

SOUTHAMPTON BIOMASS POWER

REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

Details of further consultation arrangements for the proposed Southampton Biomass Power scheme in the Western Docks

Southampton Biomass Power Ltd (“Southampton Biomass Power”), a subsidiary of Helius Energy plc (“Helius 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 and therefore an application for Development Consent will be made to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

This Revised Statement of Community Consultation, or SoCC, updates the SoCC published by Helius Energy on the 8th November 2010.

The preparation and publication of a Statement of Community Consultation or SoCC, is a Statutory Requirement under Section 47 (1) of the Planning Act 2008. The Act requires that a SoCC must set out how the applicant proposes to consult the people ‘living in the vicinity of the land’ proposed for the development. Helius Energy must carry out consultation on the proposed application in accordance with the proposals set out within this statement.

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. Consultation enables the project design to evolve in response to those potential effects and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures.

For the local community, engagement exercises provide an opportunity to understand more about the proposed scheme, explore how the development can bring value to their community, and help shape solutions to issues that arise from the scheme.

Project Description

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 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. Potential opportunities to supply heat to existing and proposed development within the vicinity of the plant are also being investigated.

The development of biomass fuelled electricity generating plant is consistent with Central Government and local planning policies to encourage energy from renewable sources. Renewable energy results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuel alternatives like coal, oil and gas. Generating energy from sustainable biomass is considered to be a low carbon energy source.

The plant will require up to 800,000 tonnes of solid biomass per annum. The biomass feedstock will comprise sustainably sourced fuel in the form of virgin wood fibre; recycled wood chips; energy crops; 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 waste, slurry, manure, poultry litter 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 delivered to the site by road.

Construction of the project will take approximately 36 months. It is anticipated the plant will become operational in 2016. The plant will generate between 53-450 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.

Further information on the proposed scheme is available on the project website: www.southamptonbiomasspower.com including Frequently Asked Questions.

The Infrastructure Planning Commission

The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) is an independent body set up by the Government in October 2009 to decide applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NISPs), giving consideration to both the local and national impacts of a proposed scheme.

The draft National Policy Statements for Energy set out the Government's intended policy for the development of energy infrastructure. The National Policy Statements for Energy have not yet been formally designated by the Secretary of State and until that time, the IPC does not have the power to decide applications and will instead make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then decide whether to grant consent.

The IPC will only accept an application if the applicant can demonstrate that they have consulted fully with the local community. The IPC's website sets out the process for consultation during the examination process: www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure.

On the 29th June 2010 the Government announced plans to abolish the IPC but retain the skills and expertise within a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit as part of the Planning Inspectorate within the Department for Communities and Local Government. New legislation will be required to bring about this change. Until that legislation is in place, the IPC will continue within its present role. Further details are available on the IPC's website.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The proposed scheme may have environmental effects and therefore Helius Energy has determined that an environmental impact assessment (EIA), pursuant to 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009', will be undertaken. Various technical assessments have been carried out by Helius Energy and a team of independent specialist consultants. The findings of these assessments will be set out in an Environmental Statement which will be submitted as part of the application to the IPC.

Helius Energy has consulted with various statutory bodies concerning the scope of the EIA. Helius Energy submitted a request for a Scoping Opinion to the IPC in September 2010, accompanied a Scoping Statement. The IPC issued their formal Scoping Opinion in November 2010 which is

available on their website. The principal potential significant impacts identified by Heliuss Energy to be addressed within the Environmental Statement, include:

- Effect on local air quality
- Visual impact
- Effect of transport movements
- Noise and vibration effects
- Effect on ecological interests
- Economic Regeneration and new job generation
- Greenhouse Gas emissions savings

The detailed assessments seek to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on the existing locality, taking other proposed schemes into account where applicable. The assessments seek to maximise any beneficial impacts on the local community while identifying any viable mitigation measures where appropriate.

Consultation Strategy

The purpose of the consultation is to seek the public and stakeholder's views on the proposed scheme and, where relevant, the proposed measures to mitigate any potentially significant local impacts identified by the environmental impact assessment. In addition to gaining the views of the local community, community engagement provides the opportunity to inform the local community about the proposed scheme and for the local community to ask questions about the proposals.

As required by the Regulations, Heliuss Energy has formally consulted with Southampton City Council on the content of the Revised SoCC.

A separate document, entitled 'Revised Community Consultation Strategy', has been produced which provides further detail on the community consultation strategy including details of the consultation undertaken with Southampton City Council, the full list of 'local community representatives' and information about consultation with Statutory Consultees.

The Revised SoCC and the Revised Community Consultation Strategy document are available on the project website, in the Shirley Library, 14 Redcar Street, Southampton, SO15 5LL and through the Marchwood Parish Council Clerk, Marchwood Village Hall, Vicarage Road, Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4SX.

Inner Zone

The following groups have been identified, in consultation with Southampton City Council, as 'living in the vicinity of the land' and therefore comprise the 'Inner Zone' of the consultation area:

- Employees of the Port of Southampton and companies located within the Port;
- Residents of Millbrook and Freemantle wards of Southampton who reside south of the A3057 and east of the A35;
- Business premises located within Millbrook and Freemantle including those within the Millbrook Industrial Estate, the Manor House Industrial Estate and British American Tobacco;
- Residents on Redbridge road, along the route from the M271 motorway junction to Dock Gate 20;
- Residents of the village of Marchwood; and
- Business premises located within the village of Marchwood including Oceanic Estates.

Outer Zone

An 'Outer Zone' has been identified comprising the wider community of the city of Southampton and neighbouring villages along the River Test.

Previous consultations

In accordance with the previously published SoCC, a programme of public consultation was undertaken in two phases:

Phase I: Informal consultation

Phase I of the community consultation, undertaken between 8th November 2010 and 7th January 2011, involved informal consultation with the local community representatives including local residents associations and community groups together with locally elected community representatives and the launch of the project website: www.southamptonbiomasspower.com.

Phase II: Formal consultation

Phase II involved formal consultation with the local community between 7th February 2011 and 21st April 2011. Preliminary environmental information was provided through a Technical Consultation Document. A Non Technical Consultation Document was also published, providing a summary of the preliminary environmental information in non technical language. Copies of the Non Technical Consultation Document were circulated to the Local Community Representatives and Local Councillors.

Further details on Phase I and Phase II consultation are available within the Revised Community Consultation Strategy document. The responses received during the Phase I and Phase II consultation programme will now be assessed and the scheme proposals and supporting studies amended as appropriate. A full report including a summary of the comments received and Helius Energy's detailed response will be set out in a Consultation Report to be submitted with the application to the IPC in due course.

Further Consultation – Phase III

Initial assessment of responses from the Phase I and II consultation has indicated that one of the principal issues raised relates to the layout and appearance of the scheme. Accordingly, before the application is submitted to the IPC, Helius Energy proposes to undertake a further programme of consultation on the project based on an amended scheme design. The Phase III consultation will therefore provide additional preliminary environmental information for public comment focussed on:

- Proposed changes to the layout of buildings within the site;
- Presentation of 3 possible approaches to the external architectural treatment of the scheme; and
- Updated environmental studies to take account of the above changes. This will also include an updated Transport Assessment.

The consultation programme for Phase III commences today, **DATE TBC**, and will last until **DATE TBC**.

Revised Non Technical Consultation Document

A Revised Non Technical Consultation Document will be published outlining the proposed changes to the scheme design and providing a summary of the additional preliminary environmental information in non technical language.

Revised Technical Consultation Document

A full version of the additional preliminary environmental information, including details of the revised scheme design and updated environmental studies will be made available in a Revised Technical Consultation Document.

Public exhibitions

Public exhibitions will be held within the 'Inner Zone' to provide the opportunity for members of the public to meet with Heliuss Energy's project team and review the amendments to the proposed scheme design. Representatives from the specialist consultants responsible for the design of the scheme and for assessing emissions to air, noise and vibration and transportation effects, will also attend.

Public exhibitions will be held between 2pm-7.30pm on the following dates:

| Date | Venue |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>TBC</i> | <i>TBC</i> <i>(Millbrook)</i> |
| <i>TBC</i> | <i>TBC</i> <i>(Marchwood)</i> |
| <i>TBC</i> | <i>TBC</i> <i>(Millbrook)</i> |
| <i>TBC</i> | <i>TBC</i> <i>(Marchwood)</i> |

Residential properties and business premises within the 'Inner Zone' identified above will be the subject of a leaflet drop to draw attention to the scheme changes, the exhibition venues and the consultation programme. To further draw attention to the programme within both the Inner and Outer Zones, the further consultation and dates and locations of the exhibitions will also be advertised in the local newspapers, on local site notices and on the project website. Respondents to previous rounds of consultation will also receive written notification.

Information about the project will be communicated through the use of posters and copies of the Revised Non Technical Consultation Document and Revised Technical Consultation Document will be available for review. Members of the public will be able to submit written comments at the public exhibitions.

The consultation documents will also be available to inspect at:

- Southampton City Council, Planning and Sustainability, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY
[8.30am-5.00pm Mon to Fri];

- Southampton City Council Gateway, One Guildhall Square, Southampton, SO14 7FP [8.30am-5.30am Mon, Tues and Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm Wed and 8.30-7.00pm Thurs];
- Shirley Library, Shirley Precinct, Shirley High Street , Southampton, SO15 5LL [9.30am-7.30pm Mon, Tues and Fri, 10.00am -7.00pm Wed, and 9.00am-4.00pm Sat]; and
- On request from the Parish Clerk, Marchwood Village Hall, Marchwood Village Centre, Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4SF [9am-12noon Mon to Fri].

The local community representatives and local Councillors will receive an invitation to the exhibitions along with copies of the Revised SoCC, Revised Community Consultation Strategy document and Revised Non Technical Consultation Document.

Deadline for responses

All responses must be submitted in writing to Heliuss Energy by the **DATE TBC**. Comments will be considered and taken into account prior to submission of the application to the IPC. Please note that responses to previous consultations will still be considered and it will not be necessary to repeat comments already submitted to Heliuss Energy during previous consultations.

Project Website

The project website, www.southamptonbiomasspower.com provides details of the project directly to the members of the public.

Project documents, including this Revised SoCC, the Revised Community Consultation Strategy document and the Revised Technical and Non Technical Consultation Documents are available on the 'downloads' page.

Members of the public can register to receive a notification when the website is updated and can respond to the consultation through the 'Comments' page.

The information available on the website is also available in hard copy format in the Shirley Library and through the Marchwood Parish Council Clerk.

Consultation feedback

Feedback on consultation is important to ensure the local community know their views have been heard. The main source of feedback will be in the form of the Consultation Report, to be submitted with the application to the IPC.

The Consultation Report will include a summary of all community representations and Helius Energy's response. The Consultation Report will be circulated to the local community representatives and local Councillors as well as a copy being available in the Shirley Library, through the Marchwood Parish Clerk and on the project website once the application has been accepted by the IPC. Helius Energy may also provide direct feedback to individuals where appropriate.

Contact Information

For further information or to submit written responses to the further consultation by the deadline of **DATE TBC**, please contact Helius Energy in one of the following ways:

E-mail: enquiries@southamptonbiomasspower.com

Website: www.southamptonbiomasspower.com

Post: **Southampton Biomass Power Ltd**

Helius Energy

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