

Dear Cllr

The proposal to site an incinerator close to ~ Dobb's Weir, Hoddesdon

I hope that you will take the following points into consideration when casting your vote in Cabinet on 14th March.

1. The decision of the community Safety and Waste Panel was tied. It was clear during the debate that councillors had serious concerns which reflect community reservations.

2. It is disturbing that the financial package is not open to public scrutiny or challenge but even the figures made known ring alarm bells.

Savings of between 70M and 250M over 30 years seem too good to be true are they probably are. I note that they are based on 1.35 EUR:GBP baseline. [para 9.5] Today it's 1.29. and "*The Council holds the risk under the Contract for movement in the foreign exchange rate*". (para 9.4).

In addition the sheer range of the forecasts for possible savings are indicative of the many tenuous assumptions underpinning this proposal.

3. You have to spend to save

Savings of 70Mplus, over 30 years, assuming our currency gamble pays off and our assumptions hold water for this length of time, have to be set against current expenditure. Possibly 12M on this proposal. [not unrealistic as the serious planning issues surrounding this site could involve lengthy and costly legal argument], 6M on the Essex Gateway road improvements to access the site from Hertfordshire. You could have spent 18M in one hit to save a risky 70M plus over a 30-year period. Please don't dismiss the case for cutting your losses and paying the 1.2M rejection fee.

"The credible alternatives are market price solutions (even for medium terms) where the provider takes most of the risks. In the RPP, shared risks are significant contributors to a more bankable solution and better value for money for the Council."

Risk means exposure to danger, harm or loss and to describe this as better value for money should give pause for serious thought.

3. The site is unfit for purpose - demonstrably too small to pursue best practice

of maximizing recycling, there is insufficient room to accommodate an MBT unit which reduces the quantity of waste for incineration by up to 40 %. In accepting this proposal you would be limiting your ability to fulfill obligations regarding the waste hierarchy and circular economy.

If you incorporated MBT or similar practices in to your waste strategy you would reduce our waste for incineration to about 150,000 tonnes on present figures which leads to questions about the need for a 350,000 tonne incinerator. Changes in packaging and its

regulation could see further reductions. It is apparent that Veolia stands to benefit hugely from this arrangement.

4. The site is not considered suitable and thus is not in your Waste Local Plan

"8.24 Any facility here [Fieldes Lock] would be poorly located to deal with Local Authority collected waste (LACW) and commercial and industrial waste arising throughout Hertfordshire being located towards to south eastern boundary of the county." [Spatial Planning Report]

"5.42 The site currently houses a rail fed aggregates depot which HCC considers is an essential facility to be safeguarded for this purpose" [Current Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan]

5. Haulage costs

"The comparative value for money of the RPP versus other options is due to a combination of factors." Including "A local solution reducing haulage costs"

It is an 80 mile round trip to Tring by comparison Tring to Oxford is only 68miles **how can a location on the Essex Border advantage transport costs?**

6. Human and environmental cost.

Please consider these costs also. This incinerator will blight public perception of the area. More benign industries may shun or leave Hoddesdon.

Flue ash is so hazardous that it will be transported some 190miles to be stored in secure conditions in a Cheshire salt mine.

Officers appear confident about the use of bottom ash as aggregate but its lack of toxicity is far from certain. Were more rigorous testing required **who would be bearing the costs of specialist treatment and disposal?**

We are assured that emissions are well regulated but the stacks are around 100m high for 'good' reason - to ensure that toxic pollutants are widely dispersed over us all.

By locking us into a risky long term contract you are missing an opportunity to really put Hertfordshire on the map as a progressive County promoting the best practical environmental options for its residents. Please safe-guard our finances, our environment and our reputation.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Jan Metcalf, The Secretary, The Hoddesdon /society