Ensuring communities benefit from nuclear investment

Seizing the Nuclear Opportunity for North Wales (29 November 2024)

Dr Edward Thomas Jones, Senior Lecturer in Economics¹

¹Bangor Business School, Bangor University. E-mail: <u>e.t.jones@bangor.ac.uk</u>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NUCLEAR INVESTMENT

- Nuclear investments can drive economic benefits by creating jobs and stimulating local economies, and act as a catalyst for broader economic development.
- Social impact of nuclear investments is equally significant and often, perhaps, more complex.
- Objectives:
 - Identify examples of infrastructure projects impact on communities,
 - Consider how communities benefit from nuclear investment,
 - Explain the objectives and impact of community benefit funds,
 - Identify approaches to best engage with communities to identify their needs.
- There are **problems** with nuclear developments that can **hinder social acceptance**.

EXAMPLES FROM A SAMPLE OF COUNTRIES

Brighton Bike Hub (RWE)



Defibrillator (Dogger Bank Wind Farm)



Horizon youth centre (Ørsted)



- Systemic literature review.
 - Transparent, and replicable results
- Nine different countries.
- Examples of social housing, libraries, museums, and even an opera house.
- How many new kits does the local football club needed?

LESSONS LEARNED

- Do not solely prioritize economic gains but also prioritize social considerations and community well-being.
- Ensure **equitable benefit-sharing** and promoting **transparency**.
- Positive and negative outcomes.
- Integrating social sustainability considerations from the **project's inception** is paramount.
- Actively **involving community members** in the decision-making process.
- Ensuring that the **wealth generated** by infrastructure projects is redistributed effectively within communities is crucial.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDS

- Key mechanism in Wales to **redistribute the wealth** generated from nuclear investments.
- **Principle of localism**, with community engagement critical.
- Community members may be involved in identifying priority projects, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.
- Must ensure that the funds are directed towards initiatives that genuinely reflect the community's needs and priorities.



HOW BEST TO ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES?



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