

MOTION TO EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

26 August 2025

Request for Funding to Undertake a Full Independent Survey of Torness Power Station Site Characterisation to Establish Its Suitability for a New Nuclear Power Station

Council notes:

1. Torness Power Station has played a critical role in the UK's energy generation and has been a key local employer for decades.
2. The station is expected to cease operations in the early 2030s, raising important questions about the future use of the site and the local economic impact of decommissioning.
3. The UK Government has expressed support for new nuclear as part of its net zero and energy security strategies.
4. A just transition to clean energy must include a mix of technologies and safeguard skilled jobs in communities like East Lothian.

Council believes:

5. The Torness site could be well-placed to host new nuclear infrastructure, and that early assessment of the site's characteristics is essential for informed decision-making.
6. Any decision on future use must be evidence-based and take into account environmental, technical, and community considerations.
7. Public investment in site feasibility studies is a necessary first step to secure a long-term plan for energy generation and employment in the region.

Council resolves:

8. That the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, requesting UK Government funding to undertake a full and independent survey of the Torness Power Station site characterisation that will establish its suitability for a new nuclear power station.
9. That the purpose of the survey be to assess the site's suitability for a new nuclear power facility, including geological, environmental, infrastructure, and community factors.
10. That East Lothian Council engages with all relevant stakeholders – including the Scottish Government, the current site operator EDF, local

trade unions, and the local community – to ensure any future development is transparent, inclusive, and delivers long-term benefits.

11. That the Council reaffirms its commitment to a just transition, where communities are supported with good, secure jobs as the UK moves to net zero.

Proposed by (name): Norman Hampshire

Date: 14 August 2025

Seconded by (name): Shamin Akhtar

Date: 14 August 2025

Received by (name of officer): Linda Gillie – Team Manager, Democratic & Licensing

Date: 14 August 2025