

# Chapelcross Transformation Programme Opportunities Workshop

Delegate Information Pack

February 2020

# Dumfries & Galloway Council

## Foreword

On behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am delighted to be engaging key stakeholders to accelerate progress on the Chapelcross Programme by co-creating a compelling “Vision For the Future”.

We are keen to shape the most effective path towards reinstating Chapelcross as a key employment centre in the region.

The upcoming workshops will inform the future direction of the Chapelcross Programme by creating a vision for the site that excites, is aspirational and achievable. Our goal is to create a sustainable redevelopment strategy that encompasses and delivers on key local, regional and national ambitions for growth. Engagement with stakeholders is critical to us shaping a future for Chapelcross that we can all share.

To ensure the success of the Programme Dumfries and Galloway Council is looking to ensure, by co-designing with stakeholders, that the vision for the site has clear sponsorship and a sense of shared ownership.

The Council and its partners are excited at the prospect of integrating the knowledge of strategic industry players into the future vision at Chapelcross, allowing us to achieve the four key programme objectives for the sustainable redevelopment of the site.

**Lorna Meahan**

**Director Economy and Resources, Dumfries and Galloway Council**



[Link to Chapelcross Project video](#)

# Introduction

Thank you for accepting the invite to our Programme opportunities workshop in February, where we will be hoping to shape the direction of the Chapelcross Programme.

Our goal is to create a sustainable redevelopment strategy for the Chapelcross site, a strategy that looks to create a regional employment centre, of national significance, based around the following priority areas.

- Create a **large-scale mixed-use** employment site for Borderlands with significant wider economic and policy impacts
- Support the development of **green energy** production, storage and distribution solutions
- Make a significant contribution to the UK Government's **net-zero** target.
- Maintain **100% beneficial use** of the site over the full decommissioning period (in line with Energy Act 2004) and beyond.

The site's unique attributes of an established grid connection from the existing nuclear operations and plans for a simplified planning zone, direct access to the Solway Firth, means the area is well placed to be effectively utilised for a range of green energy technologies, high-value / high-productivity sector development, and innovation-rich business growth.

The Chapelcross Programme is supporting the development of a mandate to build a long term legacy both for the local community, for the Borderlands Region and beyond. These workshops will help us shape a clear direction of travel for the Programme, endorsed and collectively owned by a wide range of stakeholders, and that is practical and deliverable, while ambitious and aspirational.

After the events, the council can begin to put together working groups and projects that are aimed at delivering the desired outcomes, as part of its wider development programme.





## The Chapelcross Site



Pipeline route

Chapelcross is a former nuclear Magnox power plant located near the town of Annan in Dumfries & Galloway.

Energy production on the site ended in 2004, and the site is in the process of being decommissioned. It spans approximately 200 hectares, with 60ha of land available for development immediately and significantly more over the next decade.

The site land ownership includes the route of a disused rail way line that runs to the shore of the Solway Firth, currently used for an above ground outfall from the site to the sea. The pipeline will be removed within the current phase of the site decommissioning programme. This strip of land is currently held as freehold by the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA).

The decommissioning process and final site clearance is scheduled for between 2090 and 2095, and we are committed to maintaining 100% beneficial use of the site over this period.

## Chapelcross in Borderlands Context

The site's qualities and assets, not least in the shape of the existing grid connection, as well as the area's emerging interests in key sectors and technologies relating to clean growth, green energy, and zero carbon, offer a significant 'market-making' opportunity for investment.

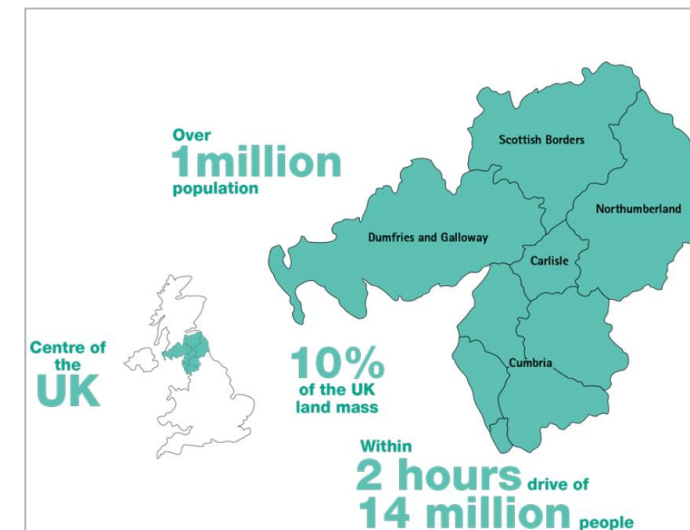
Chapelcross is located within the M74 corridor, a priority for investment in its own right thanks to its strategic connectivity, connections to Scotland's Central Belt, and major urban and industrial centres in the North of England.



Chapelcross site – sitting within the M74 corridor that connects Scotland's Central Belt with Northern English towns.



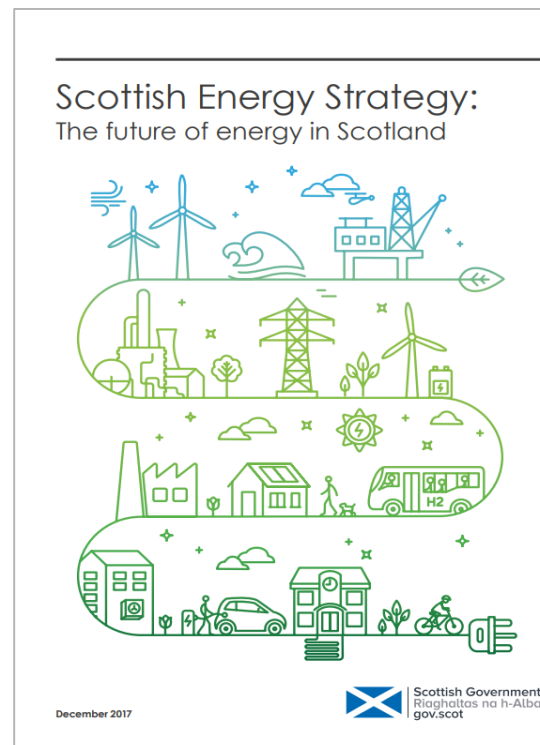
Chapelcross and Dumfries & Galloway in the wider context of the Borderlands region.





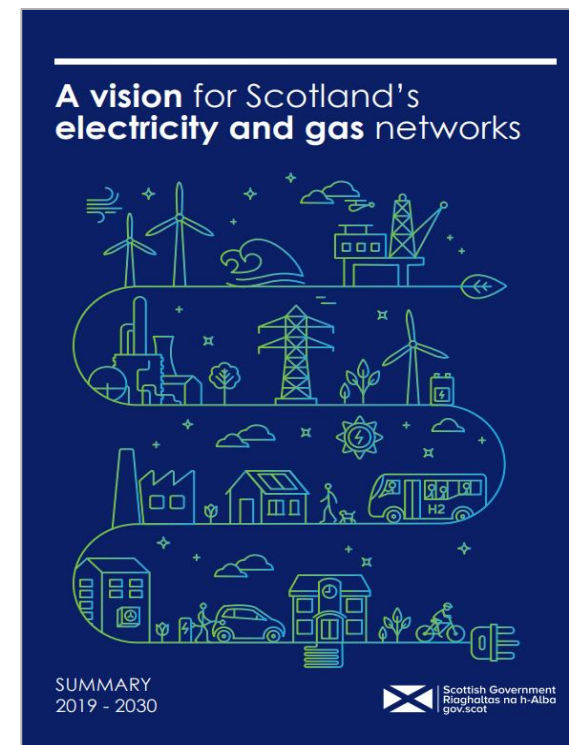
The Chapelcross site has the potential to facilitate uses that will be effective in driving economic growth and meeting the ambitions of Scotland's Economic Strategy, which include investment, innovation, inclusive growth and internationalisation.

[Link to Scotland's Economic Strategy](http://www.gov.scot/economicstrategy)



Scotland's First Minister has declared a climate emergency and the Scottish Energy Strategy sets out the vision for the future energy systems up until 2045, articulating the need for an integrated systems-wide approach – crucially reaching net zero by 2045.

[Link to Scottish Energy Strategy: The future of energy in Scotland](http://www.gov.scot/energystrategy)



This document sets out Scotland's ambitions for the future and enabling the gas and electric networks to deliver decarbonised energy. This sets out principles and priorities for Scotland's energy going forward, these are ambitions that Chapelcross can look to serve and deliver.

[Link to A vision for Scotland's electricity and gas networks](http://www.gov.scot/energyvision)





Chapelcross, with the existing national grid connection, is well suited to provide green energy usage, production or storage. This would align with the wider legacy of energy production at Chapelcross and its ambition to play an enabling role in achieving the 2050 net zero carbon target with region, national and international impact.

- This is now a binding requirement in law.
- Dumfries & Galloway Council have made their own Climate Emergency Declaration in June 2019.

[Link to Net Zero: the UK's contributions to stopping global warming](#)



The Scottish Enterprise Strategy focuses on improving exports, capitalising on their comparative advantage and building Scotland's reputation among other nations

Chapelcross is the most strategically placed site within the south of Scotland, with the correct attributes to achieve these ambitions

[Link to Net Zero: Building Scotland's Future Today](#)



The Borderlands Partnership recognises the importance of the energy sector as a driver for job creation and growth.

The Borderlands Partnership Heads of Terms Agreement sets out a vision for a Borderlands Energy Company and a regional energy masterplan, facilitating a whole energy systems approach.

Future energy systems will require substantial storage space which Chapelcross is potentially well placed to provide.

[Link to Borderlands...](#)



[Link to DGC Economic Strategy](#)

The site is well placed to facilitate the expansion and development of high-value sectors noted in the Regional Economic Strategy.

High value sectors in the strategy are sectors with identified growth potential and which are in a position to provide more highly paid, skilled employment

The Regional Economic Strategy identifies the following sectors:

- Digital
- Energy (renewables)
- Forest and timber technologies

### UK Government Legislation The Energy Act 2004

The Energy Act 2004 created the NDA as the authority tasked with cleaning up the UK's public sector nuclear legacy safely, securely, cost effectively, and in ways that safeguard the environment for this and future generations. The NDA has responsibility for designated sites in Scotland that represent that legacy, including sites and facilities that were developed in the 1950s and 1960s to support defence and nuclear power generation research. There are three NDA sites in Scotland: Dounreay, Hunterston A, and Chapelcross.

[Link to The Energy Act 2004...](#)



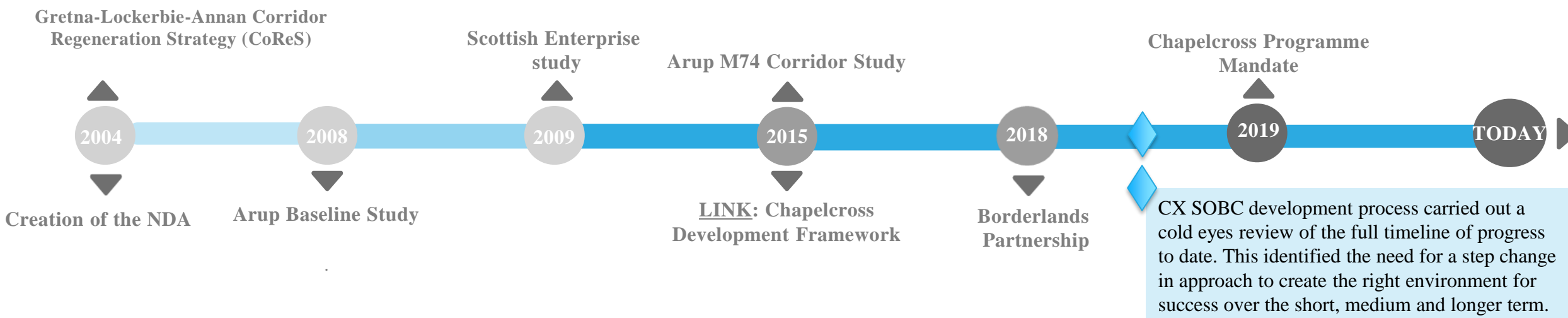
## Programme Background – Timeline

In 2015 a Chapelcross Partnership Development Framework – A vision for Chapelcross was published. This included a sub-regional economic baseline study and a marketing strategy which informed the workshops and the framework itself, ultimately aiming to strengthen the vision for the site.

Around this time, Arup were commissioned by Scottish Enterprise, in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council to complete a suite of reports pertaining to the economic growth of the M74 corridor, including sectoral analysis which provided strong context for Chapelcross.

The Borderlands Partnership was established in 2018 to unlock the potential for sustainable and inclusive economic growth across the South of Scotland and North of England. It has also changed the site development strategy from “planning guidance” led to United Kingdom and Scottish Government backed Green Book Business Case approach. The CX programme is one of ten initiatives supported by the circa £400m Inclusive Growth Deal.

The CX Programme Mandate captured the lessons learned for the cold eyes review and secured approval from the Full Council in September 2019. This triggered the deployment the programme first stage, formally known with the Managing Successful Programmes guidance as, “identifying a programme”.



Due to its acreage, location, transport links, national grid access and other attributes, Chapelcross could be primed to serve a multitude of different aspirational usages that can achieve regional and national policy goals, ideas could include:

- Base load energy generation and storage
- A mixed-use site with strategic sectors, perhaps a innovative research and manufacturing centre for forestry & timber technologies alongside distribution facilities and on site energy generation.
- A deep geothermal powerplant that provides on site electricity and heating, district heating to Annan and further leftover electricity for wholesale.
- Market-leading innovation and research centre for Active and Healthy Ageing. (assistive technologies/gerontechnologies) – suggested in Arup’s M74 corridor study.
- An “Industrial Island” with integrates waste management and energy generation, facilities could include advanced manufacturing and innovation hubs.
- Hydrogen logistics hub providing a link between the central belt of Scotland and the north of England through the M74.
- A Distribution System Operator “test bed” to develop ideas around electricity grid control, vector shifting and energy optimisation at a local level.

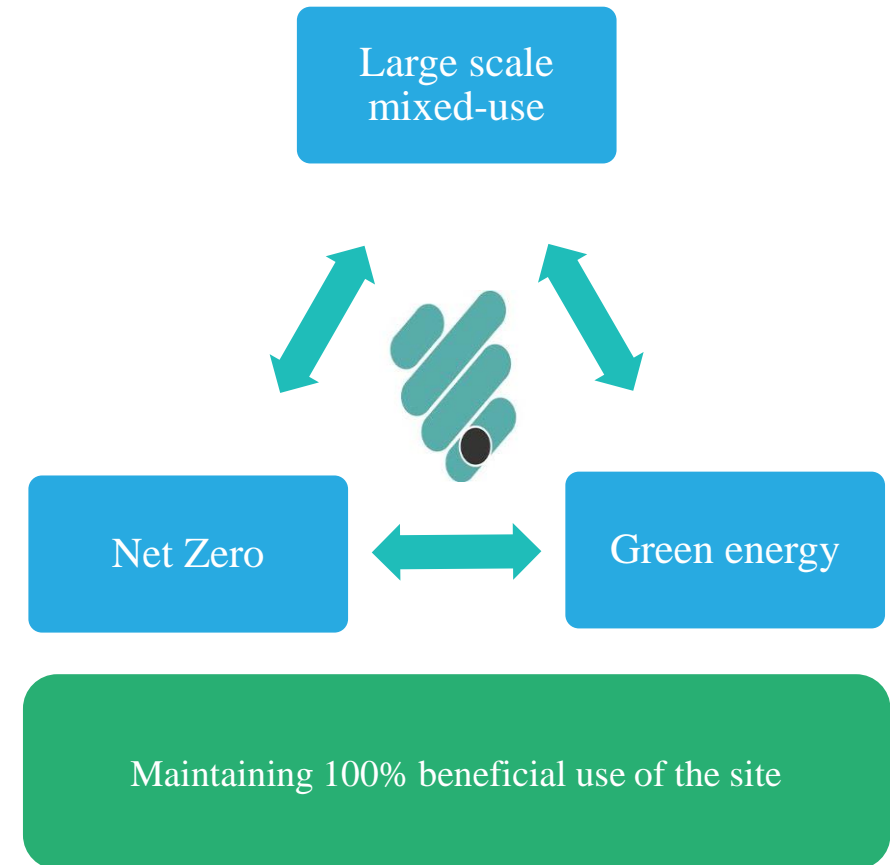
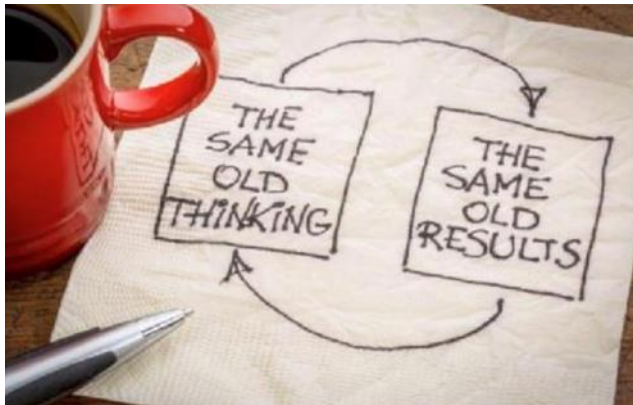
We will look to explore such market-making opportunities for the UK and beyond, as well as other ideas that are presented on the day.

The workshop has a number of key aims:

- Progress the development of an ambitious and pragmatic vision for the role of Chapelcross in line with the key drivers
- Open dialogue with potential partners and collaborators
- Highlight key risks (threats/opportunities), issues, assumptions and dependencies (RAID)
- Inform the development of the business case

Ultimately this vision and direction for the site will feed into the ongoing Chapelcross Strategic Outline Business Case to secure the funding for the necessary infrastructure and highway improvements to unlock the site for development. With successful stakeholder engagement, a robust business case for Chapelcross is both more tangible and achievable.

The key themes of the workshop and the insight provided by each attendee will be captured in an output report that will be prepared by Arup, and delivered to Dumfries and Galloway Council a next stage input for business case and short, medium and long term strategy development. We would hope to develop an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and potential partners as we move forward and we will issue a workshop report and summary to attendees.





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| 09:00 | <b>Arrival</b>  |
| 09:10 | <b>Introduction from Lorna Meahan</b> - Director Economy & Resources, Dumfries & Galloway Council   |
| 09:15 | <b>Chapelcross Programme Overview</b>   |
| 09:20 | <b>Keynote: Katrine Feldinger</b> - Head of International Capital Investment at Scottish Government |
| 09:45 | <b>Workshop Part 1</b>  |
| 10:50 | <b>Coffee break</b>   |
| 11:00 | <b>Keynote: Barry Carruthers</b> - Head of Innovation, Sustainability and Quality at ScottishPower  |
| 11:25 | <b>Workshop Part 2</b>  |
| 12:50 | <b>Wrap up: Arup</b>  |
| 13:00 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 14:00 | <b>Close</b>  |

The workshops will be framed around how we can develop the site looking out to 2050 and beyond, recognising that more land will become available as decommissioning progresses to 2095.

Emphasis should be placed on how we can “phase” development to align with releases of parcels of land, whilst achieving the strategic ambitions of the locality, region and UK more widely.

**Workshop 1** - following an overview of the site and programme, sub-groups will assess the attributes of the site before brainstorming opportunities for phased development looking out to 2050 and beyond to 2095.

**Workshop 2** - will build on the outputs of first exercise. Sub-groups will prioritise their ideas with a view to identifying an anchor idea or set of ideas for an initial phase of development. Once their priority idea is identified and explored in greater detail, they will discuss next steps and actions. What could help push this forward in terms of infrastructure/site-access etc?

# Thank you

For any further queries please contact [mark.fulton@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:mark.fulton@dumgal.gov.uk) or  
[david.hogg@arup.com](mailto:david.hogg@arup.com)

