



Switching On The **Green Light**

Draft Community Consultation Strategy

Southampton Biomass Power Ltd

**Proposed 100MWe Biomass Electricity Generating
Plant, Southampton Port**

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Version 1.0**

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ABBREVIATIONS

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
SCC	Southampton City Council
SOCC	Statement of Community Consultation

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Heliuss Energy plc ('Heliuss Energy') proposes to consent, build and operate a 100MWe biomass fuelled electricity generating station in the Port of Southampton. The project is classified as a 'National Significant Infrastructure Project' under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2 The Planning Act (2008), and associated Regulations, requires applications for 'Development Consent Orders' for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to be made to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). The legislation sets out statutory requirements for developers to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities and those who would be affected by the proposal as well as key public bodies.
- 1.3 The legislation requires the developer to produce a Statement of Community Consultation or SoCC which sets out the framework for consultation with the local community and interest groups. The Regulations require that following formal consultation with the relevant Local Authority, in this case Southampton City Council, the SoCC is published in a local newspaper.
- 1.4 The Community Consultation Strategy document provides further detail regarding the intended approach to community consultation for the proposals for the project.

2.0 HELIUS ENERGY

- 2.1 Helius Energy plc is a biomass energy development company delivering a portfolio of projects across the UK. Established in 2005 (registered to AIM, the London Stock Exchange's international market for smaller growing companies, in 2007), Helius Energy seeks to provide reliable energy from sustainable resources in a way which is economic and which has proper regard to environmental considerations.
- 2.2 Helius Energy plc's objective stems from the growing need for reliable power from renewable fuels in order to overcome the issues of climate change due to carbon dioxide emissions associated with fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.
- 2.3 Helius Energy plc is committed to promoting a wider public understanding of the need to switch to energy resources that reduce carbon emissions in order to address issues of global climate change. The company welcomes Government initiatives and encouragement to involve and inform the local community about major development projects before the formal submission of planning and related applications.
- 2.4 Helius Energy plc is a responsible and ethical company and is totally committed to being a sustainable business. As well as identifying and developing biomass energy plants, the Helius Energy plc strategy includes retaining ownership of the projects into operation.
- 2.5 The Helius Energy plc team has extensive knowledge of the UK renewable energy market, biomass energy technologies and is experienced in promoting and developing biomass fuelled power stations. Made up of a team of highly qualified and skilled individuals, each team member contributes to the company's approach to the development of new projects where development skills are complimented by construction and operational experience. In addition to the team members, the board at Helius Energy plc is of a solid pedigree, made up of 8 directors with over 150 years combined experience.
- 2.6 The Group successfully permitted its first biomass fuelled 65MWe electricity generating station on a site at Stallingborough, on the south side of the Humber Estuary. Consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and deemed planning permission was granted in June 2008. The project was sold to RWE innogy in 2008 with Helius retaining an interest. Preliminary site works were commenced in 2008 and commencement of the main project is anticipated during 2010/11.
- 2.7 In January 2009, Helius Energy secured planning permission for a 7.2MWe combined heat and power plant on a site at Rothas, Moray. The plant will use distiller's draff as a fuel feedstock. The scheme is currently at design stage and commencement of construction of the project is expected by winter 2010.

- 2.8 In March 2010, Helius Energy secured Section 36 consent, and deemed planning permission for a 100MWe biomass fuelled electricity generating station at Avonmouth Dock, Bristol. The scheme is now in design stage and it is anticipated that work on site on the project will commence early 2011.

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3.0 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 This Section outlines the regulatory obligations Heliuss Energy must fulfil with regards to community consultation and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Requirement for Community Consultation

3.2 Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008 sets out the developer's duty to consult the local community and requires the applicant to prepare a statement (the 'SoCC') setting out how they intend to consult with the 'people living in the vicinity of the land'. The applicant is required to consult with the local authority while preparing the statement and should have regard to any response received from the local authority.

3.3 Section 47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008 requires that the SoCC be published in a local newspaper. In addition, the SoCC will be circulated to locally elected representatives and will be made available on a dedicated project website.

3.4 Section 47 (7) of the Planning Act 2008 requires that the applicant carries out community consultation on the proposal in accordance with the framework set out within the SoCC.

Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment

3.5 It is considered that the proposed development falls within Schedule 2, Category 3(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. It is of a scale and nature that could potentially give rise to significant effects and, therefore, the applicant has undertaken to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment on the proposals and will submit an Environmental Statement with the application to the IPC.

3.6 Regulation 10(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 requires the applicant to set out how they intend to consult on preliminary environmental information, within the SoCC. Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of this document provide details on how the consultation on the preliminary environmental information will be undertaken.

4.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 4.1 The proposed scheme will be located within the Port of Southampton's Western Docks adjacent to Millbrook Railfreight Terminal and Millbrook (Hants) railway station (grid reference SU 396 124).. The site location is shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The proposed scheme will comprise a biomass fuelled electricity generating plant capable of generating approximately 100 Megawatts (Declared Net Capacity) of electricity and associated biomass processing and fuel store, boiler house, turbine building, cooling assembly, ancillary buildings, structures, plant and equipment together with other engineering and building works. The plant will generate renewable electricity that will be fed into the local electricity supply grid, equivalent to the consumption of approximately 200,000 homes. This is sufficient to provide the Southampton population (approximately 100,000 households) and local commercial development with renewable electricity. Opportunities to provide heat to premises within the vicinity of the plant are also being investigated.
- 4.3 The plant will require up to 800,000 tonnes of solid biomass per annum. The biomass feedstock will comprise of sustainably sourced fuel in the form of virgin wood fibre; recycled wood chips; energy crops; solid recovered fuel; residues from processing cereals and oilseeds; and other solid biomass material as defined by the Renewables Obligations 2009. The plant **will not** use general domestic or industrial waste or liquid biomass feedstocks, e.g. vegetable oils. The majority of the fuel will be delivered to the plant through the Port of Southampton with some locally sourced fuel being delivered to the site by road.
- 4.4 Construction of the project will take approximately 36 months. It is anticipated the plant will become operational in 2015. The plant will generate between 40-250 jobs during construction and approximately 40 permanent full time jobs during operation. In addition, the plant would also help safeguard existing jobs within the area and will result in indirect employment for off-site based logistics, engineering and services support and procurement.

5.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

5.1 'The Planning Act 2008 - Guidance on pre-application consultation' was released by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2009. Paragraph 16 of the guidance outlines the basic purpose of community consultation which ensures people:

- a. *'Have access to information;*
- b. *Can put forward their own ideas and feel confident that there is a process for considering ideas;*
- c. *Have an active role in developing proposals and options to ensure local knowledge and perspectives are taken into account*
- d. *Can comment on and influence formal proposals*
- e. *Get feedback and be informed about progress and outcomes'.*

What makes for useful Community Consultation?

5.2 The sharing of information in both directions, from the developer to the local community and vice-versa, can be to the benefit both the communities and the proposed development.

5.3 Consultation with the local community assists in providing the developer with vital local knowledge. This knowledge enables the developer to identify any likely environmental or social effects on the locality. Effective consultation enables the project design to evolve in response to those potential effects and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed mitigation measures will seek to minimise any adverse effects and maximise the positive impacts of the proposals.

5.4 For the local community, engagement exercises provide a chance to understand more about the proposed scheme, explore how the development can bring value to their community, help shape solutions and have their say on the proposals.

5.5 For consultation with the local community to be effective, it is important that the developer sets out the aims of the consultation and is clear about what will be consulted upon at the various stages.

People living within the vicinity of the land

5.6 In order to comply with Section 47 (1) of the Planning Act 2008, Heliuss Energy must consult with 'people living in the vicinity if the land'. It is therefore necessary to define 'people living in the vicinity if the land' and determine the area within which it is appropriate, in these circumstances, to consult.

5.7 Guidance on pre-application consultation under the Planning Act 2008, released by the Department of Communities and Local Government in September 2009, suggests finding a balance between consulting those who are significantly affected by proposals and consulting a wider group of local

people who will not be directly affected, but who will have a reasonable fear that they might be, or will have strong feelings about the project.

- 5.8 Following informal consultation with Southampton City Council, Helius Energy identified the following groups as:
- i Employees of the Port of Southampton and companies located within the Port;
 - ii Residents of Millbrook and Freemantle wards of Southampton who reside south of the A3057 and east of the A35;
 - iii Business located within Millbrook and Freemantle including the those within the Millbrook Industrial Estate, the Manor House Industrial Estate and British American Tobacco;
 - iv Residents on Redbridge road, along the route from the M271 motorway junction to Dock Gate 20;
 - v Residents of the village of Marchwood; and
 - vi Business premises located within the village of Marchwood;

- 5.9 In addition to the specific groups identified above, the dedicated project website will reach a wider audience to keep readers informed about the proposals and provide the means to make comments on or ask questions about the proposed scheme.

Publically available project information

- 5.10 The dedicated project website (www.southamptonbiomasspower.com) sets out details about the proposed project and includes a register of all publically available documents for reference along with a section of FAQs concerning the scheme. In addition, the website gives details of how the local community can contact Helius to raise queries relating to the project or respond to any questions.
- 5.11 The information available on the website will be provided in a hard copy format in the Shirley Library (Redcar Street, Southampton, SO15 5LL) and through the Marchwood Parish Council Clerk.
- 5.12 Under Section 39 of the Planning Act 2008, the IPC must make all applications and accompanying documents, information and consultation reports available to the public on a register of applications. In addition, the IPC has a statutory duty, under Section 51 of the Planning Act 2008, to record all advice given in relation to an application or potential application and make this information publically available.

Community Consultation Strategy

- 5.13 Helius Energy undertakes to complete a two stage community consultation process which is outlined in the sections below.

- 5.14 Helius Energy consulted with Southampton City Council informally to gain their input on the community consultation strategy. Particular points covered by the consultation included:
- i The definition of those 'living in the vicinity of the land';
 - ii The identification of potential effects on the local community;
 - iii Input into the suggested strategy;
 - iv Identification of residential associations or community groups in the vicinity of the site;
 - v Suggested locations and timings of the proposed public exhibitions and the best means to advertise the exhibitions locally;
- 5.15 Following the informal consultation, draft versions the SoCC and Community Consultation Strategy document were submitted to Southampton City Council for formal comment on the 15th September 2010. Southampton City Council's response has been incorporated into the final versions of the SoCC and the Community Consultation Strategy document.
- 5.16 Helius Energy published the finalised SoCC in full in The Daily Echo on <to be inserted> and <to be inserted>. A copy of the finalised SoCC can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.17 Figure 5.17 sets out an overview of the strategy for community consultation strategy devised, alongside key stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

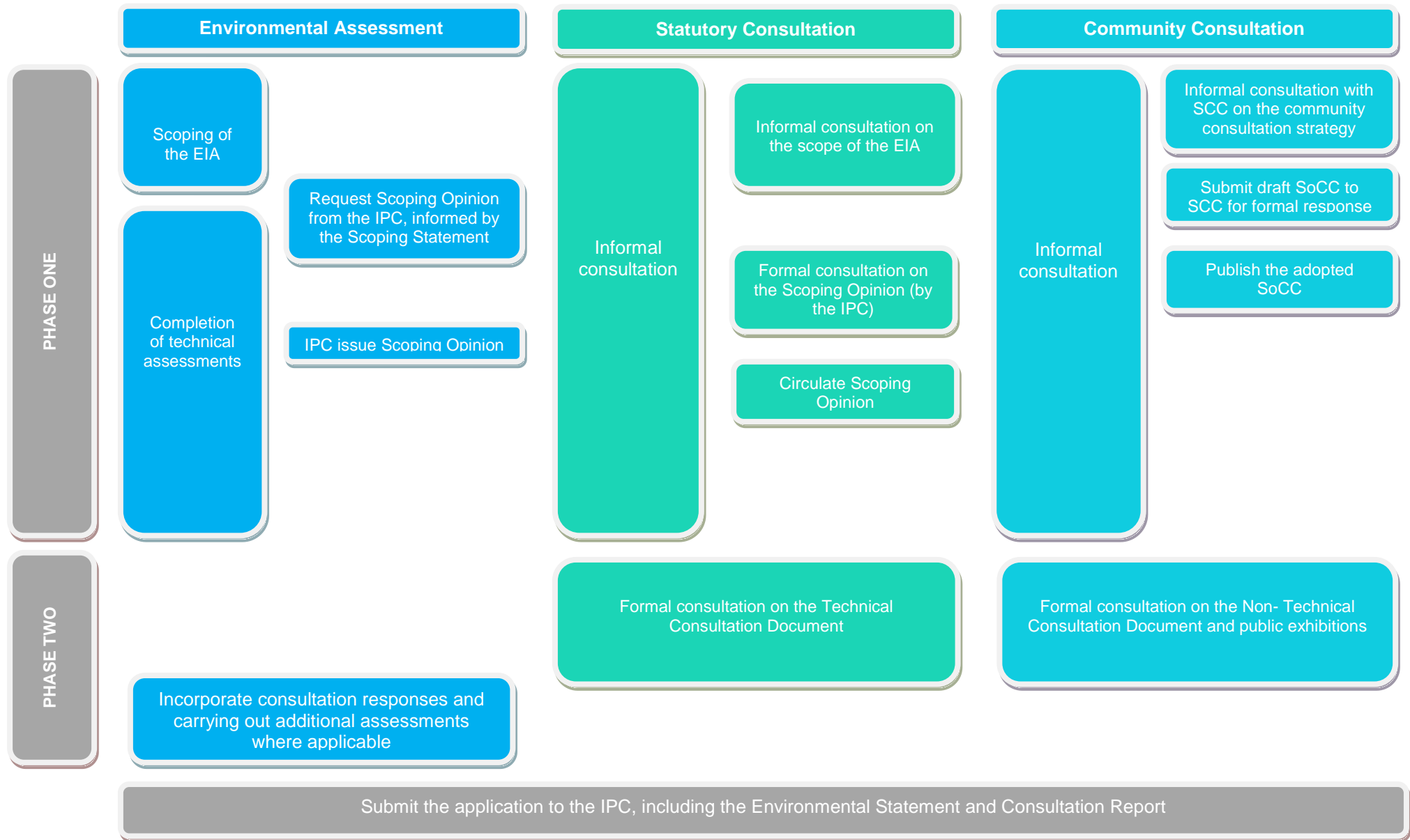


Figure 5.17 Overview of the EIA and Community Consultation processes

Community Consultation Stage One

- 5.18 Phase I of the community consultation will involve informal consultation with the local community representatives including Southampton City Council, local residents associations & community groups. Locally elected community representatives will also be informed about the scheme.
- 5.19 The aim of Phase I will be to better understand the local community and identify the potential impacts of the scheme on that community. This phase will provide the opportunity for the local community directly, and through their locally elected community representatives, to learn more about the proposed scheme and raise any concerns regarding the potential impacts of the scheme on the locality.
- 5.20 Phase I will be undertaken immediately following the formal response of Southampton City Council on the SoCC and is expected to last around 2 months and will be followed by a period of 28 days minimum for consultees to submit written responses to the applicant. Phase I will be undertaken while the environmental studies are being completed.
- 5.21 The following individuals and groups have been identified as local community representatives for the purpose of this consultation:
- i West Southampton Community Forum;
 - ii Chinese Association of Southampton
 - iii SOS Polonia;
 - iv Southampton Federation of Residents Associations;
 - v Southampton Sight;
 - vi Foyes Corner Community Festival;
 - vii Friends of the Field
 - viii Maybush and District Community Association;
 - ix Millbrook and District Community Association;
 - x Redbridge Tenants and Residents Association;
 - xi Councillor Fred White (Marchwood Parish Council);
 - xii Mr Alan Whitehead, MP;
 - xiii Ms Catherine Bearder, MEP;
 - xiv Mr Peter Skinner, MEP;
 - xv Mr Nirj Deva, MEP;
 - xvi Mr Daniel Hannan, MEP;
 - xvii Mr Nigel Farage, MEP;
 - xviii Mr Richard Ashworth, MEP;
 - xix MR Richard Ashworth, MEP;
 - xx Mrs Sharon Bowles, MEP;
 - xxi Mr Keith Taylor, MEP;

xxii Mrs Marta Andreasen, MEP; and

xxiii Mr James Elles, MEP.

5.22 Should additional community groups or residents associations the cover the areas identified as being 'within the vicinity of the land' be identified throughout the application process, they will be included in future communications with the 'locally elected representatives.

5.23 The local community representatives will be introduced to the proposed scheme in writing and will receive copies of the following documents:

- i The Project Summary;
- ii The SoCC;
- iii The Community Consultation Strategy document; and
- iv The Scoping Statement

5.24 The project summary will provide a description of the proposed scheme.

5.25 The Scoping Statement sets out the topics that will be included within the Environmental Statement that will be submitted with the application.

5.26 The community representatives will be invited to make comments on the proposals and to meet with Helius Energy to discuss the proposals and provide feedback from the local community.

5.27 In addition to the locally elected representatives identified above, the following Southampton City and New Forest District Councillors have been identified as 'local Councillors' and will kept informed about the proposals through the provision of the project documents outlined above. The Councillors will also be advised about the role of Southampton City Council and The New Forest District Council as a Section 42 Statutory Consultees in the application process:

- i Councillor Carol Cunio, Mayor of Southampton;
- ii Councillor Michael Ball (Freemantle ward);
- iii Councillor Jeremy Moulton (Freemantle ward);
- iv Councillor Brian Parnell (Freemantle ward);
- v Councillor David Durnell (Millbrook ward);
- vi Councillor Linda Norris (Millbrook ward);
- vii Councillor Andrew Wells (Millbrook ward);
- viii Councillor Paul Holmes (Redbridge ward);
- ix Councillor Peter Marsh-Jenks (Redbridge ward);
- x Councillor Catherine McEwing (Redbridge ward);
- xi Councillor Alison Hoad (Marchwood Ward); and

xii Councillor Alan Shotter (Marchwood Ward).

- 5.28 The project website will be launched at the start of Phase I. The website will provide details of the project directly to the members of the public. All documents circulated to the local community representatives will be made available on the project website. A copy of all the information provided on the website will also be available in Shirley Library.
- 5.29 The website will include an e-mail address to allow members of the public to contact Heliuss Energy during this phase to ask questions about the proposed scheme. The public will also be able to register to receive a notification when the website is updated with new information.

Community Consultation Stage Two

- 5.30 Phase II of the community consultation strategy will involve formal consultation with the local community and will be undertaken once the majority of the environmental assessments have been completed.
- 5.31 The aim of Phase II is to inform the local community on the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment, including any anticipated effects of the scheme on the locality. Views will be sought on the mitigation measures proposed within the scheme design.
- 5.32 Information about the proposals will be communicated in two ways through:
- i A Non Technical Consultation Document; and
 - ii Public Exhibitions.

Non Technical Consultation Document

- 5.33 A Non Technical Consultation Document will be published, outlining the proposed scheme and summarising the key potential environmental effects of the proposal. The document will include project drawings and images. As it will be designed for the local community, the consultation document will be written in non-technical language and will address issues raised during earlier consultation communication.
- 5.34 The publication of the Non Technical Consultation Document will be advertised in the Daily Echo for two consecutive weeks.
- 5.35 Copies of the Non Technical Consultation Document will also be available at the Shirley Library (Redcar Street, Southampton, SO15 5LL), through the Marchwood Parish Council Clerk and on the project website: www.southamptonbiomasspower.com.

- 5.36 A copy of the Non Technical Consultation Document will also be provided to the local community representatives and local Councillors identified under Phase I.

Public Exhibitions

- 5.37 Two public exhibitions will be held at the start of Phase II to provide the opportunity for the local community to meet with Heliuss Energy's project team and discuss the proposals.
- 5.38 Representatives from the specialist consultants responsible for assessing the areas of specific concern to the local community will also be available to answer more specific questions. It is anticipated these will include emissions to air, ecological, noise and vibration and transportation effects.
- 5.39 The exhibitions will take place on two separate days, during the week and will run into the evening to ensure the widest possible access. Information about the project will be communicated through the use of posters and copies of the Non Technical Consultation Document will be available for review.
- 5.40 It is intended that the exhibitions will be held at two separate community centres or halls within the local area. Heliuss Energy will seek the views the local community representatives as to the best locations to ensure the exhibitions are as accessible as possible to the whole community.
- 5.41 The date and location of the exhibitions will be advertised in the local newspaper, on the project website and through a leaflet drop to business and residential properties in the Freemantle, Millbrook, Redbridge and Marchwood wards in the areas outlined above.
- 5.42 The local community representatives, local Councillors, and employers within the Port of Southampton will be advised of the exhibition details and be invited to attend.

Formal responses to Phase II consultation

- 5.43 Following the publication of the Non-Technical Consultation Document and the public exhibitions, the local community will have a minimum of 28 days to comment directly to Heliuss Energy about the proposals. The deadline for responses will be specified in all advertisements, on the project website and on all copies of documents and leaflets published.
- 5.44 The dedicated project website will provide a facility for members of the public to submit their comments directly to Heliuss Energy. Members of the public will also be able to submit written comments at both public exhibitions.
- 5.45 All consultation responses received by the applicant will be taken into account when preparing the final application documents to be submitted to the IPC.

Consultation feedback

- 5.46 Feedback on consultation is important to ensure the local community know their views have been heard. The main source of feedback from the community consultation will be in the form of the Consultation Report, which will be submitted with the application to the IPC.
- 5.47 The Consultation Report will include a summary of all community representations and Helius Energy's response to those comments. The Consultation Report will be circulated to the local community representatives and a copy will be available on the project website once the application has been accepted by the IPC. Helius Energy may also choose to provide direct feedback to individuals where appropriate.

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6.0 STATUTORY CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

Identifying who should be consulted about the proposed application

6.1 Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to consult with a number of statutory bodies and organisations. Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 lists the bodies or persons who must be consulted on relevant proposals. The following organisations been identified as relevant to the proposed scheme:

- i The IPC;
- ii South East England Regional Assembly;
- iii The Health and Safety Executive;
- iv The South Central Strategic Health Authority ;
- v Natural England;
- vi English Heritage;
- vii Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services;
- viii Hampshire Constabulary;
- ix The Environment Agency;
- x The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment;
- xi South East England Development Agency (SEEDA);
- xii The Equality and Human Rights Commission;
- xiii Sustainable Development Commission;
- xiv Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- xv The Highways Agency;
- xvi Southampton City Council;
- xvii Ofgem;
- xviii The Health Protection Agency;
- xix Hampshire LRF Secretariat, ;
- xx Associated British Ports;
- xxi SSE Power Distribution;
- xxii Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
- xxiii Southern Water;
- xxiv New Forest District Council;
- xxv Fareham Borough Council;
- xxvi Test Valley Borough Council;
- xxvii Hampshire County Council;
- xxviii Marchwood Parish Council
- xxix Partnership for Urban South Hampshire;
- xxx Ford Motor Company Ltd (current occupiers of part of the site);
- xxxi Marine Management Organisation; and

xxxii Government Office for the South East.

- 6.2 The above list may be revised following confirmation of the bodies notified by the IPC under Regulation 9 (1) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.

Statutory Consultation Strategy

- 6.3 As with the framework for community consultation, technical consultation will be carried out in two phases to run concurrently with the community consultation (see Figure 5.17).

Statutory Consultation – Stage One

- 6.4 Initial consultation will be on an informal basis as part of the environmental assessment of the proposals. Initial consultation on the contents and form of the Scoping Statement may be sought from statutory bodies. Further advice may be sought during the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment and compilation of the Environmental Statement.
- 6.5 The IPC will consult with the Statutory Bodies directly prior to publishing the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion.

Technical Consultation – Stage Two

- 6.6 The second phase of consultation will involve the circulation of a formal Technical Consultation Document to all Section 42 Statutory Consultees..
- 6.7 The Technical Consultation Document will include:
- i A summary of the main proposals;
 - ii A map of the site location;
 - iii A plan of the site layout; and
 - iv Summaries of the technical environmental assessments undertaken.

- 6.8 Statutory Consultees will have a minimum period of 28 days to respond directly to Heliuss Energy on the contents of the consultation documents. Heliuss Energy will have regard to these responses when preparing the proposed application to the IPC and may respond directly to the Statutory Consultees or seek further advice where appropriate.

- 6.9 All Section 42 consultation responses received by the applicant will be contained within the Appendix of the Consultation Report submitted with the application to the IPC.

7.0 SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION TO THE IPC

- 7.1 Following the completion of Phase II of the consultation strategy, Helius Energy will compile the application documents for submission to the IPC. The application documents will include a Consultation Report, which will detail the various consultation activities carried out by the applicant to fulfil the obligations set out in the SoCC. The Consultation Report will also include a summary of the responses received during the various consultation activities with the local community and Helius' response to the comments made. The responses received by the Statutory Consultees will also be included.
- 7.2 Following submission of the application, the IPC has 28 days to determine whether the community consultation undertaken by the applicant has been sufficient before formally accepting the application.
- 7.3 On receiving confirmation that the application has been accepted by the IPC, Helius Energy will place advertisements in the Daily Echo, a national paper and the London Gazette to advise of the accepted application, in accordance with Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008. Helius Energy will also post public notices in at least 10 prominent positions within one mile of the site advising of the accepted application. All notices will advise of the deadline for interested parties to register with the IPC. The project website will be updated accordingly and copies of the Environmental Statement and Non Technical Summary will be made available. In addition, the documents relating to the application will be made available on the IPC's website.
- 7.4 The IPC will request a Local Impact Report from the Local Planning Authority, in this case Southampton City Council, under Section 60 of the Planning Act 2008, and will carry out further consultation with interested parties.

APPENDIX 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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APPENDIX 2 – SITE LOCATION

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