Nuclear Industry Council – Summary of Meeting

19th July 2017, 10:30 – 12:30, BEIS Conference Centre, London

Attendees: Richard Harrington (co-Chair), John Hutton (co-Chair), Simon Bowen, Gordon Bryan, Mike Clancy, Kevin Coyne, Ian Forber, Paul Foster, Tom Greatrex, Terry Hill, Harry Holt, Paul Howarth, Sue Ion, Campbell Kier, David Peattie, Ben Russell, Chris Savage, Helen Shirley-Quirk, Gary Shuttleworth, Stephen Speed, Paul Spence, Andy Storer, Paul Westbury, Clive White.

Apologies: Duncan Hawthorne, Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson, Adrienne Kelbie, Tom Samson, Ken Skates AM, Matt Tuck, Mike Tynan.

1. Chair’s Opening Remarks

John Hutton welcomed Energy Minister, Richard Harrington MP to his first meeting of the Council and Members agreed the previous minutes. The Minister spoke of his keenness to be involved in the Council and remarked on the important role the nuclear industry plays in the UK today and the opportunity a potential sector deal represents to secure the future of the industry.

2. Industrial Strategy and Nuclear Sector Deal

John Hutton briefly summarised the work being carried out to develop the Nuclear Sector Deal, including how it aligns to the government’s Industrial Strategy. John Hutton also stressed that not all sectors will get a deal and the nuclear industry needs to put together a compelling and ambitious case that illustrates how government and industry can work together.

Members discussed the progress made since the last Council meeting stressing that a deal would be most compelling if it brought together different elements of the sector, covering new build; decommissioning; operations; regulation and defence. It was also noted that opportunities should be considered for synergies with other sector deals and links should be maximised with key areas across Government, including MoD on defence and DIT on exports.

Members agreed that the initial task for the NIC would be to clarify the scope and breadth of the sector deal and for industry to develop proposals that could be brought back to the Council for discussion.

3. A ‘New Deal for Nuclear’

Mike Clancy, General Secretary, Prospect Union, presented Prospect’s draft paper ‘A New Deal for Nuclear’ to the Council and invited comments [The published paper is available at https://library.prospect.org.uk/id/2017/00997].

The paper looks at the challenges facing the industry and how best to develop a new vision to realise full potential of the UK’s civil nuclear industry.
It was agreed the paper sets out some good points on how to secure the future of the industry and now is the right time for greater leadership in the sector to ensure opportunities are not lost.

4. Chair’s closing remarks

John Hutton closed the meeting and explained that the Council’s contributions would inform a new draft of the sector deal. To deliver this work, John Hutton encouraged members to think about what resource they could offer to support development of the deal.