

16 December 2014**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****REQUEST FOR SITE INSPECTION BY PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE****Purpose of Report**

1. To seek approval, in line with the Code of Best Practice, for Committee to attend a formal inspection of the site and surroundings of the proposed Anaerobic Digestion plant at the former Gedling Colliery, subject to a current planning application prior to it being reported for determination by Committee.

The Site

2. It is anticipated that a report will be presented to Committee next year in respect of an application by Tamar Energy Ltd for an Anaerobic Digestion facility on part of the former Gedling Colliery allocated for industrial development. Attached Plans 1 and 2 show the location of the application site.
3. The application has generated significant local opposition and given this high level of public interest it is considered prudent for Committee to attend a site inspection to witness at first hand the application site, its surroundings and gain an appreciation of any potential impacts the proposals may give rise to.

Future steps

4. Should Committee be agreeable to attend this site inspection it is normal practice to arrange it in the run-up to the targeted Committee meeting. Members will note from the Committee Work Programme attached elsewhere on this agenda that a Committee meeting has yet to be targeted for this application given the need for additional information and the need to consult upon it. It is suggested, however, that a date in February 2015 is selected.
5. Should Committee be minded to attend these inspections, it is proposed to liaise with Chairman and Vice-Chairman with a view to circulating suggested dates. Fuller details of the proposals and the details of any necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as safety boots and high visibility jackets etc, will be circulated nearer the time and where necessary such PPE can be loaned to Members. It is also anticipated that arrangements be put in place to minimise the need for travel by separate vehicles where possible and such matters can be determined once attendees have confirmed.

6. Finally, Members are reminded that the purpose of such a site inspection is to provide the opportunity to see the proposed site and its surroundings and is not the forum to discuss the merits of the application which will of course be fully aired during the meeting when the report is presented for determination. Members are therefore reminded of the format and conduct expected during such inspections as set out in Appendix G of the Code of Best Practice.

Other Options Considered

7. The alternative course of action would be for Committee to not inspect the site and instead rely on the information set out within the planning submission, the committee report and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation. However, given the scale and significance of this particular scheme and the level of public interest it has generated, it is recommended that Members observe the site location at first hand to help inform their subsequent decision making.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment, and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is RECOMMENDED that Committee agrees to attend a formal inspection of the site of the proposed Anaerobic Digestion facility on land at the former Gedling Colliery on a date to be arranged prior to the application being reported to Committee for determination.

JAYNE FRANCIS-WARD

Corporate Director for Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

Constitutional Comments

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Comments of the Service Director - Finance

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Background Papers Available for Inspection

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Carlton East

Councillor John Clarke
Councillor Nicki Brooks

Report Author / Case Officer

Jerry Smith

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For any enquiries about this report, please contact the report author.

PPCS.JS/ – COMMITTEE REPORT FOLDER REFERENCE
21 November 2014 – Date Report Completed by WP Operators