

This is what nuclear can do for you

**A commentary on the social
and economic impact nuclear
investment can make across
the UK's nuclear regions.**



**Nuclear
Regions**
COLLABORATION

January 2026

Foreword

Few of us are strangers to the fact that nuclear will be an essential part of the future's low carbon energy mix- it will be crucial in establishing UK energy security and will be a powerful force behind our nation's Net Zero mission. However, we're here to say that nuclear is also about place and most importantly, people.

The UK's nuclear sector is upheld by expert and experienced nuclear supply chains, and communities who are willing to host nuclear sites and hubs of activity. Where and how we invest in and deploy nuclear will make an impact that will last for generations. It will sustain communities, enhance UK capability, create opportunities for local businesses, and ultimately, as we all hope, will inspire future generations to live and work in the regions that host nuclear across the UK.

In this publication, we're focusing on the people and places at the heart of UK nuclear, taking a look at how nuclear sector investment could be a catalyst for exciting transformation in regions that host nuclear activity. As the Nuclear Regions Collaboration, we bring together eight business cluster and supply chain organisations from across the UK's nuclear regions, and in this document, we'll be showcasing those unique perspectives on the social and economic impact of nuclear investment across the UK.

We've included direct responses to November's announcement that Wylfa has been selected to host the UK's first Small Modular Reactor power station, particularly from Wales Nuclear Forum and the North West Nuclear Arc, and we've then opened the floor to a more general consideration of how unique characteristics from each of our nuclear regions could shape how we view and undertake the delivery of social value as a result of nuclear investment.

We hope that this publication gives you a glimpse of what meaningful and transformative social value could look like, and how it could contribute to ensuring that being one of the UK's nuclear regions is a mark of pride, now and for generations to come.



Ruth Sellick

Chair, Nuclear Regions Collaboration





Spotlight on Wylfa

How can an announcement for new nuclear transform lives in North Wales and beyond?

13th November 2025

“The UK Government has today announced that Wylfa on Anglesey has been selected as the site of the UK’s first small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear power station, recognising the strong nuclear heritage and expertise of the area.

A part of the Industrial Strategy, this project is the first of its kind and expected to support over 3000 high quality jobs in the local community and represents an initial investment of £2.5bn in Northwest Wales.”

Rebecca Evans AS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
Energy and Planning, Welsh Government

Let's look at the story to date...

Anglesey and North Wales are long-standing nuclear host communities, dating back to the Magnox era of the 1960s through to 2015, with Wylfa and Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Stations. The Wylfa Newydd vision led by Horizon Nuclear Power (Hitachi), which began in 2009, was devastatingly halted in 2020 due to a lack of finance. The impact on the community, especially in North Anglesey, and on Horizon's workforce was profound, crushing hopes of a much-needed local economic revival.

November 2025's long-awaited and hugely welcomed announcement was made by the UK Government: Wylfa on Anglesey, North Wales, will be the UK's first "First-of-a-Kind" small modular reactor (SMR) new-build deployment site, initially hosting three Rolls-Royce SMRs, with the potential to accommodate up to eight units in total."

Each Rolls Royce SMR has the capacity to generate 470 MWe of low-carbon electricity, enough to power over one million homes per reactor. The announcement was made by senior political leaders from both Westminster and the Senedd, including the UK Prime Minister and the First Minister of Wales, at the world-class construction and engineering facilities of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai FE College on Anglesey, followed by a visit to the Wylfa site.

The UK Government, through Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N), has changed the landscape by owning the Wylfa site, following its purchase from Hitachi and by competitively selecting Rolls-Royce SMR as the technology partner. However, momentum is critical. Local employment and growth must be secured quickly, alongside opportunities for the local, Welsh and wider UK supply chain. The final phase of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) must be successfully completed within the year and a Final Investment Decision achieved to guarantee electricity generation from Wylfa by the mid-2030s. Open, effective and honest communication is essential, particularly with key stakeholders and, above all, the host community of Anglesey.

Today, thanks to GBE-Nuclear and Rolls-Royce SMR, there is renewed hope and optimism for a new dawn in nuclear development. This programme has the potential to deliver significant socio-economic regeneration, long term high-quality employment and energy innovation in a part of North Wales that desperately needs it; with the socioeconomic benefits also benefiting the wider region. Momentum, delivery and effective local communication are essential. The social value for the host community of the Wylfa RR SMR programme begins now.

What will be the social and economic impact of the Wylfa announcement?

As the location of the host community for the Wylfa project, the benefits of this development for Anglesey, the North Wales region and the wider Welsh supply chain are huge. Wales will host the first of a kind UK SMR and North Wales has the opportunity to become the centre of excellence for UK SMR technology, building the technical capability and expertise within the UK and supporting skills, supply chain and innovation within the sector.

This investment in Wylfa has the potential to deliver lasting benefits to Wales and the UK if it is implemented with a strong focus on social value. Great British Energy – Nuclear, Rolls-Royce SMR and their supply chains should lead by example by embedding good and best practice social value principles into procurement and delivery, with clear, contractually binding local and regional social value KPIs.

This approach would ensure that investment translates into local jobs, skills development, and meaningful opportunities for Welsh SMEs, supporting sustainable economic growth beyond the construction phase. By strengthening local supply chains and workforce capability, Wylfa can act as a catalyst for long term regional prosperity, in an area that traditionally under performs economically.

What's more, there is a strong precedent to build upon. During the Horizon Nuclear Power and Hitachi-GE development phase from 2015, similar principles were applied through proactive community engagement and the development of trusted relationships with the host community. Maintaining this focus on partnership, transparency, and accountability will be critical to securing and retaining the social licence to operate and ensuring the benefits of Wylfa investment are felt locally for generations.



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Wales Nuclear Forum

Wales is home to long standing nuclear host communities, and following the announcement for Wylfa, it will be one of the UK's nuclear trail blazers. Wales Nuclear Forum provides a gateway for local businesses and communities to benefit as the nation sets its nuclear ambitions into motion.

Experience

Wales's host communities have been at the forefront of nuclear for decades, notably at Wylfa on Anglesey, where plans include the deployment of up to three Rolls-Royce SMRs, the first of a kind for the UK. These reactors will sit alongside the continued decommissioning of the neighbouring original Wylfa site. Trawsfynydd is also an established nuclear host community, with a future vision that includes a medical research reactor, Project Arthur and other key potential sites suitable for hosting advanced nuclear reactors. As a lead-and-learn site, Trawsfynydd is undergoing continuous decommissioning with a recent £70m award for height reduction work, bringing innovation and opportunities to the region.

Capability

Welsh industry and people are playing a key role in building the new Hinkley Point C power station. More than 200 Welsh companies have won contracts on the project, including a £100 million contract to supply 200,000 tonnes of Welsh steel. Major suppliers are also in Bridgend, Newport and Cardiff and 1,000 of our workers live in Wales. Sizewell C have committed to a supply chain spend of £850m in the Welsh supply chain, building on the success seen at Hinkley Point C.

Wales has a strong and experienced energy workforce, with 16,500 people employed across the sector and a high degree of skills transferability to nuclear. In addition, 10,900 Welsh SMEs have the potential to support and supply the nuclear industry.

Skills

World-class further and higher education institutions in Wales already underpin and support the sector, including the Nuclear Futures Institute at Bangor University. A key unique selling point for Wales is the presence of two Freeports – the Anglesey Freeport and the Celtic Freeport, both offering tax-advantaged sites designed to maximise economic benefits for companies locating in the region. Anglesey and Trawsfynydd are also designated AI Growth Zones, which will be an increasingly important focus for the future nuclear sector.

What do you think collective social impact would look like both within your region and the UK as a whole?

- Early, effective and regular local community and stakeholder engagement that is proactive and honest.
- Ask the host community leaders – “What is important to you?” in order to make a positive socio-economic impact.
- Joint development of local and regional Jobs and Skills Plans with key stakeholders.
- Building on regional strengths and programmes to add value to regions and avoid duplication.
- Regional and national collaboration to promote the sharing of opportunities and ensuring regional and national strengths are capitalised and built on.

“The Wales Nuclear Forum is a must if you’re generally involved, or aspiring to be involved the nuclear sector. Even more so if you’re a Welsh business striving for opportunities on your own doorstep. A fantastic members forum that’s great value for money!”

Member company
Wales Nuclear Forum

Wales Nuclear Forum

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

Economic regeneration and job creation

Nuclear investment can help redress decades of socio-economic decline in host communities, particularly on Anglesey and across North Wales, through sustained economic investment and long-term, high-quality employment. To maximise local benefit, developer and supply-chain procurement models must be designed to enable meaningful participation by local and regional SMEs.

Local and regional jobs and skills:

A robust Local and Regional Jobs and Skills Plan is essential to align nuclear investment with existing education, training and workforce capability, supporting skills transfer, upskilling and long-term career pathways across the nuclear lifecycle.

Thriving and sustainable communities

Investment will support the reestablishment of resilient, sustainable communities by creating opportunities for local people to stay and work locally.

Welsh language and culture

Nuclear development must proactively protect and enhance the Welsh language and cultural identity through early engagement, comprehensive social and cultural impact assessments and appropriate mitigation measures.

Social licence to operate

Long term success depends on building a trusted and effective partnership between developers, host communities, Local Authorities and supply chain. This must be underpinned by transparency, accountability and sustained engagement.

Inclusive community benefit

A proactive, inclusive approach to community benefit should ensure that local communities experience tangible, long lasting improvements aligned with their priorities.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act

Nuclear investment should be fully embedded within the Act’s seven Wellbeing Goals and five Ways of Working; delivering social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits to the mutual advantage of communities, businesses and nuclear developers/operators.



**NORTH WEST
NUCLEAR ARC**

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North West Nuclear Arc

Together, the UK's nuclear regions can come together to demonstrate the power of the supply chain and socially accepting communities in underpinning our nuclear future. The North West Nuclear Arc is founded on that principle, spanning from North West Wales right through to Cumbria.

The North West Nuclear Arc (NWN) brings together government bodies, industry leaders and leading academic institutions in north west England and north Wales to create a shared vision for nuclear across both regions. NWN's aim is to advance nuclear-related technologies, research and infrastructure and to promote the role of nuclear as a key contributor to a mixed clean energy system, as well as its other economic and social benefits.

NWN provides a single point of contact for key stakeholders and can facilitate discussion across the sector through a targeted network of wider contacts within the UK Nuclear Regions Collaboration. NWN offers a ready-made means of coordinating and facilitating new nuclear investment into north Wales and the north of England.

It is unique in that it incorporates all the facilities and capabilities across the whole nuclear lifecycle; fuel enrichment and fabrication, generation and decommissioning and is committed to enabling next generation nuclear technology to help meet the UK's net zero and energy security ambitions.

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

Nuclear sites

NWN hosts the UK's most productive nuclear power station ever in Heysham (2), additional nuclear licensed sites in Wylfa and Trawsfynydd as well as a major decommissioning hub at Sellafield and nuclear fuel capabilities at Capenhurst and Springfields.

Decommissioning

Nowhere does decom like the North West Nuclear Arc! NWN hosts the most extensive fleet of nuclear sites being decommissioned including Wylfa's old site, Trawsfynydd and Sellafield. Sellafield is the largest nuclear decommissioning site in Europe, employing ~12,000 direct staff focused heavily on decommissioning, waste management and environmental restoration. Sellafield drives £1.8bn in annual supply chain through its decommissioning programme. Until the recent confirmation of SMR deployment at Wylfa, nuclear decommissioning was the primary activity sustaining the local nuclear workforce throughout the NWN geography, underpinning employment and delivering tangible economic value to host communities. It also played a critical role in maintaining the social licence to operate within those communities.



What could the North West Nuclear Arc offer the UK?

Innovation

Two of the largest nuclear university groups are within the NWNNA geography – the Nuclear Futures Institute at Bangor University and the Dalton Nuclear Institute at Manchester University. The University of Cumbria is also playing a central role within innovation in a consortium with the UK Atomic Energy Authority, University of Oxford and University of Manchester to develop a new nuclear robotics and AI cluster. Menai Science Park (M-SParc) on Anglesey is the home of innovation in Wales, supporting businesses across the region and future investments in projects such as Pioneer Park at Moorside could unlock significant socioeconomic benefits for West Cumbria and the wider NWNNA region by diversifying the local economy while building on the area's strong nuclear and low carbon focus.

Fuel

NWNNA is the only UK cluster that hosts the whole nuclear lifecycle including fuel enrichment and fabrication at Sellafield, Springfields and the Westlakes Science and Technology Park and Urenco's UK site at Capenhurst. Future investments in nuclear fuel could see the NWNNA region being the first to produce advanced nuclear fuel supporting hundreds of highly skilled jobs.

“As a UK region spanning the entire nuclear lifecycle, NWNNA views social value not as an add-on, but as a core responsibility. The UK's nuclear renaissance can deliver lasting legacies and socioeconomic benefits for communities, skills, people and places.”



Debbie Jones

Chair, North West Nuclear Arc



Social and economic impact outside Wales

Perspectives from other UK nuclear regions on how social value is currently delivered in their areas, what good looks like, and how a ripple effect of social value will be felt in their regions.

Take a look at responses on social value from other cluster and supply chain organisations within the UK Nuclear Regions Collaboration and discover the following:

- **What are the unique nuclear contexts across other parts of the UK?**
- **Experiences of social value delivery.**
- **How social value can be optimised in the UK's nuclear regions.**
- **How will investment at Wylfa be felt in other areas of the UK?**



Cumbria



North East England



North West England



Midlands Nuclear



East of England



South West England



BECBC
Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster

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Cumbria

Cumbria is a nuclear pioneer with a unique contribution to make to our nuclear future. BECBC is proud to represent one of UK nuclear's regional heartlands.

Previously home to the world's first commercial reactor at Calder Hall, Cumbria now hosts one of the largest and most complex nuclear sites in the world. West Cumbria in particular has been inherently shaped by nuclear activity and research at Sellafield since the dawn of the UK's nuclear age. Further down the coast, BAE Systems remains a critical hub of activity that underpins the nation's nuclear deterrent, and sites in Mid and South Copeland have been identified as possible host communities for Nuclear Waste Services' Geological Disposal Facility. Cumbria is therefore a region that epitomises some of the most diverse and critical nuclear activities being undertaken in the UK. This diversity and depth of regional capability is reflected in the industry-leading expertise and experience of its local supply chain, and in the social licence to operate inherent in its local communities.

It's not uncommon for people to see Cumbria as a region characterised solely by the nation's nuclear legacy. However, while at the forefront of the nation's most iconic clean-up challenges, Cumbria has also been identified as a region that will continue to be part of the UK's pioneering nuclear activities, not just for waste but also for new nuclear power generation. The Moorside site, adjacent to Sellafield has been an approved

site for nuclear development for years, and like a number of other designated nuclear sites across the UK has seen its fair share of ups and downs, particularly following the withdrawal of NuGen in 2018. Today however, the Moorside site has once more been released by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the development of an initial three Small Modular Reactors as part of what will be known as Pioneer Park.

It is BECBC's mission to create an environment for its company members to do business together in a way that benefits members and their communities. The cluster is proud to bring together a network of aspirational organisations across the energy sector supply chain delivering for business success and growth in Cumbria and beyond. The role our member companies have, and in turn our cluster has, in accelerating and welcoming nuclear investment in the region to the benefit of the wider UK is huge. BECBC's recent publication of a white paper on Cumbria's Four National Mission reflects this- visit www.becbusinesscluster.co.uk for more.

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

Nuclear investment in Cumbria will change people's lives. The region, its communities and supply chains have been deeply shaped by the UK's nuclear activities to date, and so continued and additional nuclear investment in Cumbria at any stage of the lifecycle will enable the local area to flourish and assert itself as a nuclear heartland in the context of the UK's new nuclear plans. Most likely representing one of the UK's most informed and experienced communities when it comes to nuclear, Cumbria is primed to receive this investment, with its local communities represented in groups such as the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group, bringing this strong experience to proactively approach and scrutinise nuclear activity in the area.

Continued investment in nuclear development in Cumbria will ensure that the region receives sustainable economic support that bridges nuclear legacy and new build activities to redress the socioeconomic imbalance that continues to rear its head in the region. This plays out in the form of some of the highest earners in the country, employed by nuclear companies, living alongside some of the nation's deepest pockets of deprivation. To date, the impact that nuclear investment at Sellafield has had on the community has been huge, most likely avoiding the local area falling into complete deprivation, and in many ways, the social value programmes and activities being undertaken by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estate and its supply chain can be used as a valuable lead-and-learn example for new nuclear investment in Cumbria and further afield. Programmes focused on sustainable social value that contributes to resilient economies, sustainable incomes, thriving communities, collective impact and supporting social value chains are transforming the way social value is delivered particularly on the West Coast. By leveraging the progress made by these programmes in working to avoid the 'sticking plaster' approach, which became a common output of more traditional CSR activities, Cumbria is ready to welcome new investment and embed it in a social value culture that focuses on listening and responding to community needs, seeking long-term and sustainable solutions to respond to these. Sustainable and socially responsible nuclear investment in Cumbria stands to significantly improve economic disparities, social wellbeing and the profile of the region's supply chains in a way that will allow Cumbria's communities to thrive, attract additional nuclear and non-nuclear investment both in nuclear and to be proud of being one of the UK's leading nuclear regions.

What do you think collective social impact would look like both within your region and the UK as a whole?

Maximising collaboration and consistency in social value delivery is key to delivering impacts that are meaningful and that leave a positive and enduring legacy. For Cumbria, collective social impact should hinge on harnessing the full power of nuclear investors, operators and supply chain to respond to the community's needs in a way that is sensitive, responsive and relevant. Through investment in legacy plans and operations in Cumbria, we have started to glimpse what this could look like on the ground. Over recent years, we have seen investment in local towns and facilities, for example the opening of a new business hub at Whitehaven Bus Station and the hot-off-the-press opening of a new immersive entertainment and education venue again in Whitehaven town centre. We are also seeing the

emergence of more collective and collaborative approach to supply chain social value activities, such as increasingly central co-ordination of school and academic engagements in the region, and centralised sources of requests from local third sector and community organisations. For Cumbria, social value needs to be delivered as a collective: the bigger the collective, the bigger the impact. Within our region we can build on a culture that aims to zero in on that collective approach, so community needs can be communicated easily to the right people and be responded to in the best way. The UK as a whole also stands to benefit from this approach as it holds the power to draw on the lessons and results of effective social value delivery across its rich and diverse nuclear regions to champion the life-changing potential of nuclear investment that focuses on people, places and purpose.

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa be felt in your region?

"As a business cluster operating in Cumbria, with a close relationship with both Wales Nuclear Forum and the North West Nuclear Arc, BECBC collaborates with colleagues in Wales to ensure shared learning that supports both communities to maximise investment from investments such as at Wylfa."

This type of collaboration, which recognises the unique value of differing experiences across the UK's nuclear regions, stands to ensure we support progress and maximise regional value in a way that uses previous experience to inform the future. The investment at Wylfa also stands to benefit our member companies working in the supply chain, as an investment at Wylfa and indeed in any of our nuclear regions promises to create a ripple that reaches other communities and supply chains. One of BECBC's key role as a regional business cluster is to ensure that ripple also reaches Cumbria. By recognising where the expertise of the Cumbrian supply chain can add value, we can also help to support the best possible outcomes in Wales."



Dianne Richardson

Chief Executive Officer, BECBC



NUCLEAR
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North East England

The North East of England has a proud industrial heritage with diverse capability born from industries such as ship building, steel production, and of course, nuclear.

When work started on Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station in 1969, it marked the start of a long association between North East England and nuclear power. The power station's construction and operation fostered cross-generational nuclear expertise and since it was connected to the grid in 1983, it has been part of community life in Teesside.

Alongside this is a huge nuclear engineering skills base and a highly skilled workforce capable of delivering nuclear projects across the UK, including power station construction, operation, life extension and decommissioning.

Amentum, for example, has bases in both Newcastle and Stockton-on-Tees, and has more than 300 employees in the region who support both national and international projects, including Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C.

Another example is Siemens Energy, which has a major strategic partnership with Rolls-Royce SMR (Small Modular Reactors). The company employs more than 500 people at its facility at the historic Parsons Works in Newcastle, and last year announced further investment and job creation plans in the region.

An industrial powerhouse

North East England has a proud industrial heritage. This was born from industries including shipbuilding, steel production, coal mining, oil & gas and chemicals, and now encompasses sectors such as subsea engineering, offshore renewables, carbon capture & storage, hydrogen, and advanced manufacturing. A host of nuclear-relevant skills, from fabrication and machining to infrastructure management and project delivery, are therefore part of the region's DNA. Combine this with the strength and resilience of the regional supply chain, and North East England is a cluster shaped to deliver the nuclear renaissance.

Connection and collaboration

North East England has a passion for collaboration and that has helped industries such as offshore renewables flourish in the region. That drive is also found in the nuclear sector, and it is helping to underpin the nuclear renaissance. To champion the industry, energy sector network NOF has formed the Nuclear North East England Stakeholder Group with participants including Amentum, Assystem, Cavendish Nuclear, Community Nuclear Power (CNP), Siemens Energy, X-energy, and the Nuclear Institute's North East Branch. NOF also organises the annual Nuclear North East England Conference and Exhibition, which is supported by the Nuclear Institute and the Nuclear Industry Association.

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

Nuclear investment will be transformative for the region, changing lives, improving job prospects, supporting skills development, strengthening the existing engineering and manufacturing community and boosting long-term economic growth. There are several key examples of this.

X-energy and Centrica

In 2025, X-energy and Centrica signed an agreement to deploy Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) in the UK with a preferred first power station at Hartlepool, targeted to come online in the mid-2030s.

The project will deliver at least £12.5 billion of lifetime economic value with the potential to create thousands of high quality, skilled jobs in construction locally, and hundreds more for 60 years of operations. The plant will generate enough clean power for up to 1.5 million homes with additional potential to provide high-temperature steam for new or existing industries.

Community Nuclear Power and Westinghouse

Community Nuclear Power, the UK's only independent SMR development company, is working with Westinghouse to deploy four AP300s on a site on the North Bank of the Tees. This will create hundreds of local job opportunities in the construction and operational phases. There will be a wider impact: the provision of clean, always-on energy, enabled by the AP300s, to Green Lizard's planned green energy, fuel and chemical park on Teesside, will support the manufacture of critical fuels including Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) as well as chemicals/intermediates. This is expected to create thousands of new jobs, as well as supply chain opportunities for regional SMEs.

Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station site

In September 2025, EDF confirmed a life extension to Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station until 2028 – this will secure hundreds of high-quality jobs. But the impact doesn't stop there. The eventual decommissioning of the site will create regional employment opportunities in a wide range of disciplines, as well as new opportunities across the supply chain.

Amentum

Amentum is engaging with SMEs in the regional supply chain to help them become 'nuclear ready', providing guidance which to help businesses to take advantage of the opportunities generated by new nuclear investment. This engagement has included a networking event in Middlesbrough, organised by NOF.

What do you think collective social impact would look like both within your region and the UK as a whole?

The development of the nuclear industry in North East England is creating a strong sense of regional purpose and collaboration. It's driving investment, innovation, and skills development, which in turn strengthens local communities and supports long-term economic resilience. This collective effort is positioning the region as a hub for clean energy and future-focused industries and is supported by key regional stakeholders, including The North East Combined Authority and Tees Valley Combined Authority. Increased investment in the nuclear sector is also opening up exciting career pathways for young people in the UK. From apprenticeships to advanced technical roles, the

industry is creating opportunities that combine stability with innovation. It's helping to retain talent in North East England and across the UK and is inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in engineering, science and sustainability. In North East England, education providers are positioned to support the nuclear renaissance. Hartlepool College of Further Education, for instance, last year hosted a landmark event organised by X-energy and Cavendish Nuclear, focusing on how businesses could support X-energy's proposed nuclear project in Hartlepool. With the college located just over two miles away from the proposed site, it is well placed to provide organisations involved in the project with their workforce for the future and create a pipeline of sustained employment. Another example is the work of Teesside University: it is working with the UK National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL) on a new project to explore how nuclear energy can be used to co-produce hydrogen, synthetic fuels, and heat for industrial and domestic applications. The project will help develop the skills required in achieving decarbonisation.

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa be felt in your region?

North East England is primed to support investment in Wylfa, with a highly skilled workforce embedded in the nuclear sector, and specialist companies able to support construction, manufacturing and operations. The region also has the expertise to support Rolls-Royce SMR (as evidenced by Siemens Energy's partnership). This could create new opportunities for companies in North East England, and support expansion and job creation in the region, with further benefits for local skills development.

“Social value should be at the heart of every decision. Beyond delivering energy solutions, the sector has the power to transform communities by investing in education, skills, and local supply chains. Building a legacy of opportunity and inclusion will ensure the benefits of nuclear development are felt for generations.”



Gary Riches

**Vice Principal, External Relations,
Hartlepool College of Further Education**





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North West England

The North West of England is the UK's powerhouse for nuclear expertise, innovation, economic impact – uniquely positioned as the country's most significant region for nuclear jobs, skills and industrial capability outside of Cumbria, with major clusters in Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, and Warrington at its core.

Largest Concentration of Nuclear Workforce

The North West is home to the highest concentration of nuclear employment in the UK, with more than 29,000 direct jobs in the sector – the largest regional nuclear workforce in the country. This reflects decades of sustained growth in civil nuclear activities, from fuel cycle services and decommissioning to advanced engineering and research. The scale and quality of this workforce underpin national programmes and provide a deep pool of specialised talent in engineering, science, regulation and project delivery.

A World-Class Supply Chain & Business Ecosystem

Across the region there are 178 nuclear-focused businesses, delivering cutting-edge engineering, manufacturing, scientific research and support services. The Birchwood Park nuclear hub in Warrington is at the epicentre of this network – bringing together over 30 organisations and more than 6,000 specialist professionals working on everything from new build and decommissioning to safety and risk assessment.

Leadership in R&D and Innovation

The North West hosts a disproportionate share of the UK's nuclear research capability, with internationally respected institutions such as the National Nuclear Laboratory, the Dalton Nuclear Institute and world-class facilities based around Birchwood Park and neighbouring clusters. These institutions attract leading vendors and support development in areas including advanced reactors, materials science and safety technology.

Comprehensive End-to-End Capability

Few places in the world match the North West's coverage of the full nuclear lifecycle – from fuel manufacture (at Capenhurst and Springfields), generation (Heysham), decommissioning and waste management, to R&D and regulatory expertise. This breadth gives the region a strategic advantage in supporting everything from conventional new build to SMR/AMR technologies.

Economic Impact and Future Growth

In 2024 the North West's nuclear sector contributed £5 billion in direct spend and £4.9 billion in GVA to the regional economy. With continued investment and forecast growth of ~49% by 2030, the region is poised to deliver significant future economic value and thousands of skilled jobs, reinforcing its role as a key driver of UK clean-energy transition.

North West England



**Nuclear
Regions**
COLLABORATION

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

The North West of England includes some of the most economically challenged communities in the UK as well as areas of strong productivity and skills. Nuclear investment across the region - from new build projects and SMRs to decommissioning and fuel cycle expansion - represents a generational opportunity to spread economic opportunity more widely, revitalise local economies and increase long-term prosperity in places that have historically struggled with job scarcity and low economic activity.

Nuclear projects deliver long-term, high-quality employment and supply-chain demand that act as anchors for regional labour markets. and high-skilled roles.

With the announcement of Wylfa in neighbouring North Wales hosting the first of the UK's SMR Fleet, using rolls Royce SMR, this brings additional opportunities for job creation, levelling up and further investment into advanced manufacturing and specialised nuclear science and engineering capabilities. Nuclear investment across the region - from new build projects and SMRs to decommissioning and fuel cycle expansion - represents a generational opportunity to spread economic opportunity more widely, revitalise local economies and increase long-term prosperity in places that have historically struggled with job scarcity and low economic activity. Nuclear projects deliver long-term, high-quality employment and supply-chain demand that act as anchors for regional labour markets.

Large projects such as Sizewell C are expected to create thousands of jobs, including many roles that can be accessed by North West companies and workers through design, engineering and manufacturing contracts. At peak construction, Sizewell C alone is forecast to support around 10,000 jobs and thousands more through its supply chain, including apprenticeships and high-skilled roles. These employment opportunities are especially significant for areas with pockets of deprivation - providing stable incomes, skills development and upward mobility.

Evidence shows that nuclear employment is often concentrated in rural, industrial and economically weaker areas where alternative high-wage opportunities are limited, helping to reverse patterns of out-migration and economic stagnation. In addition to direct jobs, nuclear investment stimulates local economic ecosystems. It boosts local business revenues through supply-chain contracts, increases demand for housing, services and amenities, and generates higher tax revenues that can be reinvested in community infrastructure. For example, industry reports highlight how Capenhurst's nuclear activities support local economic growth, skills, exports and community well-being in the North West.

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa be felt in your region?

Investment at Wylfa — now confirmed as the UK's first deployment site for Rolls-Royce Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) — represents a major milestone in the nation's clean energy strategy and will have positive economic and supply-chain effects that extend into the North West of England. In November 2025 the UK Government, through Great British Energy-Nuclear (GBE-N), announced that Wylfa on Anglesey will host three SMRs, backed by £2.5 billion of public investment, supporting up to 3,000 high-quality jobs at peak construction and laying the groundwork for a fleet-based nuclear future.

The North West is strategically positioned to contribute to and benefit from this programme because many of the engineering, manufacturing and project delivery skills required to realise the SMR project are already centred in the region. With world-class capability in advanced fabrication, precision engineering, systems integration and nuclear project management, the North West supply chain can provide essential components and services throughout the SMR delivery lifecycle, from early design and module manufacture to commissioning and long-term support. Participation in contract packages connected to Wylfa will help sustain and grow local firms, reinforcing the region's position as a nucleus of nuclear engineering excellence. Beyond direct contract work, North West communities will feel the ripple effects of long-term employment opportunities, wider regional supply-chain growth, and investment in skills and apprenticeships. This will help stimulate local economies, support high-quality careers in areas that have previously faced structural job challenges, and broaden prosperity by linking existing regional capabilities directly into a transformative national programme.

“The North West is the UK’s leading nuclear cluster — world-class in capability and global in reach, supporting over 29,000 direct nuclear jobs and generating nearly £5 billion in GVA for the regional economy.”



Rachel O'Donnell

Chair, Northern Nuclear Alliance



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Midlands Nuclear

Today, the Midlands is home to several pioneering nuclear and nuclear technology development projects. As one of the leading manufacturing centres in the UK, The Midlands has a unique capability to support the next generation of nuclear.

The Midlands is poised to become the heart of the UK's nuclear future, driving the next generation of commercial fusion and advanced fission technologies. With a 17% sector growth rate (sales) compared to the UK's 8% (2021-23) and £2.3 billion invested in nuclear R&D in 2019/20 alone, the Midlands is at the forefront of developing next-generation nuclear energy technologies including fusion, small and advanced modular reactors, and nuclear propulsion systems for space and submarines.

The region is home to several pioneering nuclear development projects. The Trent Supercluster in north Nottinghamshire is home to two multi-billion pound advanced fusion and fission projects at former coal-fired power plants. The STEP Fusion project at West Burton is one of only a handful of fusion prototype reactors being developed globally. Meanwhile, a few miles away at Cottam, EDF, Holtec and Tritax announced in September the UK's first SMR-powered 1GW AI data centre development. Meanwhile, Rolls Royce in Derby has seen a major expansion of its nuclear submarine programme following announcement of the AUKUS Pact and is doubling the size of its Raynesway manufacturing

site. Its subsidiary, Rolls Royce SMR, has also been selected as the Government's partner for the UK SMR programme. In Leicester, University of Leicester and National Nuclear Laboratory are collaborating at Space Park Leicester around nuclear power systems for space – with a spinout company Perpetual Atomix launched in 2024. University of Birmingham launched the UK's first High Flux Accelerator-Driven Neutron Facility in 2023 which is enabling groundbreaking research into Gen IV and fusion reactors. Finally, a 2025 regional siting study has shown that the Midlands has 21 viable locations for new nuclear power development across the region. The Midlands also has a world-class manufacturing base and dense supply chain. The region hosts 27% of all UK nuclear and nuclear-related businesses, 32% of UK welding businesses, 31% of UK forging businesses, and 23% of UK advanced process control/automation businesses. Major manufacturing and development assets include Laing O'Rourke's Centre of Excellence for Modern Methods of Construction at Explore Park Worksop, the Manufacturing Technology Centre at Warwick, Infinity Park Derby, the Bridge Advanced Materials and Engineering Centre in Lincoln, Space Park Leicester, and the Black Country Industrial Cluster in the West Midlands.

How do you see nuclear investment transforming communities in your local area?

Nuclear investment has the potential to be genuinely transformative for communities across the Midlands, supporting long-term economic resilience, inclusive growth and opportunity across both urban and rural areas. By creating sustained industrial demand cycles that span design, construction, operation and decommissioning, nuclear programmes provide stability that few other sectors can match. This long-term visibility supports resilient local economies by enabling SMEs and major employers alike to invest with confidence, diversify their activities and move into higher-value contracts within national and international nuclear supply chains.

Nuclear investment also underpins stable, high-quality careers in advanced science, engineering, construction and digital systems—offering secure, well-paid roles that support household stability and social mobility. By providing these opportunities locally, the sector helps retain talent and enables people to build lasting futures within their own communities. Moreover, flagship nuclear and fusion projects serve as powerful catalysts for STEM engagement, inspiring young people, prioritising skills development and demonstrating that world-class innovation is happening in the Midlands. This transformative potential is clearly illustrated by recent and ongoing developments in the Midlands. For instance, the STEP Programme is expected to support thousands of high-value jobs across engineering, construction, research, and operation. Estimates suggest around 6,500 full time jobs will be created at West Burton and adjacent business development sites. Meanwhile, the growth of Rolls Royce's nuclear activities, particularly its submarine programme, led to the establishment of the Nuclear Skills Academy in Derby in 2022 training 200 apprentices a year. It has also led to a doubling of its Raynesway manufacturing site and the creation of 1,170 new skilled jobs there.

What do you think effective 'collective social impact' would look like both within your region and the UK as a whole?

Effective collective social impact in the Midlands means aligning regional partners, education providers, industry and government around shared goals to deliver benefits that outlast any single project. This includes:

- Inclusive access to high-quality training and jobs for local residents, especially young people and under-represented groups;
- Community prosperity through inclusive employment, improved transport and digital connectivity, and long-term economic stability;
- Strong regional supply chains integrated into national nuclear deployment, improving SME competitiveness and resilience;
- Leadership in clean energy innovation, supporting the UK's net-zero transition while demonstrating energy security and environmental stewardship.

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa be felt in your region?

Investment at Wylfa would generate significant benefits for the Midlands through strengthened supply chains, skills development and national collaboration across the UK's nuclear regions. As one of the heartlands of the UK's nuclear manufacturing and engineering capability, the Midlands is well placed to support major projects such as Wylfa through the provision of components, advanced manufacturing, construction expertise and professional services. Increased demand from Wylfa would help anchor long-term order pipelines for regional SMEs and larger employers, supporting business growth, productivity and resilience.

The benefits would also be felt through skills and workforce development. Large-scale nuclear projects create national demand for a highly skilled, mobile workforce, and investment at Wylfa would reinforce the importance of shared standards in training, accreditation and career pathways. Wylfa investment would also accelerate innovation and learning across the nuclear sector. Lessons from delivery, community engagement and supply chain integration at Wylfa can inform future deployment models in the Midlands, including opportunities linked to next-generation nuclear technologies. In this way, Wylfa acts not only as a project in its own right, but as a catalyst for wider sector maturity. Ultimately, investment at Wylfa strengthens the case for a coordinated, UK-wide nuclear ecosystem, where regions such as the Midlands and North Wales work together to deliver energy security, net-zero objectives and long-term social value that extends far beyond individual sites.

“Nuclear builds directly on the Midlands’ strengths in engineering and manufacturing, turning industrial capability into skilled jobs and long-term economic security. When we invest here, we are not just investing in clean power, but in the productivity and resilience of communities for decades to come.”



Lord Ravensdale

Chair, Midlands Nuclear

[Click Here for more](#)

East of England

The East of England has a long nuclear heritage, hitting the headlines today with the upcoming construction of Sizewell C, but offering experience and expertise in nuclear that extends from new build to decommissioning, opening the door to the deployment of nuclear technologies extending beyond electricity generation.

What characterises the nuclear landscape in the East of England?

The East of England has supported nuclear since Sizewell A started construction in the early 1960's and continues to play a critical role in the UK's low carbon landscape, with Sizewell B and C set to produce a total of 4.4GW of electricity.

The operation of Sizewell B supports 650 directly employed staff, and upwards of 3,000 more in its wider supply chain. Sizewell C construction will support a further 70,000 jobs around the UK and contribute to an expected 22% uplift in Suffolk's GVA by 2050. The commitments of £4.4bn to be spent in the East through the construction of Sizewell C, along with the planned life extension programme of Sizewell B, bring investment and opportunities to the supply chain and communities across the East.

Our deep history of nuclear, twinned with the resurgence of wider sectors supporting the construction of Sizewell C, and the potential for nuclear technologies beyond generation, make the East of England a very exciting part of the UK for nuclear. Moreover, with the work to develop a supply chain and skills legacy from Sizewell C, we are actively contributing to the long-term positive impact nuclear can have on the whole of the UK.

How do you see nuclear investment transforming local communities in your area?

Investment in the East will build on a history of nuclear focus, increasing the skills pipeline, creating an established and effective supply chain and re-energising communities across the East of England. With a deep history across the energy spectrum, the ability of local people, companies, and communities to play a key role in the whole energy sector, including nuclear, mean that investment here has a real impact.

Building on our many port locations, increasing our focus on clean industrial growth, and bringing digital technology to the fore, alongside investment in nuclear would bring benefits to the whole of the UK, and would allow a keener focus on future nuclear projects in the East of England, be that generation on sites such as Bradwell or Dungeness, or alternative technologies across our freeports and heavy energy users as we de-carbonise industry.

Sizewell C will provide the groundwork for a lasting legacy from the nuclear sector, which can be further capitalised and grown from further and future investment in the East of England, benefiting people, communities and businesses from across the region.

What do you think effective ‘collective social impact’ would look like both within your region and for the UK as a whole?

Nuclear brings jobs, opportunity and wider reaching benefit to a hosting region. Giving opportunities for young people to work in well-paid, long-lasting jobs closer to home, and presenting skill development that is transferable to all industries. Businesses across the region, will be able to learn and grow from the nuclear sector, better positioning the East of England for all types of wider infrastructure needs, and all this whilst not damaging or changing our existing strengths as a region. Reducing unemployment, increasing wages and education levels, improving infrastructure... nuclear investment gives a huge return in the East of England

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa will be felt in your region?

With Sizewell B and C, we are building not only a supply chain to build the EPR on time and on budget, but also to rebuild the UK supply chain to be fitting of the UK resurgence in civil nuclear. Businesses improving and structuring for the nuclear sector with Sizewell in mind, will be best placed to support the build of the SMR programme, starting with Wylfa, and moving across the UK and into Europe. The East of England not only has strengths in nuclear, but also in export with our port infrastructure including Freeport East and Thames Freeport, offering attractive investment incentives and perfectly connected to Europe.

If you had one message for the sector on the subject of social value in the East of England, what would it be?

The East of England’s key message is that nuclear can and should be seen as a catalyst. It can not only provide well-paid, long-term jobs, but can provide so much more through opportunity for families and communities to grow and flourish in some of the hardest to reach parts of society, particularly in the East. Sizewell A started that legacy of transforming a region back in the 1960’s, and Sizewell C can and will do the same, so the more benefit nuclear can bring, the better.

“The nuclear sector presents immense opportunities for the East of England, with a number of decommissioning, generation and construction projects ongoing. These are live and impactful. This region has the supply chains, the skills base and the ambitions to drive forward the next generation of nuclear with SMRs, AMRs and the associated benefits from green hydrogen and sustainable fuels, truly bringing the wider energy contributions of our region to national prosperity, to the fore.”



Jess Asato

Co-Chair, APPG East of England
MP for Lowestoft



Pam Cox

Co-Chair, APPG East of England
MP for Colchester



South West England

Home to Hinkley Point C, the UK's largest current nuclear construction programme, the South West of England is helping to define what large scale new nuclear could look like for the UK, both in terms of technical capability and the delivery of social value.

A National Nuclear Cluster

The South West is home to Hinkley Point C, the UK's largest nuclear construction project and a once in a generation anchor for national energy security. The region offers full lifecycle capability across new build, operations, decommissioning, R&D, advanced manufacturing, digital and specialist services, making it one of the most complete nuclear ecosystems in the country.

A Resilient, High Value Economy

HPC is projected to deliver £18bn of value to the UK, with a major share retained in the South West. More than 1,300 regional businesses have already been involved, strengthening resilience and boosting competitiveness. The region's adjacent strengths in aerospace, defence, marine and digital further fuel cross sector innovation and economic stability.

High Quality Employment

HPC has supported 22,000+ jobs so far, with around 8,000 people on site at peak. The South West now has one of the UK's largest concentrations of nuclear skilled workers, spanning engineering, construction, project controls, digital, safety and environmental disciplines. Long term operations and decommissioning programmes provide multi decade employment and sustained career pathways.

A World Class Skills Pipeline

More than 1,300 apprentices have been trained through HPC, with thousands more supported by regional colleges and training centres. University College Somerset hosts the National College for Nuclear (Southern Hub), offering clear pathways from T Levels to degree apprenticeships and ensuring a future ready workforce for the region.

A Thriving Supply Chain

The South West has one of the UK's most mature nuclear supply chains, delivering precision manufacturing, digital engineering, environmental services and more. Local companies have secured £5bn+ in HPC contracts, driving growth, innovation and export potential. Strong cluster leadership through Nuclear South West provides visibility, coordination and market access.

Inspiring the Next Generation

High profile engineering projects and active STEM outreach raise aspirations across Somerset, Bristol and Gloucestershire. Thousands of young people engage annually through school partnerships, skills events and early career programmes. The visibility of world class engineering on their doorstep helps retain talent and build long term regional capability.

The Wider Impact of Nuclear Investment

Nuclear investment is transforming the South West, strengthening economies, building skills and creating confident, future ready communities. Major programmes like HPC generate multi decade demand for local suppliers, reinforce engineering and digital ecosystems, and give businesses the capability to compete nationally and internationally. Long term skills development is embedded through apprenticeships, T Levels and specialist centres such as UCS Cannington, creating a steady flow of highly skilled workers whose transferable capabilities benefit the wider economy. Investment also strengthens communities by improving infrastructure, supporting local services and sustaining growth for businesses across hospitality, transport and professional sectors.

Collective Social Impact & National Opportunity

Effective social impact requires industry, government, academia and communities to align around shared priorities, ensuring nuclear projects leave a legacy of stronger economies, better skills and more resilient communities. Regional clusters like Nuclear South West play a vital role in a UK wide framework for energy security and social value, spreading that wealth of knowledge and capability into supporting the UK's nuclear renaissance.

What do you think collective social impact would look like both within your region and the UK as a whole?

We have seen a significant uplift in the local economy for those communities close to the HPC construction site, areas that previously rated as some of our most deprived communities. Research undertaken has demonstrated that economic productivity is higher than the surrounding area with significantly increased business growth and a positive change in demographics that previously saw a large outward movement of young people from the area. Younger people are now finding opportunities to stay and develop their careers in Somerset and the local area close to Hinkley Point C has seen a 25% growth in young people aged 25-39—three times greater than the national average. The town of Bridgwater is seeing productivity levels 10% higher than surrounding towns, whilst the district around Hinkley Point C has seen an increase in the number of medium-sized companies that is ten-times higher than the South West region. This has been the result of many targeted interventions ranging from educational programmes through to physical assets and training facilities. In addition, the local community has been supported to mitigate some of the less tangible impacts of the project via work undertaken by the Somerset Community Foundation in building community projects. Lessons learnt from a very local level can be easily replicated to other new nuclear sites.

How do you think the benefit of investment in Wylfa be felt in your region?

The very first in a generation new nuclear reactor is currently being built in Somerset, which has heralded the new nuclear renaissance in the UK. NSW has a lot to offer Wylfa in terms of experience and expertise of how we have both supported the developer and the local communities to win jobs and contracts. That nucleus of expertise, capability, skills and knowledge must transition to other high value projects if we are to truly secure a transformational legacy from Hinkley.

“Social value in nuclear isn't an add on, it's the measure of success. Every contract, every skill, every innovation must leave communities stronger than before.”



Jay Bhart

Chair of Nuclear South West



This is what nuclear can do for you

Thank you to all our regional contributors and ongoing supporters.



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NORTHERN
NUCLEAR
ALLIANCE



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GENERATE

Unlimited opportunities in the East of England



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