

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT TO COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2016

Modern Built Environment

Progress Power – On 19 August, we were notified of an application by Progress Power Limited (PPL) to make a non-material change to The Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Development Consent Order (DCO) that authorised the construction of a 299 MW gas-fired power station on Eye Airfield, together with an electricity substation and associated structures in open fields in Yaxley.

The original DCO gave details of the maximum dimensions of the various pieces of plant, including the gas turbines themselves. PPL has always kept its options open regarding the number of turbines, which it has said could be one or more, up to a maximum of five. It now realises that if the single turbine option is taken up the size of the unit will have a slightly larger footprint than the one specified in the existing order; it would also require more than the presently specified number of supporting pieces of plant – for example, three black start generators instead of one. The changes are considered non-material presumably because any impact will not change significantly. This council, along with other consultees such as Suffolk County Council and Historic England, are currently considering these details and have until 25 September to respond to the Planning Inspectorate. Details of the proposed amendment can be found at

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/progress-power-station/>

PPL will be bidding again in the Capacity Auction in December. The Eye project will go ahead only if the price at the Dutch auction doesn't fall below the level that meets PPL's viability requirements.

East Anglia One – The EA One project is currently at the stage where the requirements of the DCO (which are tantamount to planning conditions) have begun to be received by both the Council and other required consultees and the discharge of these requirements is now underway. Work is due to begin in early 2017 on the construction works for East Anglia One which, in the early stages, is likely to consist of road improvement works necessary to facilitate the future construction phases of the project.

East Anglia Three – Examinations into the EA Three project are also underway. The Examining Authority (Planning Inspectorate) has set out its timetable for the examination process and for hosting Issue Specific Hearings in early September. The Examining Authority's site visit took place on 7 September, taking in key points along the onshore cable route as well as the Construction Consolidation Site at Paper Mill Lane, Claydon and the proposed Substation site in Bramford. It is

intended that Officers will keep Members updated with progress on this project as it moves forward.

The Consumer Environment

Food and Safety tablets trial – The trial use of a tablet computer by the Food and Safety team for food safety inspections has proved very successful. We are currently putting further forms on it and ensuring it can fully replace laptops before committing the service to the switch.

Commercial Waste Service – In May 2016 Waste Services launched a glass recycling service primarily aimed at the hospitality sector to supplement our existing commercial refuse and recycling collection services. The service currently has over 80 business customers, recycling over 5 tonnes of glass a week.

This supports our drive to grow our commercial waste services and increase income from business customers. Using the transformation fund to finance a short term appointment of a field sales role we were able to establish the glass service and promote our existing services. In the first 3 months of operation we have secured 42 new customers across the service (23 in MSDC) generating an additional annual income of £44,000.

Brome Community Recycling Centre – Following a period of closure of this well used facility, MSDC working with Suffolk County Council, the Environment Agency and local businesses were able to reopen the site in May this year. The site is open 5 days a week, giving residents a recycling facility in an area where other local options are not readily accessible. During the first 2 months the site received over 31 tonnes of waste, of which 88% was able to be recycled. The site is operated on a cost neutral basis to MSDC; users pay fees to the operator for certain types of waste.

Councillor David Burn
Environment Portfolio Holder