings, and assurance. This provides our clients with predictability, as well as contributing to their goals and targets."

'Smashing' time for UTC students in LLWR link-up

Partners LLW Repository Ltd and GRAHAM Construction joined forces with students from the Energy Coast University Technical College (UTC) to show that engineering could be fun – and they got EGGs-actly what they were looking for.

After a tour of the LLWR site near Drigg, students returned to UTC at Lillyhall to work on a special exercise to devise robust packaging for eggs.

Each was allocated a specific role in the construction process, such as project manager, structural engineer, technical co-ordinator, procurement manager and design engineer.

The eggs in their secure packages were then dropped from a great height, stamped on and hit with bricks to test if they would crack.



The exercise mirrored LLWR's current Type B Packaging Programme, which will produce packaging to transport legacy materials by rail. Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR, said: "We first worked with UTC last year and it's important to show tomorrow's workforce what engineering can offer.

"Students really engaged with the exercise, which made it all the more worthwhile. With all the eggs flying about, you might say it was a cracking day."

GRAHAM Construction is LLWR's Framework partner and Elaine Woodburn, its Stakeholder Engagement Officer, explained that the day was organised to showcase the many varied careers within engineering. She added: "Judging by how the students got stuck into the task it was evidently something they enjoyed.

"Too few work experience opportunities exist for students, so the partnership of LLWR and GRAHAM Construction was more than happy to help out, and it turned out to be a fantastic day where learning mixed with fun."

Pictured: Teamwork: LLWR's Natalie Harker, right, and Elaine Woodburn, of GRAHAM Construction, organising the packaging exercise

Warm welcome to our new apprentices

The commitment to young, local talent continues with 2 new apprentices, joining LLWR – and with all 5 of our former apprentices going on to employment with the company, the latest youngsters certainly have a target at which to aim.

Business/Admin apprentice Danielle Boyd, from Whitehaven, has been placed in the Human Resources department and Process Operative apprentice Lewis Rycroft, from Workington, is currently in LLW Operations.

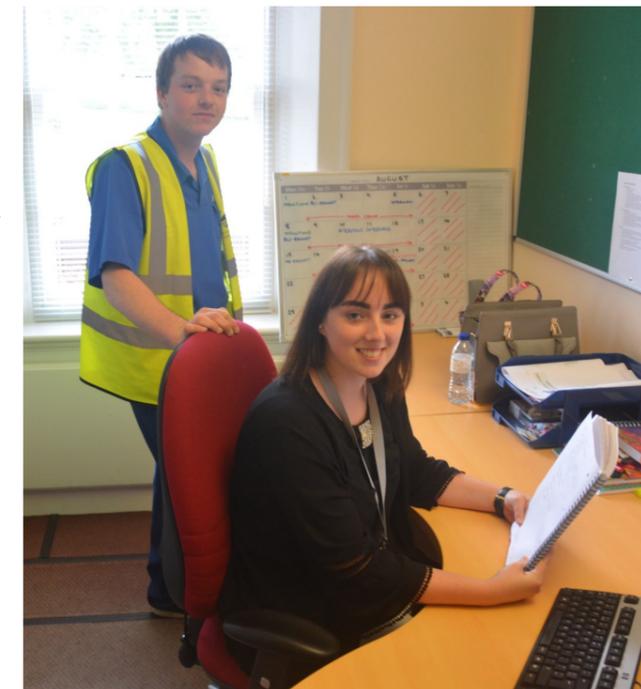
Each will spend four days a week at LLWR with a one-day release at training organisation Gen2, based at Energus, Lillyhall.

Mel Scudamore, LLWR's Senior Training Officer, said: "LLWR

is very much committed to apprenticeships and we are very passionate that the apprentices receive the best opportunities during their apprenticeships.

"Some of these opportunities include STEM ambassador duties within local schools and representing LLWR at local career fairs. "We continue to have a very good working relationship with Gen2 to ensure the apprentices get everything they need in regard to their apprenticeships. All existing LLWR apprentices are currently on track to pass their overall apprenticeships."

The latest recruits take LLWR's current apprentice tally to 6. Business/admin apprentice Georgia Rudd, placed in Procurement, is in



Apprentices: Danielle and Lewis make a start to their careers with LLWR

the final year of her Level 3 apprenticeship. Craft apprentices Billy Fielder, Jake Icton and Owen Adair are in the 3rd year of their 4-year apprenticeships

Money-saving success is in the bag

The Bag Assay System which has proved a major cost-saver for LLWR has celebrated a milestone moment. The 10,000th bag of soft waste, including items such as clothing, has now been assayed using the machine, six years after it was launched. Prior to this system's implementation, the majority of this waste from site was sent to Sellafield for storage, a relatively expensive option.

Now, after being bagged on the assay machine, waste is sent to Sellafield for 'super-compaction' a cost-effective process which reduces the volume significantly before bags are consigned back to LLWR for final disposal in its vaults.

Rob Yetts, PCM (Plutonium Contaminated Materials) Programme Delivery Manager, said: "The establishment of the route embraces the philosophy of the Waste Hierarchy which the project is constantly striving to achieve. Its success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved and demonstrates a culture of continued improvement along with significant cost savings."

Much of the technical work initially carried out on the system was completed by Cavendish Nuclear, and collaborative working between the two organisations has gone from strength-to-strength.

Cavendish operators work with the PCM team bi-weekly to operate the system on site and interpret the data to ensure waste is consigned down the appropriate route.



Wrapped up: Members of the LLWR and Cavendish teams involved in the work

LLWR's Waste Delivery Team in conjunction with its PCM Operations Team and Cavendish are now making changes to the Bag Assay system to enable incineration, which will mean no waste is returned to the vault, providing a further cost saving to the project.

Peter Welch, NDA Head of Programme (LLWR), added: "It is great to see continual progress in the PCM Programme.

"The Bag Assay scheme and related super-compaction was

an early and very successful example of using innovative methods to deliver effective and efficient progress, supported by excellent collaboration between LLWR, contractors and Sellafield Ltd."

Putting our shirt on them...

An ambitious local football club has big goals this season in its new league after renewing links with LLWR.

Gosforth FC asked the company for assistance after deciding to move up to the Cumberland County Saturday League following success in the Egremont & District Sunday League. And LLWR obliged, funding new shirts for the team, emblazoned with the company name and logo.