



PLANNING COMMITTEE – 30TH OCTOBER 2013

SUBJECT: HIRWAUN POWER PROJECT, HIRWAUN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise members of an application that may be submitted to The Planning Inspectorate under its national infrastructure planning powers, and recommend the Local Planning Authority's response.

2. THE REPORT

- 2.1 Hirwaun Power Limited is in the pre-application stage of the national infrastructure planning process whereby it consults various statutory bodies about its proposal to erect a gas fired power plant at Hirwaun Industrial Estate together with gas and electrical connections. The site is some distance from the boundary of Caerphilly County Borough, but this Council is consulted because it shares a boundary with the Rhondda Cynon Taf Council area within which the project is proposed.
- 2.2 The site is to the west of Hirwaun, and some 17 kilometres from the boundary with this borough, with the Taff Valley and the town of Merthyr in between. It has an area of 7.5 ha., and is currently occupied by industrial buildings. The proposed plant would generate 299 mw of electricity, enough it is stated to power 400,000 homes. The most prominent features of the development would be five 35 metre high stacks.
- 2.3 An Environmental Statement (ES) and a Non-Technical Summary have been submitted with the consultation: a paper version is held by the Planning Division, and an electronic version can be viewed on the applicant's website. The Environmental Statement considers such matters as the nature of the development, site selection, alternatives, design evolution, air quality, noise and vibration, ecology, water resources, geology, landscape, traffic and archaeology.
- 2.4 In view of the intervening distance between this borough and the development site, officers are satisfied that there will be no significant impact upon its residents. Matters that would normally be considered if the development were the subject of a normal planning application will be considered through the national infrastructure planning process. The appropriate officers of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Borough Councils, if they wish, will also be involved in the process, as will national bodies such as Natural Resources Wales. Therefore there is no need to provide any comments at this stage, but officers will review the scheme as it progresses, and advise members further if necessary.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That no comments be offered at this stage.