

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Guardians of the East Coast delighted as Lincolnshire County Council Withdraws from Theddlethorpe Community Partnership – Plans for Nuclear Waste Facility Halted**

**3 June 2025 – Lincolnshire, UK**

Campaigners and residents across Lincolnshire are today celebrating a major victory as Lincolnshire County Council's Executive has formally voted to withdraw from the Theddlethorpe Community Partnership. This crucial decision effectively ends the process to site a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for high-level nuclear waste on the East Coast of Lincolnshire.

The proposal, which included a shore-based facility covering approximately one square kilometre and an extensive network of undersea tunnels for permanent nuclear waste disposal, has faced sustained and growing opposition since 2021.

In July 2021, a whistle-blower first revealed that confidential discussions were underway between local authorities and Nuclear Waste Services (formerly Radioactive Waste Management), prompting public outcry. In response, a grassroots movement quickly mobilised, with campaign group *Guardians of the East Coast (GOTEC)* leading the fight against the plan. In 2022, Parish Councils, some District and Town Councillors from around the affected area were elected opposing the project.

Despite the formation of a Community Partnership in 2022 — with East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council acting as principal authorities — the campaign continued to build momentum. When East Lindsey District Council withdrew in early 2025, the process remained active, as only one principal authority was legally required to proceed.

The turning point came ahead of the May 2025 local elections, when mounting public pressure and widespread polling — consistently showing strong opposition to the GDF — pushed the Conservative-led County Council to finally concede that they would withdraw after the election. Today, that commitment was made good by Reform, a different political party who had indicated that they would follow due process and get to a formal vote by the Council's Executive, marking a decisive end to the controversial proposal.

A spokesperson for GOTEC said:

“This is a victory for community, transparency, and common sense. For over four years, local people have stood firm against a project that posed unacceptable risks to our environment, our coast, and our future. We thank every resident, Parish Councillor, Town Councillor and supporter who raised their voice. Today proves that communities can prevail when they come together.”

Residents have long expressed concerns over environmental, economic, and safety impacts, particularly the long-term implications of burying radioactive waste beneath the seabed off the Lincolnshire coast.

With Lincolnshire County Council's withdrawal, the proposal is now off the table. The local community can look forward to restoring trust and focusing on sustainable development that protects the region's natural heritage and coastal economy.

**ENDS**

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