

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2022**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY)**

SUBJECT: **GENERAL MATTERS – SHOTTON PAPER MILL DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE LOCAL IMPACT REPORT - REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO RESPOND**

1.00 APPLICATION

- 1.01 The application for the Shotton Paper Mill Development of National Significance (DNS) has been submitted to the Welsh Ministers for examination. The Government's Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) has written to the County Council to confirm applications intention to submit.
- 1.02 Once the application has been formally submitted to PEDW and registered as a valid DNS application, Flintshire County Council will be required to submit a Local Impact Report, and will be invited to make formal representations on the application within five weeks of the notification of the valid application.
- 1.03 This report seeks delegated authority from the Planning Committee to submit the Council's Local Impact Report, and provide representations at officer level on behalf of Flintshire County Council.
- 1.04 The request for delegated authority is required, so that the representations can be made at an Officer level, in consultation with the local Ward Members, in response to the DNS consultation by PEDW, in the timescales set out within the Regulations, and without the need to return to Planning Committee for a formal resolution to agree the content and representations of the Local Impact Report

2.00 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.01 That the Council's Local Impact Report, and accompanying recommendations, and suggested conditions for the Shotton Paper Mill Development of National Significance be delegated to officers in consultation with local members (Connah's Quay Weper and Connah's Quay Central)

3.00 APPLICATION VALID DATE

3.01 Notice of a proposed application for a DNS was submitted to the Welsh Ministers on 16th September 2021, and this allows for submission with 12 months of that date. Following submission, PEDW have up to 42 days to validate the application. Should the application be considered a valid application, the Council will have 5 weeks to respond to the consultation by PEDW from the application valid date.

4.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

4.01 The report seeks delegated authority to respond to the anticipated consultation by PEDW on the Shotton Paper Mill Development of National Significance, at an Officer level. To provide the required Local Impact Report, and any necessary relevant representation, and suggested conditions and obligations that may be required.

4.02 Due to the limited timescales prescribed within the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 to make a response to the PEDW consultation, it is considered necessary to raise the matter at Committee to seek a resolution from Planning Committee to permit officers to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

5.00 THE PROPOSAL

5.01 The DNS application covers a proposed Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility which would provide an additional 60MWe power as well as heat to Shotton Mill, and would be located within the existing Paper Mill. The CHP facility is part of a wider redevelopment and expansion proposal, which does not, in itself, fall within the DNS process. The wider redevelopment and expansion of Shotton Paper Mill (Ref: FUL/000011/22) is currently under consideration through the submission of a Planning Application and will be brought for consideration of the planning committee in due course.

5.02 The proposed CHP process would use gas-fired boilers using gas drawn from the national grid or from on-site processes. CHP is a highly efficient process that captures and utilises the heat that is a by-product of the electricity generation process. The proposed CHP plant is intended to achieve 80% efficiency. As a consequence of the high efficiency of energy generation, based on the ratio of fuel usage to power generated, the proposed plant would qualify under the Government's Good Quality CHP scheme. Such CHP is considered to provide 'low carbon' energy as it produces substantially lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fossil fuel power generation.

5.03 There is a requirement for an additional 60MWe of power for the proposed paper production facilities, together with steam which is an integral part of the paper manufacturing process. The existing

biomass CHP production at the Main Site will be retained; this will generate 18.5 MWe generation capacity.

- 5.04 The proposed new CHP Facility would be located on the Main Site, close to the existing biomass CHP facility. The draft arrangement of the proposed CHP facility would comprise four parallel lines of gas turbine and heat recovery steam generator and /or steam turbine combination. The use of multiple units allows the paper production process to maximise operational flexibility and efficiency.

6.00 THE SITE LOCATION

- 6.01 The overall Site comprises the operational Shotton Mill paper manufacturing facility, formerly owned and operated by UPM (the Main Site) together with adjoining vacant brownfield land (the Expansion Site also known as the A4 land).

- 6.02 The Site is situated within the Deeside Industrial Park close to the Dee Estuary. The Dee Estuary is subject to a number of national and European wildlife designations. The Site is located within the Wrexham & Deeside National Growth Area, about 12 km from Chester and 20 km from Liverpool.

- 6.03 The Site lies to the south of the A548 dual carriageway, with access to the A548 being via a local distributor road that serves the Deeside Industrial Park. A plot of land lying between the operational paper mill and the A548, known as the A4 land, is included within the wider proposals as allocated employment land.

7.00 MATERIAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.01 The main issues associated with the proposal include:

- Landscape and visual Impact
- Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Built Conservation
- Contaminated Land
- Air and Noise Impact

- 7.02 Preliminary developer lead consultation has taken place with both internal and external statutory consultees. The application will be supported by pre application consultation report which will summarise these preliminary view and address the areas of concern raised.

- 7.03 Further examination of the above issues will take place with internal consultees following formal receipt of the application.

8.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.01 That the Council's Local Impact Report, and accompanying recommendations for the Shotton Paper Mill Development of National Significance be delegated to officers in consultation with local members (Connah's Quay Weper and Connah's Quay Central)

LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Draft DNS Application & Supporting Documents

<https://shottonmillconsultation.co.uk/welsh-government>

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