

Meeting: Heysham Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC)

Meeting Date: Thursday 27th November 2025 **Start time:** 09:30

1. Attendees

- Mike Davies (MD) – EDF Heysham 1 (Chair)
- Andy Bulloch (AB) – EDF Heysham 2
- Simon Gora (SG) – EDF Heysham 1
- Steve Bryan (SB) – EDF Heysham 2
- Emily Richards (ER) – EDF Heysham 2
- Kate Stewart (KS) – EDF
- Andy Cruxton (AC) – EDF Heysham 2
- Sarah Noon (SN) – EDF Heysham Visitor Centre
- Belinda Tattersfield (BT) – EDF Heysham Visitor Centre
- Mark Swanton (MS) – EDF
- Nina Barnes (NB) – Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
- Samaneh Nouraei (SN) – Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
- Jon Davenport (JD) – Environment Agency
- Louise Moysan (LM) – Environment Agency
- Kirstie Banks-Lyon (KBL) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Graeme Austin (GA) – Lancashire County Council
- Cllr Louise Belcher (LB) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Colin Hartley (CH) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Alan Greenwell (AG) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Paul Hart (PH) – Lancaster City Council
- Ken Murray (KM) – Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)
- Kate Houlden (KH) – Like Technologies
- Daniel Braithwaite (DB) – Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Abi Lucy-Lloyd (ALL) – Lancaster University

2. Introductions

- Mike Davies introduced himself as Heysham 1 (HY1) Station Director (SD), and meeting chair, welcomed everyone and opened the in-person meeting.
- Andy Bulloch (AB) introduced himself as Heysham 2 (HY2) Plant Manager and Acting Station Director. Reiterated that Ian Glaves retired as PM last year and explained he has been in the role since June.

3. Safety message

- MD delivered the safety message about operational excellence.
- MD said he was asked in a forum recently, what he was most proud of it. He said it is the support that we get from the community and working together with our stakeholders to push the case for new nuclear.
- The support that we get from our community, including the attendees at this meeting is the reason that we have a good reputation. We need to be excellent to deliver for our neighbours and your positive engagement doesn't go unnoticed.

4. Apologies for absence

- MD stated a number of apologies had been received and that these would be tied up in the minutes.

Apologies received from:

- Carla Brayshaw – Aqua Engineering
- Roger Cleet – Lancaster City Council
- Mo Kelly – Local resident
- Sally Macalpine – Country Land and Business Association
- Jon Powell – Lancaster University
- Mark Prada – Local Choice Magazine
- Russell Walsh – Lancashire County Council
- Steven Wood – University of Cumbria

5. Actions from last meeting

- Newly elected County Councillors have been added to membership. Good to see Graeme here today.
- Update on National Grid and station lifecycle planning to be provided at a future meeting

6. Station Directors' (SD) reports

Heysham 1 Station Director's report: Mike Davies – HY1 Station Director

Safety

- Since the last LCLC meeting our top tier safety performance has been positive with zero reportable environmental events, nuclear events or radiological events.
- There was one very minor fire ignition event. For context, a flame of any size is reported and, on this occasion, the flame was the size of a thumb nail. It occurred when we were removing bitumen from a transformer terminal box, and it was fully contained within the steel terminal box.
- We are coming to the end of a busy statutory outage, our outage periods mean extra people on site and more hours worked. Our outage safety performance is high, with only a handful of minor injuries.
- Since the last meeting, there have been three minor accident book entries. All our accidents and near misses are thoroughly investigated with rigour dependent on the significance of the event.
- Last year, we invested £600k in inspections and maintenance to the external cladding that make the Heysham stations so distinctive,
- There have been no top tier environmental events since the last meeting, and 13 years since the last environmental event. We remain committed to maintaining this high standard.
- Our overall environmental performance has been positive, but we have had a few challenges this year.
- In June, we experienced a localised leak in a section of buried steel foul waterpipes that had been relined in 2023. Although this was disappointing, the issue was clearly understood and has since been rectified.
- We identified and repaired refrigerant leaks on chiller systems, and we continue to strengthen our F-gas management arrangements through self-assessment and benchmarking against other sites.
- There have been no significant radiological safety incidents on site in 2025 and the total collective radiation dose to workers remains on target.

Operational events

- In July, slightly elevated CO₂ levels were detected in a controlled area, prompting an operational alert. The source was traced to a clean supply line, which was isolated. The area was confirmed safe, and corrective actions were implemented.
- In August, R1 automatically shut down during restart due to a misaligned safety key. No faults occurred, and the reactor returned to service after an amendment to the operating instructions and adding clearer markings to prevent recurrence.
- In September, R1 came offline due to an electrical fault caused by a transformer component. The part was replaced, and the reactor restarted. Temporary power loss to some security equipment caused by the fault was managed with contingency plans.

Emergency preparedness

- Since the last LCLC we've successfully demonstrated three shift exercises, which are an opportunity for our 250+ emergency responders to train and apply learnings to their roles
- In January, we have our Level 2 ONR demonstration which will test the Offsite Emergency Plan, a joint Peer-Assessed demonstration and an LC11 inspection, followed by further shift exercises.
- We are investing more than £100k in emergency equipment next year and will be donating some of our retired fire fighting PPE to an international fire and rescue charity in need of equipment.

Generation / outages

- In September our board of directors decided that Heysham 1, as well as our sister station Hartlepool would be given a 12-month extension to their current generating life. This has moved the end of generation date from March 2027 to March 2028. This is great news, and we have aspirations to extend this further, but this will depend on inspection results and regulatory approvals.
- Overall, we are behind our generation plan, due to the operational issues covered at the last meeting, but we are looking to deliver around 5.4TWh by the end of the year.

Key visits since the last LCLC

- ONR start-up meeting, which is a formal regulatory engagement held before permitting a nuclear reactor to return to service following a statutory outage.
- We had our annual review of safety with the ONR and EA. This is where the station and regulators share perspectives on current safety and performance of the site and look ahead to next year and beyond
- Cat Smith MP for Lancaster and Wyre visited the site for a tour as part of our engagement with MPs whose constituencies neighbour our sites. She met with apprentices, trade union reps and managers.

People

- HY1 continues to recruit. We're supporting early careers pipelines with our recent campaign for a variety of different industrial placements across the station
- We are working on a Maintenance Technician apprentice recruitment campaign, involving an open day.
- On site, we've been focussing on wellbeing and inclusion, working with community organisations including Andy's Man Club, the local NHS smoke free group, Age UK Lancashire and a local menopause specialist.

Community and outreach

- MD referred to pre-circulated community report and welcomed comments and feedback.
- 2661 people (336 groups) have been welcomed for a tour at the Visitor Centre in 2025.
- Each year the stations collectively contribute £20k to local charities and good causes.
- We've supported a number of events and organisations since the last meeting, including an inter-schools athletics day, a STEM robotics club, the Blossom Toy Appeal and the Heysham Village Christmas Lights

Questions

- LB asked about the results of the trepanning inspections. MD explained the samples were sent off for evaluation and we are only just getting the results through from the samples taken in February. Results are expected to take six to seven months as an estimate.
- MD added Hartlepool had their samples taken slightly earlier than Heysham 1, so have had more results through. Those results have been slightly better than expected, which support our safety case models.
- LB said she'd seen on the Daily Plant Status that R1 has been running on a reduced load for a while. Why?
- MD said this is due to the sea discharge temperature pick up limits. We have found a build-up of silt in the condenser tubes. We will clean the condensers during our re-fuelling outage in February.
- GA asked is dredging helping? MD said It certainly helps and prolongs the lifespan of our infrastructure.
- AG asked if a presentation on trepanning and inspections could be given at a future meeting. **ACTION**
- AG asked how many apprentices we have. MD explained that in EDF's apprentice scheme there are around 40 apprentices. There are six on Heysham 1 and six on Heysham 2. Across the two sites we also have eight industrial placements and a number of people employed on the graduate scheme.

Heysham 2 Station Director's report: Andy Bulloch

Safety

- Since the last LCLC meeting our top tier safety performance has been positive with zero reportable fire ignition events, nuclear events or radiological events.
- Unfortunately, there was one top tier environmental event, where no actual harm to the environment was caused and there was one reportable personal injury.
- 11 accident book entries have been recorded since our last meeting in May, most of a minor nature.
- On one occasion, a technician burnt their hand on hot pipework, which had had its thermal insulation removed to allow an in-service inspection. The burn was approx. the size of a 50p coin. This event triggered an investigation, and corrective actions have been put in place to prevent re-occurrence.
- Since our last meeting, we have had one high potential event where a contract partner working at height entered a controlled area and forgot to clip his harness back on after collecting a toolbox.

Operational events

- In June, R8 briefly entered technical specification conditions to address some dome pressure signals that were unavailable during planned work. These signals, which monitor pressure inside the reactor dome, were restored the same day. We are investigating and will share findings with ONR.
- In August load was being reduced in preparation for a planned shutdown. Just prior to the shutdown the steam driven main boiler feed pump (MBFP) experienced a sudden degradation in performance such that boiler outlet temperatures rose and before the control room personnel could enact procedures to change over to the electrical driven start and standby boiler feed pumps, the boiler outlet temperatures rose to a level where the reactor protection systems operated and automatically shut down the reactor.
- Initial investigation has indicated mechanical failure of the MBFP resulting in debris being fed forward into the boiler feed system. Although an extensive program of cleaning valves and pipework took place there are inaccessible areas in the feed pipework where debris could still be present.
- The reactor was started up again in September and with careful monitoring during the start-up phases further debris was detected migrating onto the boiler control valves. The reactor was manually shutdown and further cleaning and flushing carried out. The reactor was returned to service on the 10th of October.
- In August we identified inaccuracies of a drawing which led to incorrect monitoring for an isolated tube
- At all times the correct flow and cooling was maintained in the pressure vessel cooling system. The inaccuracies have been corrected, and an adverse condition investigation has been completed

Other key events

- In July, we were visited by the World Association of Nuclear Organisations (WANO) for our three-yearly peer-review. Over 20 delegates from nuclear stations from all over the world conducted the review.
- The team spent nearly two full weeks out on the plant carrying out observations and spent many hours interviewing a huge amount of people. Team Heysham 2 was praised for their open and honest approach and strong willingness to learn and improve. The Heysham 2 WANO Peer Review concluded today with five areas for improvement (AFIs) and five strengths.
- Our next significant visit will be the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) follow-up visit in January 2026. This is led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) requested on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)

Emergency Preparedness

- The day after the last LCLC, we carried out our ONR-evaluated Level 1 Exercise Athena. Overall feedback was good, but we were given a key area for improvement around casualty management and fire response.
- Over the last five months we've embedded an improvement programme to develop in these areas.
- The programme included the use of an external medical training company to drive our casualty handling, and we saw improvements in our response. We've worked with our regulators ONR, as well as our internal Independent Nuclear Assessment and fleet teams to ensure continued improvement going forward.
- Our exercise training season is complete, with the successful demonstration of all shift training exercises completed between August and October 2025. Over 300 staff participated to help deliver these exercises and we garnered some valuable insights and feedback that will help us continue to strive for excellence.
- We continue to invest in our emergency facilities; this year we've invested in new firefighting PPE, additional casualty handling, first aid training and further training FRECO3 first aid bags. We've also updated our portable low-pressure pumps that can help us fight fires and dewater in storm conditions and we've commenced a programme to further utilise the space in our emergency garages.
- Our emergency response is very important to us at the Heysham sites, and we continue to invest in our ability to respond to events, protect the public and the environment and we continue to work closely with our Lancashire Resilience Forum colleagues to do this.
- We are also looking forward to hosting the Off-Site Nuclear Familiarisation Training on the 8th of January 2026 in preparation for the Level 2 exercise.

Zero Harm

- Each year we have a Zero-Harm week. This year, the event commenced with an ex SAS British Special Forces speaker Colin McLaughlin who came and spoke to station staff about his experiences in planning, leadership, teamwork and the parallels with working in the nuclear industry.
- This was followed by a two-day event with stands focussing on wellbeing, security (including cyber security), fire safety, emergency response and radiological protection,

Wellbeing

- Wellbeing of our staff and contractors continues to be a focus for us and is central to our health and safety strategy. Since May, we have delivered a range of initiatives to support physical and mental health.
- We marked Men's Health Week with an awareness event in the canteen
- In September, we hosted an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) awareness session to ensure everyone understands the confidential support available and how to access it.
- We also rolled out our first cohort of Leading with Wellbeing in Mind for leaders, delivered in partnership with Headtorch, equipping managers with tools to foster a positive wellbeing culture.
- Our partnership with Andy's Man Club remains strong, with their quarterly on-site presence continuing to make a meaningful impact in promoting men's mental health and suicide prevention.
- In addition, we supported National Inclusion Week by promoting fleet initiatives that reinforce our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

People

- Since our last meeting, six apprenticeships successfully started in September 2025, as well as six industrial placements working across a number of on-site teams.
- There has also been the successful recruitment of three Operations Technicians, four Operations Engineers, one Environmental Safety Technician and one Contract Manager. We are currently recruiting a Shift Security Guard too.

Outages

- Reactor Outages are now complete for 2025.
- Unit 8 was taken offline in September for its graphite inspection outage. It returned to service early in October after 13 channels of inspection were carried out. The results of these inspections were deemed to be in line with our expectations and current safety case.
- The next Refuelling Outage for Reactor 8 commences at the start of January 2026.
- The next Graphite Inspection Outage for Reactor 7 commences at the end of January 2026.

Generation

- So far in 2025 Heysham 2 has generated 5.4TWh
- Last year we passed the 300TWh, which means that since we began in 1988, Heysham 2 has produced the equivalent of enough electricity to power every home in Lancashire for over 150 years.
- In January 2026 we will pass the record for lifetime generation for a UK nuclear power plant, currently held by another EDF site Hinkley Point B at 311TWh.

Questions

- PH asked the reason for the main boiler feed pump failure. AB explained that we are currently still investigating the cause of the fault, but that rigorous testing was completed before installation.
- AG stated there seems to be a number of human errors raised as issues, e.g. drawings and spreadsheets. How is this being tackled? SB explained that the spreadsheet involved was a station spreadsheet, which has since been corrected. AB explained that we are continuously carrying out human performance investigations to mitigate similar errors in future.

7. Environment Agency (EA) – Site inspectors’ reports

- JD (EA) explained DB (HY1) is unable to attend and introduced Louise Moysan (LM) who is currently in training. He asked if everyone had read the pre-circulated report, gave a verbal summary and highlighted things of note. Questions were welcomed.
- MD thanked EA for the training provided by their leadership team.

8. Lancashire County Council (LCC) – Emergency planning

- KBL explained CC was unable to attend but referred to the pre-circulated report and said CC is happy to take any questions via email after the meeting.
- KBL explained Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council have a good working relationship on site issues including traffic due to emergency roadworks. KM asked for up to date council contact details.
- Preparing for the Level 2 Exercise and considering ways to challenge participants and create realism.

9. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Site inspectors’ reports

- NB and SN (ONR) referred to the pre-circulated reports. They both gave a verbal summary of the key points within the reports, most of which was covered by the SDs. Questions were welcomed.
- SN was asked about the Semi-Urban Population Density Criteria highlighted in the Fingleton report, of which she gave a brief overview and explained it is with govt to decide whether to accept the recommendations.

10. AOB

- KM (CNC) introduced himself and said he is happy to be at the meeting. He gave a quick overview of CNC's role and urged anyone who notices anything, not to be afraid to approach them.
- A more in-depth update from CNC at a future meeting was suggested.

11. Review of actions from this meeting

- Consider alternative locations in the community to hold LCLC meetings
- Use visuals to explain technical issues at a future meeting
- Presentation on trepanning and inspections to be given at a future meeting
- Explore possibility of an education site visit for new councillors

12. Next meeting

- Next meeting to be confirmed. Attendees thanked and meeting closed.