

**Response from Portland Town Council to Planning Application
WP/20/00692/DCC**

Proposal to construct an energy recovery facility with ancillary buildings and works including administrative facilities, gatehouse and weighbridge, parking and circulation areas, cable routes to ship berths and existing off-site electrical sub-station, with site access through Portland Port from Castletown.

Portland Town Council objects to the above proposal to build an energy recovery facility at Portland Port on the following grounds.

At our Full Council meeting on 26th June, Portland Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency. We believe that this proposal does not align with the objectives set out within this declaration.

Portland Town Council concurs with comments from Ministry of Justice that there has been a lack of robust testing on the impacts on human health. We would like to echo these concerns with respect to wider public health. There are concerns over the impact of emissions due to Portland's terraced landscape. We note that there are many homes, nurseries, a care homes, a hospital, and a youth club in very close proximity to the site of this proposal. Public Health England state that emissions from energy recovery facilities could have an impact on health. Without irrefutable evidence that this proposal would not impact on human health, we object to this proposal.

Portland Town Council would like to see a more robust study on the impact of HGV movements. We have already raised concerns with the local authority over frequent congestion on Portland Beach Road, through Wyke and Weymouth affecting the ability to travel smoothly to and from Portland. We have been advised that Dorset Council Highways Officers are due to publish a report shortly on traffic management through Portland and Weymouth and we await these findings. Traffic congestion has recently been exacerbated by the increase in visitor numbers to Portland. We are concerned about the ability of the road network to cope with the additional HGV movements. Until these problems have been addressed, we cannot support this proposal.

There are concerns regarding HGV movements and their impact on residents of Castletown in particular, especially with regards to vibration and noise and the impact on the wellbeing of residents.

We also cannot see any contingency plans should Portland Beach Road be closed. We would like to see more detail on this.

Portland Town Council share the concerns raised in the responses from the Jurassic Coast Trust, AONB, and Historic England. Portland sits in the middle of AONB, and World Heritage Site and we are concerned that this proposal would affect the experience of visitors to Portland. Furthermore, Portland has a world class sailing facility which is used by visitors from far and wide and is an important part of our

tourist offering. Part of Portland's tourism strategy involves promoting a Portland-clean environment. We are concerned that this proposal would have a significant negative impact on the experience of users of Portland Harbour and Portland as a whole, and that there may be more jobs lost from within our tourism industry than will be created by this proposal.

Portland Town Council note that the HRA screening report is yet to be received. We await this report before making a comment on the impact to ecology.

We acknowledge that there is the potential to create a limited number of jobs within this proposal. However, we also acknowledge the strength of the public opposition to this proposal and given the concerns raised above, we do not feel that this benefit outweighs the significant adverse impacts.

Portland Town Council is sympathetic to Portland Port's need for shoreside power but we do not see any investigation into clean energy alternatives that would align with Portland's tourism strategy, as noted above, and the wider aims within our Neighbourhood Plan.

Kathryn Pearce
Town Clerk
16 November 2020.