



## **Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group**

### **AGENDA**

**Agenda for the SSG meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 March 2026**

**Annan Athletic Football Club  
Galabank  
North Street  
Annan  
DG12 5DG**

- 
- 1. (10:00 – 10:02) Chairman's welcome**
  - 2. (10:03 – 10:05) Announcements and apologies (*including any Declarations of Interest*)**
  - 3. (10:06 – 10:08) Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**
  - 4. (10:09 – 10:29) Chapelcross Site Director's Report (*including update on NRS Socio-Economic Scheme*)- *Richard Murray, Chapelcross Site Director.***
  - 5. (10:30 – 11:00) NRS Update – *Bill Hamilton***
  - 6. (11:01– 11:35) Other reports from SSG bodies - ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government.**
  - 7. (11:36 – 11:38) External Meetings and Invitations.**
  - 8. (11:39– 11:49) CX Project Update - *Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead*  
*SoSE Update - Donna Mounce***

**9. (11:50 – 11:51) Any Other Business**

**10. (11:52 – 12:00) Public Forum**

**Next Meetings**

**26 August**

**4 November**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CHAPELCROSS STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
HELD AT ANNAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB, ANNAN  
WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2025**

**Attendance/Apologies list**

**Attendance**

|                          |                                                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE | Annandale East and Eskdale (Chair)                        |
| Cllr George Jamieson     | Annandale South (Vice Chair)                              |
| Cllr Sean Marshall       | Dumfries & Galloway Council                               |
| Willie McNairn           | 2km Resident Representative                               |
| Carol Midwood            | Federation of Community Councils/Canonbie and District CC |
| Peter Dreghorn           | Restoring Annan's Waters                                  |
| Emilie Wardhaugh         | Galloway Fisheries Trust                                  |

**Operators and Officers**

|                 |                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Claire Aitken   | NRS                                            |
| Bill Hamilton   | NRS                                            |
| Richard Murray  | Site Director, Chapelcross                     |
| David Wallace   | NDA                                            |
| Georgia Irving  | NRS                                            |
| Helen Emberson  | Dumfries & Galloway Council, CX Programme Lead |
| Jaime Nicholson | Dumfries & Galloway Council                    |
| Max Anderson    | GA Consultants                                 |
| Neil MacGregor  | SOSE                                           |
| Matthew Dent    | Minute Taker                                   |

**Apologies**

|                       |                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| David Stone           | SEPA                                   |
| Peter Hughes          | ONR                                    |
| Neil Carruthers       | Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council |
| Donna Mounce          | SOSE                                   |
| Diane Hamilton        | Scottish Government                    |
| Cllr Stephen Thompson | Councillor for Annandale North         |

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## **1. CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.01.

It was noted that David Wallace would be retiring on 31 December. The Chair expressed the thanks of the SSG to David Wallace.

## **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from David Stone, Peter Hughes, Neil Carruthers, Donna Mounce, Diane Hamilton, Ian Park and Cllr Stephen Thompson.

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Sean Marshall and seconded by Willie McNairn and were duly accepted.

Claire Aitken confirmed that there were some dates in February which had been suggested for the SSG site visit.

Claire Aitken confirmed that she had received a diagram of the new NRS reporting structure following the organisational restructure and would circulate it following the meeting.

Claire Aitken reported that the Ironside Farrah Masterplan had been circulated to SSG members.

Claire Aitken reported that Richard Murray's presentation would be uploaded to the SSG website following the meeting.

## **4. CHAPELCROSS SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Richard Murray (Site Director, Chapelcross)**

Richard Murray presented his update.

The total recordable injury rate had been 0.46, with no significant issues since the last SSG meeting. This would hopefully soon return to zero, as it was due to a slip reported in January. There had been no major audit findings during the period. There had been a successful security demonstration exercise, and annual reviews had been carried out with the ONR and SEPA, both of which had gone well.

7.18 tonnes of ILW had been retrieved, against a target for 2025/26 of 18.6 tonnes. 23 packages had been transferred to ISF, against a target of 39. 12 of 16 LLW consignments had been completed, with another planned for the next few weeks. The reactor 4 south face cladding and glazing had been completed at the end of May. The potable water project had been finished, with a supply now available to the site. The design assessment review 4 for the pond skip enablers had been completed.

Recruitment on site was very busy. Two new EC&I technicians had started, alongside a lead team administrator, systems engineers and two new high-activity waste engineers. There had been a number of internal promotions, and the age demographic had shifted. NDA and NRS were undergoing a mutually agreed voluntary exit programme, and over the last six weeks CX staff had been asked whether anybody wanted to leave through that. There had been some interest, and it was anticipated people would leave.

Teams had been busy dismantling pipework from process lines, by clamping shut the pipes and cutting them, to avoid release of tritium. The trialling work on this had demonstrated that

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it could be done whilst managing the associated hazards. The team had been doing exceptionally well.

There had been knowledge sharing with UKAEA around decommissioning the fusion facility at JET. There had been visits to CX, to explore common issues between the two decommissioning projects.

Work was taking place on the Zeolite skips which had been used to scrub caesium from the pond water, and which were being removed from the pond at present. Six had been removed to date, which was not the pace which had been envisioned. The removal was not the issue, but rather the grounding area and the drying time. There had been learnings from the six packages so far, around how they behaved and how much off-gassing was happening. A plan had been arrived at to move more quickly going forward. NRS was working with a company called NSG on skip removal with a mock-up pond to trial different approaches to skip removal. Sludge had also been removed from the pond.

The full design review report had been received for the cooling towers. The concrete had been sampled and there was enough to go to the market with a functional specification outlining that no high-gauge runoff water was wanted in the future. The remediation specialists could then come forward with their proposals. Market engagement would start early in 2026.

Low-level waste was still being moved offsite. There were a number of problematic areas, from asbestos to contaminated sludges, but the legacy waste programme was well underway with 85% of legacy waste dealt with

The reactor cladding and glazing was the most visible project at present. The south faces had been completed, with the east and west faces underway. Building the scaffolds had been quite straightforward, but the trouble had been with the wind loading; stabilising it had involved going into the centre of the reactor building. The first full elevation was now complete, and the bulk of the power had been isolated from the reactor buildings, with a very simple electrical overlay system installed.

The next phase of work would be removal of the blower house louvres and the reactor building electrical installation. There were also roof repairs after damage from a number of storms.

The Chair noted there had been an SSG chairs and vice-chairs meeting in the previous week discussing the ONR reducing the number of site visits, which was important to the SSG. He asked whether any conversations had taken place with the ONR. Richard Murray explained that six weeks previously there had been a large meeting with the ONR. The deciding factor was the level of risk. CX no longer had any mechanism to cause a chain reaction on the site which could push any contaminated materials across the site boundary, so the hazard to the external environment and the public was significantly reduced. There was still a lot of asbestos on the site, which was probably a bigger hazard than anything nuclear onsite.

George Jamieson welcomed the collaboration and knowledge transfer and queried how much was and was not known about future decommissioning. Richard Murray said CX had gathered a great amount of information and would programme its approach to be learned from. George Jamieson noted the need to convince the public that nuclear power should be embraced, that decommissioning was sound and that enough was known about the consequences of nuclear power. Richard Murray noted that historically power stations had been put up very quickly in the late 1950s, with decommissioning as an afterthought. Now there had to be a comprehensive decommissioning plan within the initial design. George Jamieson said going forward communications needed to be candid to provide reassurance, and the worst possible outcome was an information vacuum. Sean Marshall noted that decommissioning was a journey and was much improved.

Sean Marshall queried the approach with the remediation around the cooling towers. Richard Murray explained that the intention was to go to the market with the desired outcome. Sean Marshall queried the exit strategy across NRS, and the criteria around savings. Richard Murray said there were criteria for how much savings contributed to the overall programme. By the time he came back to the SSG in March he would have more detail. Sean Marshall

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said he had heard that the CX charity fund would be winding up, which had put hundreds of thousands into the community. Richard Murray said it was a TU-run scheme, and there had been a lack of volunteers to run it going forward.

Willie McNairn noted that, in 2023, NRS had said there would be consultation on a solar farm, which would be 10MW with 4MW battery storage. This had been consulted on six weeks earlier. Willie McNairn asked whether NRS had been involved in this. Richard Murray said Green Energy International ran the consultation, and the solar farm was being built on NRS's site licensed area, with the land leased to Green Energy International. Willie McNairn stated that in April 2023 it had been indicated it was for CX's benefit. Richard Murray confirmed the bulk was for CX's benefit. Willie McNairn noted that now it was looking at 50MW to power 12,000 houses. Richard Murray clarified there was not 50MW on the site. It was only a 10MW facility. Willie McNairn said this was not what had been consulted on. Claire Aitken said that a copy of what was provided at the consultation could be found

**ACTION: Claire Aitken to secure a copy of what had been provided in the solar farm consultation.**

Carol Midwood noted that Richard Murray had spoken about crimping the pipes to stop something from being released. The Chair clarified it had been tritium. Carol Midwood queried what happened to the pipes after they had been cut. Richard Murray explained that they went into drums, which were welded shut and placed into the storage facility. Within 130 years they would become low-level waste.

## 5. NDA UPDATE

### A. David Wallace (NDA)

David Wallace's report was taken as read.

The NDA chief executive, David Peattie, had announced he would be standing down after 10 years in March 2027. It usually took around a year to recruit a new chief executive. This process had started.

The strategy 5 consultation had closed at the end of September, with 360 submissions received. The team were reviewing these submissions, and feedback would be issued in the new year.

An invitation for the next meeting of the cross-party group would be going out that day, for a meeting on 10 December at the Scottish Parliament from 18.00 to 20.00. The main topic would be a follow up to the skills topic discussed a year previously. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) had been invited back to present on what had been done since the last meeting. At the meeting a year ago, it had been announced there would be a Scottish skills hub on decommissioning and David Wallace had invited them to come and give an update. Decom Mission had also been invited. This meeting would also serve as the AGM. The co-convenor, Colin Smyth, had been suspended from the Scottish Parliament pending investigation, so a new chair and vice-chair would need to be elected. The Parliament would close down from 26 March until the elections on 6 May, so there was unlikely to be another cross-party group until Summer 2026.

The Festival of Politics in August had given a focus to what was happening in nuclear commissioning, with a presentation on 70 years of Dounreay.

The second SCORS meeting had taken place the previous week, both face-to-face and online. 22 local authorities had been represented. The NDA had committed to funding SCORS from February 2026 to February 2027, which provided some continuity, and the plan was to move to three meetings per year. The first one in 2026 would be in February.

Over the next five years, the NDA had received a record settlement of £21 billion. A number of presentations had been given to the Scottish Government, to provide reassurance around the Scottish sites. Scotland also had the AGR transfers, such as Hunterston B, which would

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come over to the NDA and NRS in April 2026. This was a ringfenced fund. 97-98% of staff requirements in terms of redeployment had been satisfied. Employees would be upskilled and retrained, to be redeployed to new roles when they moved over to NRS in April.

The Chair noted that skills would be needed in relation to decommissioning, via the colleges and universities. He queried the feedback on this from SDS. SDS had issued something in regional skills, which included CX and the green energy hub. Nothing had been seen yet on decommissioning, and David Wallace had expressed disappointment on this. This would be something which would be queried with them in December.

George Jamieson noted that SDS sat at the top and needed partners to put work into action. Where work had been developed in agriculture, there had been collaboration with colleges and employers represented by NFU Scotland, which had led to action. David Wallace noted that eight or nine weeks earlier, SDS had facilitated a workshop on nuclear decommissioning, which had included Dumfries & Galloway College, Ayrshire College, and North Highland College.

Sean Marshall noted that the SSG had identified a massive opportunity for skill development, and it was disappointing that SDS had not made the most of this. It had also been on SCORS's agenda. Hopefully there would be movement on this.

Sean Marshall noted that, on the NDA strategy, the SSG secretariat had put forward a strong representation, as had SCORS. Claire Aitken noted that after the presentation from SCORS at the cross-party working group, it had been mentioned that not all local authorities were represented. She queried whether all local authorities had put forward a representative. David Wallace said all of them aside from North Ayrshire Council were represented. North Ayrshire Council was being pursued and claimed to be going through a process to elect a councillor to SCORS.

## **6. NRS UPDATE**

### **A. Bill Hamilton (NRS)**

Bill Hamilton presented his report.

The AGR transfer programme would see Hunterston B transfer in April. It had been an exemplar programme in terms of engagement with employees, trade unions, management and stakeholders. It was very important that the first transfer went well. The second site, Hinkley B, would be transferring in October.

The spending review had been more positive than had been anticipated. After Christmas there would be some communications around the business plan.

Sean Marshall noted the new reactors planned for Wylfa. Bill Hamilton noted that there were other potential sites, and the Secretary of State's announcement had also indicated that some sites in Scotland were being explored.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS FROM SSG BODIES**

### **ONR**

Claire Aitken reported that the ONR had submitted its report. The Chair noted that this would be taken as read. Claire Aitken noted that Peter Hughes had said that any comments or questions could go back to him directly.

### **SEPA**

Claire Aitken reported that SEPA had submitted its report. The Chair noted that this would be taken as read. Claire Aitken noted that David Stone had said that any comments or questions could go back to him directly.

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Sean Marshall said the variation to the SR permit had been awaited for two years. It would be beneficial to have a date for when the consultation would start, as it had been meant to start earlier in the year. Claire Aitken said the SSG could write to SEPA to ask this.

**ACTION: Claire Aitken to write to SEPA on behalf of the SSG to query when the SR permit variation consultation would start.**

### **Scottish Government**

Claire Aitken reported that Diane Hamilton had submitted her report, and any comments or questions could go back to her directly.

## **8. EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS**

The Chair noted that he and the Vice-Chair had attended the following meetings:

- A number of online meetings with the SSG chairs and vice-chairs. The most recent meeting had been looking at the West Cumbrian sites and their desire for a different setup.

Sean Marshall noted that at the last meeting the Chair had reported on consultation regarding the new rules for SSG constitutions. The Chair said all SSGs had responded to the consultation, and there would be a response in the New Year. Claire Aitken confirmed that she had submitted the CX SSG consultation response.

George Jamieson noted that he had been disappointed with the Sellafield representative and there had been acceptance that the situation had not improved. It was unfortunate that everyone was not in the same camp.

The Chair presumed that the next SSG chairs and vice-chairs meeting would be online. David Wallace said a decision had not been made. Face-to-face would probably continue.

## **9. CHAPELCROSS PROJECT UPDATE**

Helen Emberson presented the report.

In the previous year Dumfries & Galloway council had commissioned a development framework. At the time that had been published, Avison Young on behalf of the NDA had gone out to the market with an RFP process to understand the market interest. That process had concluded and reached a preferred development partner for 54 hectares of land at the north end of the site. On this occasion the NDA had agreed to a press release on the heads of terms. Helen Emberson introduced Max Anderson from GA Consultants, who wanted to present to the SSG at the next meeting.

Helen Emberson presented the press release. She explained that this multi-million-pound development with CX Power would generate hundreds of high-value jobs and attract skills and investment.

George Jamieson said it was important to manage expectations and have a credible pathway to developing the site and creating jobs. Helen Emberson confirmed that this was a major step forward and was credible, looking at the track record of CX Power. Sean Marshall noted that work was starting to happen, and he would welcome a presentation.

Max Anderson explained that GA Consultants was based in Annan, and the project was local to it. It had experience in energy and large infrastructure. Over the next 12 months it would be working with SOSE and Dumfries & Galloway Council to make the case. Sean Marshall queried the relationship with Global Mutual Properties. Max Anderson explained that CX Power was a combination of investors, GA Consultants and Global Mutual. GA Consultants was the delivery team, and Global Mutual would handle asset management and finance models.



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Following the CX Power update, Archie Dryburgh asked whether there would be a community benefit fund as part of the redevelopment of Chapelcross. Max responded that obviously at this time there will be community consultation and this will be brought up through that process.

### **SOSE UPDATE**

Neil MacGregor reported that most of the works on the front part of the site were done, with the exception of some minor drainage work and energising the substation. The application was quite complex but was expected to be submitted soon. The Chair noted that there would be a lot of consultation ongoing and noted that the SSG spoke for the local community.

Peter Dreghorn asked whether this project was to do with hydrogen manufacture. The Chair said it was not. Peter Dreghorn asked whether there were any details about the hydrogen project. The Chair said that information would be coming out over the next year.

Willie McNairn noted the SUDS tank at the bottom of Oaklands, where a problem had arisen because of the works done on the road, with a puddle having developed. Neil MacGregor explained that there was still some work to do, and the delay was with Scottish Water. The drain on that side of the road would likely be replaced.

The Chair asked whether as an area committee there could be a presentation to elected members for the area. George Jamieson agreed this would be very sensible.

### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **11. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present

**Next Meeting date: Claire Aitken would circulate dates for future meetings with the minutes.**

#### **Next Meetings**

**26 August**

**4 November**

# Actions from Chapelcross SSG Meetings

## ACTIONS FOLLOWING SSG MEETING 19.11.25

| ACTION                                                                                                                                     | DETAIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | STATUS   | DATE       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend – previous attempts to arrange had to be postponed. | <p><b>Site visit date has now been arranged.</b></p> <p><b>CA to email to SSG voting members to invite them to the site for a tour in February 2025.</b></p> <p><b>UPDATE – Due to site priorities, this visit by the SSG had to be rescheduled.</b></p> <p><b>New date confirmed – 25 March 2026.</b></p> | Ongoing  | 26.03.2026 |
| NRS restructure diagram                                                                                                                    | <b>A diagram of the new NRS reporting structure following the organisational restructure to be provided to the SSG</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     | Complete | 04.03.2026 |
| Ironside Farrah Masterplan to be circulated to SSG members                                                                                 | <b>SOSE has provided a copy of the Ironside Farrah report to SSG Members</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Complete | 13.11.2025 |
| Richard Murray's presentation to be sent to SSG members following the meeting                                                              | <b>A copy of the Site Director's presentation is uploaded to the SSG website following the meeting where it can be accessed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | Complete | 10.12.2025 |
| Claire to contact SEPA on behalf of the SSG                                                                                                | <b>Claire Aitken has written to SEPA on behalf of the SSG to query when the SR permit variation consultation would start.</b>                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing  |            |
| Claire to identify the details on the Elgin Energy solar proposal                                                                          | <b>Elgin Energy circulated information on their public consultation to all. This information event would clarify details on their proposed solar farm and representatives would speak to any individual with any concerns they had</b>                                                                     | Complete |            |
| Claire to arrange for the dates for all future SSG meetings to be circulated                                                               | <b>Dates for the all the 2026 meetings have now been shared.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Complete | 05.03.26   |



Office for  
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

## **Nuclear Restoration Services – Chapelcross**

# ONR site report

## Nuclear Restoration Services - Chapelcross

**Report for period:** 1 October – 31 December 2025

**Authored by:** Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by:** Deputy Head of Regulation Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste

**Issue:** 1

**Published:** January 2026

**Record reference:** 2026/463

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of our commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports).

Our site inspectors usually attend Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

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# 1. Inspections

## 1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspector made no inspections during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2025.

The ONR Security inspector inspected the site on the following date:

2 October 2025

## 2. Routine matters

### 2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- The Energy Act 2013;
- The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- Regulations made under HSWA74, for example, the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Chapelcross covered the following:

- emergency preparedness

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

### 2.2. Other work

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector held regular meetings with Chapelcross leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. Other routine matters discussed during this period included:

- Decommissioning progress on the site; and
- Recent site safety matters.

### 3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.



## 4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at [www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter](http://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter).

## 6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS  
Website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)  
Email: [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

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## Chapelcross Programme Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

| Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 18/02/2026 | Stage | Outline Business Case |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Progress this period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |            |       |                       |
| <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Chapelcross programme is focussed on developing the site into a high quality, green energy-focussed regional employment centre acting as a transformational project within the region. Conditional funding of £15.3m has been allocated from the Borderlands Growth Deal towards the project. Together with funding of £5.5m, committed by Dumfries and Galloway Council, the capital investment will be used to unlock the site for development.</p> <p><b>Strategic Development Partner</b></p> <p>Avison Young, land agent for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, released a Request for Proposal for the private sector to develop the northern area of the Chapelcross site. Responses were evaluated and a preferred development partner selected. Heads of Terms are agreed between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the chosen development partner, CX Power Ltd.</p> <p>A contract negotiation period is concluding that should see the partner in a Development Agreement with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in March. CX Power Ltd has commenced investigations on site, with more intrusive surveys planned once the contract is signed.</p> <p>CX Power Ltd will engage with the local community to share their plans for the site this summer.</p> <p><b>Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone Application</b></p> <p>In May 2025, the Council submitted an application to UK Government for the site at MoD Eastriggs to become an Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone, which includes the Chapelcross and Crichton University campuses. The Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) has welcomed any further updates.</p> <p>CX Power Ltd, plan to advance the development of a Data Centre and AI Infrastructure at the Chapelcross site, with an encouraging timeline.</p> <p>In November 2025, the UK Government announced that MoD Eastriggs has been identified as a potential site for an armament manufacturing facility. <a href="#">UK “building the factories of the future” as government launches next phase of new munitions and energetics factories - GOV.UK</a></p> <p>Given these developments, the council are working with partners to pivot the AI Growth Zone application, relocating the data centre to the Chapelcross site and moving the manufacturing and R&amp;D to the Eastriggs site. This substantial change also provides certainty for both the MoD and DSIT regarding deliverability and potential site commencement in 2027.</p> |            |       |                       |
| Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |       |                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NDA to conclude strategic developer partner contract</li> <li>CX Power Ltd will commence intrusive site investigations and gather data to inform delivery plans</li> <li>Engagement with UK Government for the revised Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone Application will continue</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |       |                       |

## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

### **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM**

#### Designation Direction for Decommissioning Hunterston B

The amended Designation Direction required to transfer the Hunterston B site from EDF to NRS for decommissioning, as required by the Energy Act 2004, has now been approved. The amended Direction was signed by Scottish and UK Ministers and laid at both the UK and Scottish Parliaments on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026, in preparation for the transfer of Hunterston B on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The amended Direction can be viewed online at;

[Directions for Hunterston B - GOV.UK](#)

#### NDA Strategy V

The work that Scottish Government were carrying out with the NDA on the development of their 2026 Strategy document, ensuring that Scottish Policy and practices are properly reflected, has now concluded. The Strategy was approved by UK and Scottish Ministers and laid at both Parliaments on 23 February 2026, in accordance with the terms of the Energy Act 2004. The Strategy has been published online and can be found at the link below;

[The NDA group Strategy Effective from March 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

#### Upcoming Scottish Elections

The Scottish Parliamentary elections are due to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2026. Special arrangements apply to the handling of government business in the six weeks prior to the election, from 26 March 2026, known as the pre-election period. During the pre- election period, the Scottish Government retains its responsibility to govern, and Ministers remain Ministers and in charge of their portfolios. Essential business will continue. However, decisions on matters of policy on which the next administration might wish to take a different view from the current administration will be postponed until after the election, provided that such postponement would not be detrimental to Scotland's interest or wasteful of public resources. Election guidance for Scottish Government, its Agencies and National Devolved Public Bodies has now been published and is available at the link below;

[Scottish Parliament Election: 7 May 2026, guidance for the Scottish Government, its agencies and National Devolved Public Bodies - gov.scot](#)

**Diane Hamilton**  
**Scottish Government**

## Chapelcross Energy Transition Zone (SOSE) Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

### Progress this period

#### Summary

Purchase of the former Zone 3 (17 acres) was successfully concluded in November 2023. Planning for roads, paths and drainage was granted in February 2025.

Hardies were appointed as contractors and completed the initial phase of roads and servicing works in April with the SUDS pond being completed in August. SPEN has installed the sub-stations and these are ready to be connected. Work continues with Scottish Water around drainage consents.

Green Cat Hydrogen is progressing a proposed development on 10 acres and has concluded its pre-planning consultation activity. They submitted a planning application for a green hydrogen generation facility in January 2026 and it was validated in February and is now available on the Council's planning portal.

The remaining land is currently being marketed by DM Hall and can be found at

[For Sale - Serviced Industrial plots, Chapelcross, Annan - DM Hall Chartered Surveyors - Local property knowledge, expertly delivered](#)

There has been good interest in the remaining land but as yet no formal offers.

#### Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Drainage works to be completed in the new financial year.
- Continue to work with interested parties to develop out the remaining plots.

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