

Extract from NDA Socio-Economic Strategy III

“The Energy Act was published in 2004, when there was no prospect of ‘new nuclear’ for the UK. In that environment, the creation of the NDA and its decommissioning agenda was a concern for the communities that lived near to sites and relied on them for their livelihood.

In creating the NDA, the Government recognized that it shared responsibility for helping to mitigate these impacts and established socio-economic support and development as a supplemental function of the Act.

The Act gives the NDA a supplemental function of ‘giving encouragement and other support to activities that benefit the social or economic life of communities living near designated installations, designated sites and designated facilities or that produce other environmental benefits for such communities’ [Energy Act 2004, 7(1)(e)]. The Act also gives the NDA statutory powers to ‘make grants or loans to persons undertaking activities that benefit the social or economic life of communities living near designated installations, designated sites or designated facilities or that produce other environmental benefits for such communities’ [Energy Act 2004, 10(2)(c)]

The NDA also has statutory duties to take account of the socio-economic impact of its activities [Energy Act 2004 9(4) 9(5) 9(6)]. This includes a requirement for prospective site operators to ‘consider the likely effect of the implementation of that (procurement) strategy on the economic life of communities living near the installation, site or facility.

The NDA’s socio-economic mission is to ‘support the maintenance of sustainable communities’ and our objectives are to:

- Enhance the opportunity for local people to be involved in decommissioning work or other economic activity through education, retraining and skills development;
- Support the diversification of local economies into other sectors –reducing the reliance of communities on nuclear sites for employment – by increasing the number, variety and vibrancy of local businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and taking steps to attract new enterprises;
- Increase the attractiveness of areas near NDA sites and places to live, work and invest in, with particular emphasis on achieving environmental, social and infrastructure improvements; and
- Work with nuclear new build and neighbouring site organisations to work cohesively on socio-economics and maximize potential benefits to the community.