EDF Torness Power Station

Minutes of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Torness local liaison committee held via Teams on 1 April 2026.

Members in attendance
Councillor Denis Dixon, City of Edinburgh Council
Clare Devlin, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor John Greenwell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Sandy Scott, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Aileen Orr, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Dianne Alexander, Midlothian Council
Scott Kennedy, East Lothian Council
Lee Wright, East Lothian Council
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council
Graeme Marsden, East Lothian Council
Lynn Crothers, East Lothian Council
Councillor Donna Collins, East Lothian Council
Jane Young, Midlothian Council
Suzi Fletcher, East Lammermuir Community Council
James Wyllie, National Farmers' Union for Scotland
Isabelle Watson, Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Claudio Ferreira, Fire Scotland
Mark Jackson, Police Scotland
Samaneh Nouraei, ONR
Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government
Andrew Lanigan, Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Paul Forrest, Torness Station Director
Alastair Brockie, Torness Technical and Safety Support Group
Ashleigh Dickson, Torness Community Liaison Officer
Fiona McCall, EDF External Communications Manager

664. Membership
Apologies for absence
Councillor Hal Osler, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Chas Booth, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Russel Imrie, Midlothian Council
MSP Paul McLennan East Lothian Council
Councillor Lyne Jardine, East Lothian Council
Jim Fraser, Scottish Borders Council
Kirsty McCrae, Scottish Ambulance Service
Quintin Donald, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
Kirsty Kiln, Borders Health
Ree Rolph, Dunbar Community Council

Members' replacements
Caroline Rodgers, East Lothian Council has left the LLC
Callum Sanderson replaces Calum Jefferies, Police Scotland
Clare Devlin, City of Edinburgh Council replaces Charles Veitch who has retired
Ree Rolph, Dunbar Community Council replaces Alasdair Swan
Claudio Ferreira, Fire Scotland replaces David Girrity

665. Minutes of previous meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee were approved and accepted as an accurate record.
The actions placed on the station from the previous meeting: Questions from Councillor Chas Booth were answered directly and a copy can be found in the minutes

666. Matters arising
None.

667. Station overview
Station Director, Paul Forrest gave an update on station performance. Looking back on 2025, we have a lot to be proud of. Torness officially generated 8,626 GWh of zero carbon electricity - enough to power 2.4 million homes. Not only did we meet our business plan, but we were also crowned the most productive zero carbon energy asset in Scotland's history since first connecting to the grid in 1988.

We did have two industrial safety accidents which Alastair Brockie will cover.

In February 2025, Torness strengthened its position as Scotland's most productive low carbon asset by reaching the milestone of 300 TWh (terawatt hours) of electricity generation. That is enough to power every home in Scotland for 36 years - almost the same length of time the station has been generating. The station has employed thousands of staff and contract partners over the years and have seen hundreds of millions of pounds invested into the local economy.

Currently have a statutory outage on. In January we took Unit 2 offline for a major maintenance period known as a statutory outage, which takes place every three years. This statutory outage is like an MOT for the unit, allowing essential work to be carried out that cannot take place while the reactor is at power. During the outage, workers are completing more than 12,500 separate tasks - each carefully planned during the last two years. Some of the largest jobs include a turbine rotor exchange, gas circulator exchanges and inspections, and graphite core inspections.

Around 800 additional workers have joined the 750 strong station team to deliver the outage.

Once we're finished the maintenance period, you enter a test and commissioning period, which lasts about 10 days after which we will return the unit to service.

Last summer Torness welcomed a distinguished team of 24 international experts for a WANO peer review - an intensive, collaborative process designed to benchmark our station's performance against the highest standards in the nuclear industry.

WANO is the World Association of Nuclear Operators. It aims to unite every company and country in the world which has an operating commercial nuclear power plant to achieve the highest possible standards of nuclear safety.

The visiting team - 24 professionals from 10 different countries, brought with them a wealth of experience - collectively having participated in over 180 peer reviews. Their mission: to observe, evaluate, and help us elevate our performance to the level of global excellence defined by WANO's performance objectives and criteria.

Over the three weeks, the team immersed themselves in our operations, reviewing our processes and performance data from the past three to four years. The feedback from the WANO team was very positive with recognition that Torness is a well-performing station, with a strong nuclear safety culture and engaged, open people.

The WANO team praised the transparency and enthusiasm of everyone they encountered. While they identified six "Areas for Improvement" (AFIs), these were not seen as shortcomings, but as stepping stones - clear, actionable opportunities to move from good to great and forming a roadmap toward our goal of becoming the "Best and last AGR power station" - a vision that aligns perfectly with our business plan priorities.

In addition to the AFIs, WANO also spotlighted three standout strengths - best practices that will now be shared across the global nuclear community.

During this outage we also carried out graphite inspections. Last September we carried out graphite inspections on Reactor 1. To remind you, graphite is the structural integrity of our core, and we are required to be able to demonstrate that our core could withstand a one in 10,000-year seismic event. In layman's terms, it is like a California-style seismic event, a kind that would measure six to seven on the Richter scale. The inspections are rigorous test.

The recent inspections in reactor two, which were just completed 3 weeks ago, have been very positive and support their lifetime ambitions to get to 2030 and perhaps beyond. Our current lifetime assessment is 2030. We do have

ambitions to go beyond that, but those ambitions will be factually based and inspection laid.

We continue to review that and to just give some perspective and life extensions beyond 2030 I think will be measured in single years, it won't be half decades. Torness is approaching the end of its generating life, and we will continue to inspect our core, and maintain Nuclear Safety as our overriding priority.

Mr Norman Hampshire: It is good news that the core is still in good order. Are you still able to operate at full capacity at this stage of life?

Mr Paul Forrest: In terms of engineering, we can't replace the core but can replace all other components. Our investment in our plant remains high -we're spending 30 million pound a year on this plant. If anything, operational performance remains high and is better than what it was in the 1990's.

Mr Denis Dixon: In your overview you mentioned that WANO gave you some improvements and recommendations. Could you give us some idea of what those improvements may be? Give us an example.

Mr Forrest: We are quite a complicated organisation, and we were given three main areas for improvement. The areas were about working closer together and using our processes more wisely to get better outputs. WANO did not highlight any safety concerns.

The first process they highlighted was management of work and that's how we get work done on the station, they thought we could be more efficient. The second was organisational learning, which is how we learn from events and feed it into future operations and third area was for us to be more ambitious. We already score in the upper decile in Europe, but they want us to strive to be better and be the best.

Mr Dixon: On the first one, the management side of things, how did you feel about that? Was it something you could fix quickly?

Mr Forrest: It can be emotional as we are a proud station, but WANO are invasive and they test us, which is welcomed in this industry. At the time it hurts but you must learn from it.

Ms Aileen Orr: As Councillor for East Berwickshire, the question I'm continuously asked is we have got all this wonderful energy coming from yourselves, but where is that energy going? Between you and the millions of wind turbines why are we paying more here than some people down south?

Mr Forrest: I will start by giving you some facts. In the UK price isn't regionalised, there was talk about regionalising it but that is a political decision, and it's something that we have no say in. The UK is spiking in prices just now due to the volatility in the oil and gas market and the UK have been a net importer of gas since 2003. Prior to 2003 we used to be a net exporter from fields in the North Sea, but now we are a net importer and we're one of the largest importers in Europe. In the UK we are reliant on LPG gas and that drives electricity prices. I could give you a pro-nuclear spin on that as I'm proud to be a nuclear operator and I see all the benefits that nuclear brings in terms of stability and prices and security and supply. The direct answer to your question is that the UK is subject to a gas prices, more so than continental Europe, who have got more of a nuclear base.

Ms Orr: I think people don't understand that I think a lot of people are now looking at nuclear but of course, it's too late. People really want to know is Torness power being distributed to the whole of the UK

Mr Forrest: Where Torness is situated, we are powering the majority of Scotland. Electricity is not differentiated, Torness is a synchronous unit at and there's one more synchronous unit in Peterhead, so between the two sites we are providing base load for Scotland.

Mr Sandy Scott: I often asked when Torness is going to close, is it 2033 or 2034?

Mr Forrest: We are inspection led and whilst I don't know the exact date our current accounting life is 2030 plus or minus two years. We are confident in getting to 2030. We do have ambitions to operate until 2032/ 2033, but they will be inspection led. I can't give you an exact date but the 2032/2033 date is a good estimate.

668. Zero Harm
Mr Alastair Brockie spoke to the reports in the pack.

Our aim is to have zero harm to our people and Nuclear Safety is our overriding priority.

With our strong focus on safety, we have a very tight definition of harm, so we report even the very minor injuries, for example a back injury or a cut to the hand. All events are investigated to ensure we learn from them and are treated seriously.

2025 performance was strong from Nuclear Safety point of view. We keep a close eye on plant performance and this year we have nothing to report.

Under environmental safety it was a good year, nothing was released in breach of our permits. We do also keep close track of compliance with permits SEPA issue.

Overall, very strong performance but we do continue to seek learning from all events.

On industrial safety we had two accidents to staff. We take them seriously even though no one was seriously injured. The first happened a few weeks ago where a forklift driver (outside the fence in the car park) was unloading a truck on a very windy day and whilst taking the pallet off the back of the truck and placing it on the ground and then getting off his forklift to strap the load on securely, the large rear door of the trailer came loose from its strap and swung around and hit him on the back. Whilst it was painful there was no permanent damage, other than a bit of bruising, but it was kept in hospital for a few nights of observation in case there were internal injuries.

The second injury occurred when an operative was carrying a washing machine that was getting scrapped and strained his back while he was lifting the washing machine. The learning from these events we really should be using mechanical aids like barrels and lifters and jacks. At home we would be quite happy to try and have a go at lifting a washing machine, but it's not the standard that we aspire to or the standard that we follow at Torness. Due to our statutory outage, we currently have many transient workers who maybe aren't familiar with the power station or the way that we work. We spend a lot of time on induction training where we set up some mock plant scenarios where things are not right. The training is held in an off-site facility, and we spend an hour or more with each of the new arrivals, taking them through that mock-up so that they can understand what our standards are and how to spot things that are not right and who to contact.

Emergency Preparedness
Torness has a comprehensive emergency plan to cater for situations which present an immediate risk to the public, our staff, the environment or the power station plant. Off-site aspects of the plan are deployed in conjunction with East Lothian Council and the emergency services.

There have been no site events whereby the emergency arrangements were invoked since the last meeting.

We continued with normal programme of emergency exercises, with a range of scenarios including site security issues, fire events, casualty recovery and treatment, and confined space rescues. On 3 March we held a successful demonstration of our arrangements to the ONR during our Level 1 exercise. The scenario involved a counter terrorism scenario and the CNC participated as well.

Mr Brockie thanked the East Lothian Council, emergency services and partner agencies for their support during exercises and throughout the year.

We work very closely with East Lothian Council as they hold the offsite plan.

Environmental Impact
The pack contains all the relevant information regarding our impact on the environment. Our district survey programme is extensive as we send our teams out into the community to collect samples of grass, we buy in samples of fish and fruit, and we have a methodology for converting the radiation measurements from these into an estimated dose for a typical member of the public. We do we take the samples close to the station and also further away in East Lothian so that we can detect if there is any difference locally compared with distance. I'm happy to report that everything shows that the local impact is no different from the far away impact and there's everything's well within normal limits. In terms of our discharges to the air and to the water environment, everything is well within the permitted limits. We send most of our solid dried waste for incineration to a facility down south and some gets recycled at a facility in Sweden.

668. New Nuclear, Customers, Renewables and People
Ms Ashleigh Dickson spoke to the reports in the pack.

New Nuclear
Hinkley Point C continued to make good progress during 2025. The 245-tonne steel dome was lifted onto Unit 2 in July 2025. The 14-metre-tall dome closes the 44-metre-high reactor building, allowing its fit-out to accelerate. The second reactor pressure vessel was dispatched from Framatome's factory at Saint Marcel in early December. The 13-metre high vessel weighs in at 500 tonnes and will house the reactor core and all associated components. Civil construction on Unit 1 is now 95% complete.

Lessons learned during the construction of Hinkley Point C continue to be shared with the Sizewell C project in Suffolk, to ensure the economic benefits of repeating a proven design are delivered.

Renewables
EDF power solutions UK and Ireland (previously known as Renewables) have continued to grow across all technologies as it makes progress towards its goal of reaching 10 GW by 2035. It currently has 50 operational sites, with an operating capacity of 2GW, and employs 640 people directly. The team completed commissioning of the 450 MW Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind project, 15km off the coast of Scotland.

Dalkia
Dalkia UK had a good year, growing to more than 5,200 employees in the UK following the start of the facility management contract with EDF's nuclear power stations that started on 1 July. The company also continued to support its clients in their electrification and decarbonisation efforts. On site, Dalkia are also our facility management company, so everybody that was previously employed by Equans now falls under the Dalkia umbrella.

Customers
EDF remained one of the UK's largest energy suppliers, serving around five million customer accounts. We're focusing very much on net zero, trying to enable customers to be greener. To support vulnerable customers, EDF set aside £30 million over winter, including providing electric goods such as heated throws, self-heating mattress toppers and soup makers through its Winter Warmth Choices scheme, supporting 17,000 customers.

669. Our People
The UK's nuclear industry has seen growth over the past year with the number of people employed reaching a record high. According to the Nuclear Industry Association more than 98,000 people are now employed across the sector, an 11,000 increase on the previous year and a rise of 55% over the past decade.

We aim to inspire and enable our people to perform as a force for good, driving progress at work and across the communities we serve.

People management is as important to the success of the station as engineering and science. We place strong emphasis on managing the succession of roles and ensure suitably qualified and experienced personnel are available to fill vacancies - guaranteeing continuity of the business.

The station continues to recruit to plan and currently has 541 full time employees. Our training programmes are in excellent shape and are working with our leaders at all levels to strengthen leadership and accountability.

Torness currently has 12 recruits in our four-year Advanced Nuclear Apprentice Scheme and one Health Physics apprentice.

Our people are a corner stone of EDF. At Torness, we have a great record of regularly seeking feedback from our employees and responding to it. Every year MyEDF, our annual employee engagement survey, is an opportunity to listen to our employees' views and act on what they say. In 2025, 75% of our employees took the opportunity to tell us what they think and help shape the direction of our business. Our overall engagement score remained stable and 94% of staff told us that safety is a priority for everyone.

We held numerous themed events (Easter egg hunt, summer fun, Halloween etc) which are free for families to enjoy. We engaged with a record number of young people, future employees and our community and through the visitor centre, career events, STEM workshops, charity work and local community groups.

These interactions are only possible because station volunteers give up their time to help promote the company, inspire the next generation or help a charity. They dedicate their time and skills, putting on events and activities, that make a huge difference to our company culture and our commitment to doing right by each other. We held a Girls into STEM event in December, where a group of 65 girls enjoyed a tour of the station, as well as getting the chance to take part on various workshops. We are doing our best to break down barriers to improve our diversity.

In November we welcomed more than 100 local school children to its annual “Christmas Cracker” STEM event. The pupils from Letham Mains Primary, Coldstream Primary and Berwick Middle School were given a unique insight into life at the station and the wide variety of roles that keep it running. As well as enjoying a guided tour, the pupils got up close to the on-site fire engine and took part in fire extinguisher training. They also suited up in protective clothing, met officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and learned essential first aid techniques from the occupational health team.

Charity work with our partner Alzheimer Scotland continues. We also have a large focus on mental health and mental wellbeing within the workplace. Last year one of our employees visited Downing Street to support the launch of the UK Government’s Men’s Health Strategy. He was invited to the event due to his work with Andy’s Man Club, a men’s suicide prevention charity offering free to attend peer-to-peer support groups across the UK.

Mr Dixon: A general question about the future. If you cease generating in 2032 and then defuel and then the station sits for many years. What will those 60 years look like?

Mr Forrest: I started work here in 1987, and I took Hunterston to the end of generation. Up until the end of generation our staffing levels and skill levels remain constant, whether that be 2030 or 2032. We will continue to recruit and will continue with our apprenticeship programmes. Once we cease generating, we will enter a period of defueling (approx. 4 years). At Hunterston we reduced to with 75% of our staffing levels. Our number of employees on site will change from about 750 to about 550 onsite.

Today (1 April) Hunterston B transferred to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), the body tasked with decommissioning the UK’s former nuclear sites. It is the first of seven, with the others following on a rolling basis over the next decade. The licence, which will take effect at the point of site transfer, is a legal document that will see responsibility for the site move from EDF to NRS. It sets out the conditions under which the site can operate and is crucial for future decommissioning work to proceed. 246 staff have transferred from EDF to NRS.

In terms of longevity of the station, there's a few strategies that NRS can deploy. Firstly, they retreat the site, so they demolish large parts of the buildings and retreat it back essentially to the two reactor cores and the pond. They can either go for greenfield site, or a strategy called safe store. Now safe stores are the preferred strategy which means they will put a weather canopy around the two cores and leave them there for a long period (80 years) or you could take it back to greenfield. NRS will be taking one of the sites back to greenfield and see how that goes for them. The current strategy is safe store. But at that point the site will be retreated to a quite a minimalist organisation.

Mr Norman Hampshire: We all know the station has limited lifetime left. We know the current Scottish Government has a block on the planning of any nuclear stations within Scotland. However, we cannot do without a new nuclear station in Scotland. Renewables on their own cannot generate the power that Scotland's going to need in the future. There is a big push now to move to modular because modular can be built quickly and you could change to modular reactor very soon after the station closed. I know Torness has available land so why are we not going for a new PWR reactor?

Mr Forrest: From a technology perspective we are technology agnostic, small modular reactors do come online quicker with a modular nature. The larger reactors like Sizewell B are proven and there are many of them around the world. We are technology neutral. The reactor we're building at Hinkley Point C is a large scale EPR, so it's a new generation of the reactor and the reactor that is proposed at Sizewell C, which has got government approval, is large with a 3.2GWh capacity. Scotland probably doesn’t need 3.2GWh worth of electricity but would welcome something of similar size to what we have now. Torness is a suitable site
Politically, I work for a nuclear operator but the energy mix in Scotland is down to democratically elected government.

Mr Hampshire: I do believe Scotland needs nuclear and personally I have family who work at the station who like many others will have to move to south of the border. I believe we need PWR who can employee 750 people as no other option will offer as much employment.

670. Regulatory Updates

SEPA
Ms Isabelle Watson, SEPA continue with compliance inspections. Every year we carry out environmental sampling programme (grass, shellfish, water, etc.). The RIFE report is available on the SEPA website. We look at in depth results at the LLC technical subgroup meeting.

RIFE report available https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports

We continue to carry out our normal inspections over the year and have been quite pleased to see major repairs that were done over the outage, for example leaks to F gas in the gas circulator chillers.

We also go out and take samples of grass and fish and sea autumn, seaweed, etc and all our analysis is consistent with station's samples. All in all, we have nothing to report.

ONR
Ms Sam Nouraei gave a brief overview. Throughout 2025 and in early 2026, ONR have carried out several inspections at Torness. We have covered quite a few different topics from routine operations to general compliance, looking at training, supervision, competency and capability, and technical things, covering kind of seasonal readiness and defect management. Overall, Torness remains broadly compliant with no significant regulatory findings that undermine Nuclear Safety. Where ONR have asked Site for improvements in their procedures or how they would comply with certain licence conditions, Site has been very open and taken those findings on board.

Throughout the outage period, ONR have carried out several inspections to support the ONR's consent for reactor start-up which has progressed well with no significant findings to date.

671. Any other business
Nothing from Torness

672. Date of next meeting

Public meeting – 20 October from 16:30 – 17:30 at Harbour Chapel in Dunbar (The Harbour Chapel
10 Victoria Street, Dunbar, EH42 1ET)

LLC Meeting – 10 March or 17 March - Vote for meeting date here