

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Update Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Regulatory Committee
<b>Date:</b>	18 May 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Application for change of use to energy recovery centre ERC comprising the use of Advanced Conversion Technology (ACT) (gasification) to convert non-hazardous waste into electricity and heat together with erection of 2 no. flue stacks to existing building and provision of 2 no. dry air cooling towers at Plot 37, Central Way, Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover, SP10 5AN. (Application No. 16/00058/CMAN) (Site Ref: TV256)
<b>Reference:</b>	7504
<b>Report From:</b>	Head of Strategic Planning

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#### 1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update to the Decision Report prepared for planning application 16/00058/CMAN at Plot 37, Central Way, Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover.

1.2 The update relates to the following issues:

- number of representations on the application received to date; and
- additional considerations raised since publication of the Decision Report and commentary addressing these issues.

#### 2. Representations

2.1 A total of 143 representations have been received in relation to the application. Of these 143 object to the proposal. The following new additional concerns have been raised by representations received in connection with the planning application:

- That the applicant should demonstrate the carbon credentials and environmental life-cycle impacts associated with the development when compared to alternative waste management routes;
- That the process would not constitute waste recovery and would be more likely to be considered waste disposal;

- That the applicant proposes the direct incineration of biomass and not gasification of it;
- The visual and landscape impact of the proposal (this is addressed within the Decision Report);
- Lack of need for the development (this is addressed within the Decision Report);
- Impact of lorry movements on amenity (highway matters are addressed within the Decision Report);
- Safety of the facility (this is addressed and controlled under the Environmental Permit).

### **3. Commentary**

#### Climate Change

3.1 The following text should be considered following paragraph 8.26 of the decision report:

3.2 Policy 2 (Climate change - mitigation and adaptation) of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HMWP) (2013) states that waste development should reduce vulnerability and provide resilience to impacts of climate change by developing energy recovery facilities. A [publication on Low Carbon Energy](#) by DEFRA and the DECC (January 2013) states that recovering energy from waste is only appropriate for waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled with less greenhouse gas emitted.

3.3A [publication on Energy from Waste](#) - A Guide to the Debate by DEFRA & DECC (February 2014) discusses the impact of energy from waste facilities on carbon emissions. The difference in net carbon emissions and whole life-cycle impacts associated with the proposal compared with alternative waste management processes constitutes a material consideration in relation to the application.

3.4 Where waste is burnt as a fuel to generate energy it can potentially be considered to be a recovery operation, but where the purpose of incineration is to get rid of waste, it is considered disposal. The separation between the two categories depends on the efficiency of the operation in recovering energy from the waste. The implications of identifying a process as recovery or disposal are that the resulting overarching environmental credentials of a proposed development could represent a more environmentally harmful process than alternative management options.

3.5 At present wood waste is generated in mixed grades. As Grade C wood waste is only suitable to be burnt or recovered in WID compliant installations and not appropriate for recycling or re-use, once mixed with grades A & B it is likely to be economically unviable to separate the mixed wood waste prior to waste treatment. Therefore mixed wood

waste is currently only suitable for either disposal by landfill or by thermal treatment at an energy recovery facility.

3.6 An [Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Management Options for Waste Wood](#) by DEFRA (2011) states that life cycle 'routes that end in energy recovery (non-WID and WID-compliant) are more sustainable in terms of Green House Gas savings' and that 'routes with waste to energy plants (Waste Incineration Directive (WID))...all exhibited significant emission savings as a result of the electricity generated which displaces electricity largely generated from fossil fuel sources'. This reflects the fact that wood is defined as containing biogenic carbon, otherwise known as short-life cycle carbon, whereas fossil fuels are comprised of fossil-carbon which has remained sequestered from the atmosphere for a significant period of time.

3.6 In light of the conclusions of the DEFRA Life-cycle Assessment above, the proposal is considered not to prejudice the movement of material up the waste hierarchy and is considered to achieve the best overall environmental outcome in the current circumstances. As such the proposal is considered to be in accordance with Policy 2 of the HMWP (2013).

#### Miscellaneous

3.7 The flue stacks will measure one metre in diameter each.

**END**