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23rd August 2010

To: Sue Wallace – Bonner
Lead Officer
Local Area Forum
Mersey, Heath, Grange and Halton Brook

Dear Sue,

Incinerator Health Study – LAF £2,500 funding
Executive Board meeting September 2010

I understand, from a David Parr e-mail to Councillor Mike Hodgkinson, that you are preparing a report to the Executive Board for them to consider at their September meeting and decide whether or not to ratify the £2,500 funding for the above study agreed by the Heath LAF.

To inform this process I'm enclosing the study scoping statement for you to make available, with this letter, to the Executive Board meeting of 9/9/10

David Parr indicated in his e-mail to Councillor Mike Hodgkinson dated 20/7/10 that following issues are causing concern so I will answer them in turn below:

- 1 "As yet there is no other funding identified to meet the full cost of such a Study – costs have been estimated at between £10,000 and £100,000 depending on the scale of any such Study"

Professor Diggle has estimated costs at a maximum of £11,000 and after completion of the scoping statement has reduced this back to £10,000. I expect to have his formal quotation available before the meeting.

Since applying to the LAF a further £2,500 funding has been secured from private sources and another organisation has advised that, subject to sight and approval of the scope statement, it is likely that their grant committee will look favourably on an application for another £2,500. This, with the LAF funding, Totals £7,500. We have indications that, assuming this £7,500 prior funding is available, funding would be available from another organisation. We're confident that should the Executive Board agree to provide the agreed £2,500 we will be able to reach the required total.

- 2 “The methodology etc and extent of the proposed Study remains unclear”

The scope statement fully details the study and its methodology (produced by Professor Diggle with assistance from myself & Alex Stewart of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is detailed in Appendix A of the document

- 3 “Some members do not support your position, although others do”

It’s understood that the funding available to the Forum is allocated between each Ward and the Councillors for the Heath Ward fully support the proposed study. No communication has been received indicating any opposition, queries or reason for any opposition. It is acknowledged that the Forum members did not have such detailed information which is provided here for the Executive Board

- 4 “The Director of Public Health has not committed one way or the other as she has insufficient information on which to offer an unequivocal view on whether such a Study is beneficial or appropriate”

Fiona Johnson wrote on 14/6/10:

“As a matter of principle, I am of the opinion that any research which furthers our understanding of the impact of incinerators on the health of local populations would be of interest to people such as myself and indeed all interested parties. It is difficult for me to comment specifically on the proposed study, since I have not seen the research proposal and so cannot assess the likelihood of its potential to answer the question of upwind and downwind effects”

She has also received a copy of the scope statement attached and will be advised by Alex Stewart of the HPA. It’s expected her comments will be available before the September Executive Board meeting.

- 5 “The HPA have produced two papers (in Sept 2009 and Feb 2010) both advising against such studies.”

At a meeting held on 22/1/10 with Alex Stewart and George Kowalczyk (both of the HPA) the HPA papers & policy statement were discussed. The HPA representatives confirmed that the proposed study involving up to 10 Incinerator sites would not contradict HPA advice or policy which related to studies around single Incinerator sites where it was considered that insufficient data would be available to produce meaningful results. The study proposed will include areas around 7 existing U.K Incinerators operating under the U.K. standard emission control regime. It was subsequently agreed and minuted that:

“ No study has properly examined wind direction in relation to possible effects from incineration.

** Scope of study: Following discussion it was agreed that a study of possible health effects from incinerators similar to the proposed Ineos incinerator was worthwhile and achievable and could be of use not just in Halton, but nationally and possibly in Europe. Studies of local health before and after an incinerator came into use are desirable but may not be feasible within the constraints of the project.*

** It was agreed that the development of the study proposal should be undertaken iteratively by HAGATI and HPA. Peter Diggle agreed to support the HPA”*

I trust the above will provide you with sufficient information to prepare a positive report to the Executive Board but please contact me if you have any queries or wish to have any further information. I would be happy to be present and answer any queries at the Executive Board meeting if this would be helpful. The additional information mentioned above will be sent to you as soon as available.

I look forward to hearing that the agreed LAF funding has been ratified and would point out that no money will be drawn down until the balance of the required funding has been committed by the other parties.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan Gorry