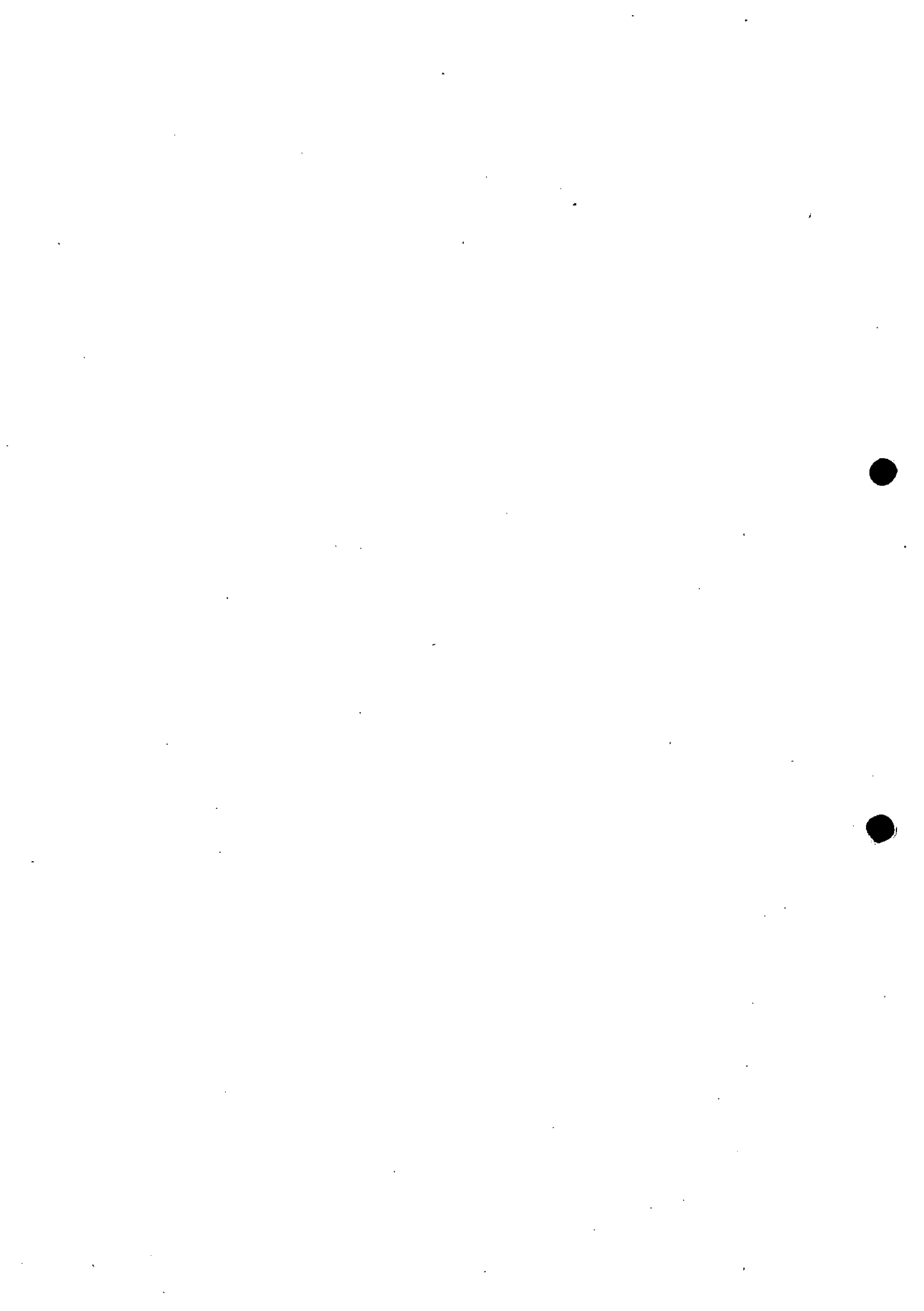


APPENDIX 3

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEMBERS BRIEFING
AND AWARENESS SESSION



21st June, Awareness Raising Session: Transcript.

Start, 6.00pm,

Good evening everybody, for those who have not met me my name's David Parr, Chief Exec here at Halton Council, I've been asked to chair this meeting by Councillor McDermott, the Leader of the Council who unfortunately is away from the Borough today so isn't able to be here, he's asked me to send his apologies and to indicate to you its not lack of interest it's a personal commitment that he has to today, it's a family commitment which he needs to be at.

Just very quickly to explain the procedure that will follow I think everybody will have received an agenda for this evening meeting and I'm hoping to stick to that as closely as we possibly can, I know people have got other appointments this evening and I would like to conclude by 7.30 so that people can get to those other meetings. We've got guests here tonight as well as elected members, guests from Ineos from the Local Residents Group, from the Primary Care Trust and from the Environment Agency and as you will of all of seen from the agenda what we are proposing to do is to have a brief presentation from each of those Groups and then an opportunity for elected members to ask questions of those individual groups and then towards the end of the evening we will have an open forum where everybody will be able to ask a question of whoever they wish to ask a question of. Tonight is not about decision making directly anyway, on this evening its about sharing of information and trying to obtain further information and that will affirm the basis of a transcript that will be placed before the Development Control Committee when they deliberate on this matter on the 31 July. That of course will follow the normal format of the Development Control Committee. It is a special meeting but it will be a public meeting and the normal rules and regulations for the Development Control Committee will apply. That will be a meeting where the press will be able to attend and members of the public will be able to attend. Today is a closed meeting because its about information gathering for elected members. I don't need to say this but I am going to say this! If we could show respect to all the speakers and the politeness that is normally shown within this Council Chamber - I don't have the power and influence of the Mayor Councillor Hodgkinson, but I hope you will respect the opportunity for people to give there case even if you disagree with it and for people to ask questions even if you might disagree with those and indeed the answer. So I'm not going to say anymore I'm going to start the session by inviting Ineos to make a presentation for 15 minutes maximum please perhaps- Chris you might want to introduce yourself and your team in that process.

Ok fine well good evening ladies and gentlemen if I may introduce myself and my team my name is Chris Tane I'm the Chief Executive of Ineos Chlor Vinyls my colleagues here on the front row are Craig Welsh, Louise Calviou and Ian Barlow. Next to him is Gordan Mudge, he's from a company called RPS, they are the Independent Environmental Consultants that prepared the Environmental statement for us. First of all I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight to explain to you why it is that we are here and why the project that we are proposing is so very important for our business. Really there are two things that I would like to do tonight if I can. First of all just to explain the important of all of this for the Ineos Chlor Vinyls Business here in Halton and then secondly to address some of the

misconceptions about the project we are proposing. If I could just start with a bit of information about our business so as I have mentioned we are Ineos Chlor Vinyls, were headquartered here in Halton, we have about ten sites. We have five manufacturing companies. The products that we make are in the view of national government are vital to UK industry as the products we make are going to medicines, pharmaceuticals, there widely used in hospitals, there going into personal care, soaps, detergents, they purify all the water in the UK. It is estimated that if our site stopped production the water in the UK would be unsafe to drink in a few days, so that maybe gives you some idea of the scale of what we do here and the importance of that to the national economy and to the local economy. Of course what really matters I guess is people. A survey that was done a few years ago calculated that 133 thousand jobs in the UK depend on our site and the products that we produce. Perhaps of more importance and relevance to yourselves tonight we provide 9 thousand jobs in Halton of those 9 thousand, 3 thousand are our own direct employees on the Runcorn site and the other 6 thousand are employees in supplier companies that provide product and services to our business. In terms of your own constituents, about a quarter of those people are actually living here in Halton and hopefully voting for the Councillors and I should mention probably that this project that were proposing will increase the number of jobs in this area.

There will be about 15 new direct jobs created by this project and in the actual construction process and considerably more than that of course, moving to the financial aspects we spend 60 million pounds every year on employees wages and we spend 100 million pounds with suppliers based in the Halton Borough area. In the last 5 years we have invested 400 million pounds on the Runcorn site, if this project goes ahead then in total we will of spend 800 million pounds which to put it in a Halton context is the same as building two new Mersey Crossings, so I think you can see from that that we have a very significant role to play in creating jobs in the Borough and contributing to the prosperity of the Borough. I will say at this point the, over the years we have a had a lot of warm and welcome support from Halton Borough Council and is really the business environment that has been created here that's allowed us to have the confident to invest in the business in the way in which I've just described. We do however need that same support again because the issue that we are now facing is a major threat to our ability to continue to give the jobs to our employees and the prosperity to the Borough in the way that we want to do. Let me try and explain the importance of this to us and the whole issue for us is an issue of energy, an issue cost is critical to our business the best way of looking at that is of our products. 70 percent of the cost of making those products is the cost of energy to put it another way we are the largest single electricity user in the UK, we use about as much of electricity as the city of Liverpool. All of our electricity is currently generated from gas and I am sure all of you in looking at your gas bills over the last couple of years have seen some very big increases going through. What does that means for us at the Runcorn site? 18 months ago I guess was our gas bill went to by 25 million pounds per month and for a period of 6 or 7 months we were loosing millions of pounds per week, we were with in days at one point close to closing the site. As many of you will know if the site has to close down then it's a very very difficult and extremely costly issue to try and re start it. We were generally looking at very severe threat to the future of our business at that point. Following that experience its been absolutely clear in my mind that we have to do something as a business, we must do something to address our dependence on gas. I cannot in

all honesty with the responsibilities I have to my business to my employees and I hope to the local community allow the business to face that threat again in the future and so since that time we have been working hard to try and find ways to reduce the amount of gas that we consume and to get our electricity from a more sustainable, renewable form of fuel and that's what this project from our point of view as a business is all about. Its simply a way of providing a non fossil fuel renewable source of energy on the more predictable more reliable basis so that's why were here and why this represents a significant issue for our business. Let me know turn to the project itself and just to address some of the issues I know are in peoples minds. First of all let me say straight off this is not just another incinerator. This is a quite different technology, this is a quite different type of plant the standards and the controls which apply today as I'll show you in a minute are very very different from where they were 10 years ago. Technology were proposing to use is proven technology, it has a well established track record, its in use throughout Europe, very widely and its been demonstrated that it is a technology that its safe for environment and for people's health. Now obviously we recognise local concerns and we share those local concerns, you know we do employ 3 thousand people living and working in the community so we are clearly as you would expect to a company that has invested 400 million pounds in environmental proven in last few years. We do take our employees safety, employees health and the environmental conditions around our site we take those very seriously indeed so of course when it comes to the issues concerning people, we have researched those issues very thoroughly and I just want to address the two main concerns and try and put them into a perspective. First of all let me talk about dioxins, I think you can see from this graph, this is a graph if you can't see it well which is Total UK Emissions of Dioxins from Waste Burning Plants and you can see that somewhere in the middle of the 1990's things changed very dramatically so of course we understand when people think back and think this is sort of the sort of plant we are trying to build here is the sort of plant that would have been built in the early 19's of course we can understand the concern but the reality is the technology has changed, the law has changed, the standards have changed and the plant were going to build is a plant that as you can see will be producing dioxins at extremely low levels indeed. To put it another way round in this country as you know we have bonfire night the levels of dioxins emitted on that one night from bonfires in the UK is 24 times higher than all of the dioxin emissions from all of this type of plant in the UK for a whole year so I think you can see from that point of view the issues of dioxins is really not as significant issue with the technology and standards that apply today. The second issue that causes a lot of concern I'm sure you've heard a lot about is the issue of fine particulates and we have as you will hear, I'm sure if you want to ask questions later we have studied the fine particulates issue very thoroughly. The issue, the type of particle you will hear referred to is a very fine particle called a PN2.5. I'm not going to bore you with what that means but it refers to a very very small particle size and of course the concern is whether that kind of particle is emitted from this kind of technology at levels that can do harm to peoples health. Well I can tell you that on our estimates even if all of the particles emitted from our plant were all of this very very fine size even under those circumstances, the level of emission will be less than 1 percent of the standard of emissions required by draft European legislation. So again I think when you put that in context what were talking about here is very very low in terms of its effect on environment and people. Of course, Halton residents have go every right to expect that there health and there environment should be looked after and we are confident

that what we were proposing here will not significantly affect either of those two things but of course you don't have to take our word for it I mean the fundamental factor of these kind of projects is that the authorities, national government authorities in this case will regulate what we do very very tightly. Indeed, will study our proposals very very thoroughly, will make their own judgements about the effect on health and the environment and if they don't think we come to the acceptable standards we will not get permission to build the plant and equally once we've built the plant if we get permission to do that we will be monitored and regulated extremely tightly by the Environment Agency, by the Council itself and again if we fail to meet the standards the plant will be shut down. So I think when it comes to the confidence that we can have in that process, we feel confident that the residents in Halton and our own employees can be, their concerns can be addressed, they can be sure that they can be protected and their interests will be respected. Maybe I could just quickly talk about where this plant fits into the national waste policy. I'm sure many of you know the UK is the highest, the third highest rate of landfill in Europe, you're probably aware that there are all sorts of new laws and regulations coming in which will drive the level of landfill in the UK down very significantly and the way that translates into practice is there will be heavy fines for Councils that aren't able to reduce their landfill volumes very significantly in the future. It's been estimated that for a typical Council the cost per tonne of landfill will rise from about 35 pounds today to 200 pounds a tonne in the future and I'm pretty sure that for Council that if they do face that increasing cost that is going to translate into a rise in Council tax. Of course the right answer to that is recycling and many times it's been said that projects such as ours undermine recycling in some way well the fact of the matter is projects such as this are fundamental of a drive to greater and greater recycling. Why do I say that? Well it's like this even if, we can persuade residents to recycle as much as they possibly can there will still be about a third of waste which cannot be recycled. That third has either got to be buried in landfill or burnt, our view is that burning it is an environmental advantage, it reduces the amount of green house gas emissions. Burying it is an environmental disadvantage it leaves rubbish in the ground for future generations to cope with so we believe this kind of technology is a fundamental part of the drive to greater recycling and again if you look at the statistics about Countries in Europe where recycling is much more predominant than it is here there is a strong correlation between the amount of recycling and the frequency with which this kind of plant is in operation in those Countries.

Yeah, just to sum up we have been a major contributor to prosperity here in Halton and we want to remain that in the future but to do that we will have to resolve this energy problem that we have faced and we will face again in the future. We cannot afford to delay in doing that it is a life and death issue for our business. The plant we're proposing is built to the tightest standards and we believe does not represent a significant impact on the environment or on people's health, we're very grateful for the support you have given us in the past and we hope we can rely on your support on this issue in the future, thank you very much.

David Parr- Ok, I'm going to ask members to indicate if they want to ask questions if you could ask one question in the first instance and if there's more time within this 15 minutes we go onto a second question from individual members. You've seen that there is 20 minutes at the end to try and pick up questions that we might not been able to get through in the 15 minutes but I'm trying to be as fair and equitable to all parties throughout so who would like to ask questions of Ineos.

Councillor Thompson, ask your questions and leave your hands up and I'll make a note while your asking the question.

Could you just, comment on how you determine the actual height of the stack?

Ian Barlow-Right let me answer that its not just based on getting down to the concentration that is required to meet the standards, what is done is the calculations are carried out using sophisticated models, these models are approved by environment agency, there used throughout Europe and America Modelling actually looks at increasing stack height up to quite high amounts and then actually the height of the stack is fixed at where the improvements that your getting in terms of ground level concentrations tail off that is to say when your stack gets higher you see the benefit coming down and then it levels out and the stack height is determined at the point when you get no further significant improvement for increasing the stack height and that results in ground level concentrations well below the standards that are set for the individual components.

Councillor Bradshaw.

Thank you David, my questions about that actual residual waste that's left over from your processes, I didn't see any comment about it in your presentation on the environmental waste summary but according to other figures there's got to something like 155 thousand tonnes of residual waste of a rather nasty type of substance that is going to landfill here in this Borough, so all I can see is a sort of mountain growing on Randles Island of toxic material? I'm wondering what sort of, what your answer is to that and what sort of measures your taking to stop it leaking into the sub ground and into the river?

Ian Barlow-Me again, yeah, let me start by clarifying the actual amounts of waste to come from the plant, yes there is some, there is two types of ash from the plant, one is called bottom ash and we expect about 165 tonnes a year of that, that ash can actually be recycled, its not hazardous, it goes into building aggregates and things like that, there is a smaller proportion of what is called fly ash which is a very fine ash and also the residuals from the process. Because there is flowing systems on the back of the plant, when we initially did the environmental statement we weren't clear on exactly the details of technology in terms of the amount of this ash that will be produced so there's quite a wide range. We've now selected our technology and we expect about 75 thousand tonnes a year of that ash, still a significant amount I accept but that means about 10 percent of the amount of fuel going into the plant ends up as landfill as against the whole of it if you didn't have energy from waste. The material is classed as hazardous, it contains amounts of heavy metals that have been removed from the waste and very small amounts of dioxins, ok and therefore it has to go to a hazardous land facility such as Randle. Now in order to dispose of it at

Randle we have to agree with the Environment Agency how it will be handled and re take tests and everything will be done like that before the permission is finally granted so that we are certain that there is no question of it actually being able to leak down into the ground or anything like that. I mean Randle has been picked because it is a suitable site for hazardous waste and it is very carefully regulated by the Environment Agency.

Possibly follow up later Councillor Bradshaw.

Councillor Lowe, Alan Lowe.

I've read your report and on your submission. I've read it quite carefully but there seems to be a number of things that have been omitted shall I say for example you've omitted to mention any of houses backing onto the railway lines. Would you consider that to be a mistake because there are houses that butt up to the railway lines, would that be a mistake?

Ian Barlow-Yeah. I mean environmental statement is a large and complex document and yes we would accept that were some houses on the railway line towards Runcorn station that we did not, we weren't aware of when we did the recent environmental statement. Following the request from Halton Council we are now actually doing the noise assessment for that area and if at the completion of that there is a noise issue we will look at mitigation to reduce that but yes we'll accept that was an error and an oversight in the environmental statement, we apologise.

What I'm saying is that

There was that one, the houses all around the actual development, which were close to the railway track, were all included in the noise assessments, ok.

DP- Councillor Blackmore, Sue Blackmore.

Thank you, have you any future plans to build a treatment plant on this site, this site as well?

IB- no, I mean our interest is purely in the energy so our interest is only in having an energy plant we have no interest in any of the sort of waste treatment, we are not a waste treatment company so no we have no intention to build any sort of waste treatment on our site ok.

Councillor Mrs Lowe.

Yes, its practically the same as the first question that was asked but just for me to see it clearly. When this machine measures it says here taking into account local building heights how does that take into account the sudden rise of ground level of houses on Runcorn Hill and its taking that height the difference from the ground where the stack would be built to the height of the houses?

IB-Short answer is yes it does, these models are very sophisticated, a very detailed map of the terrain of all the ground including the hills and everything like that is input



into the model and that is fully assessed in the coming up with the conclusion of the height of the stack. The reference to local building height is actually to do with the height of the building very close to the stack in fact the main thing that influences the height of the stack is actually the height of the building which is the main boiler plant actually right next to the stack because of the way the wind blows across that and that's what that reference was but the modelling includes all of the terrain it includes the Runcorn Hill, it includes the Helsby Hill.

Yes, yes all of that is allowed for.

Ok Councillor Ratcliffe.

My question is on health. What medicals do you intend to give to your personnel and what is the screening you'd be looking for, is it 1 monthly, 6 monthly, 12 monthly and what are you particularly looking for when they have this medical i.e. liver, kidney, etc because if you are given this medical to the people then maybe the residents deserve the same medical.

IB- I think as the environmental statement of the health assessment says, we do not think there is any risk to health from this project and there is no intention no need to do any additional health monitoring of any of our personnel in relation to this project.

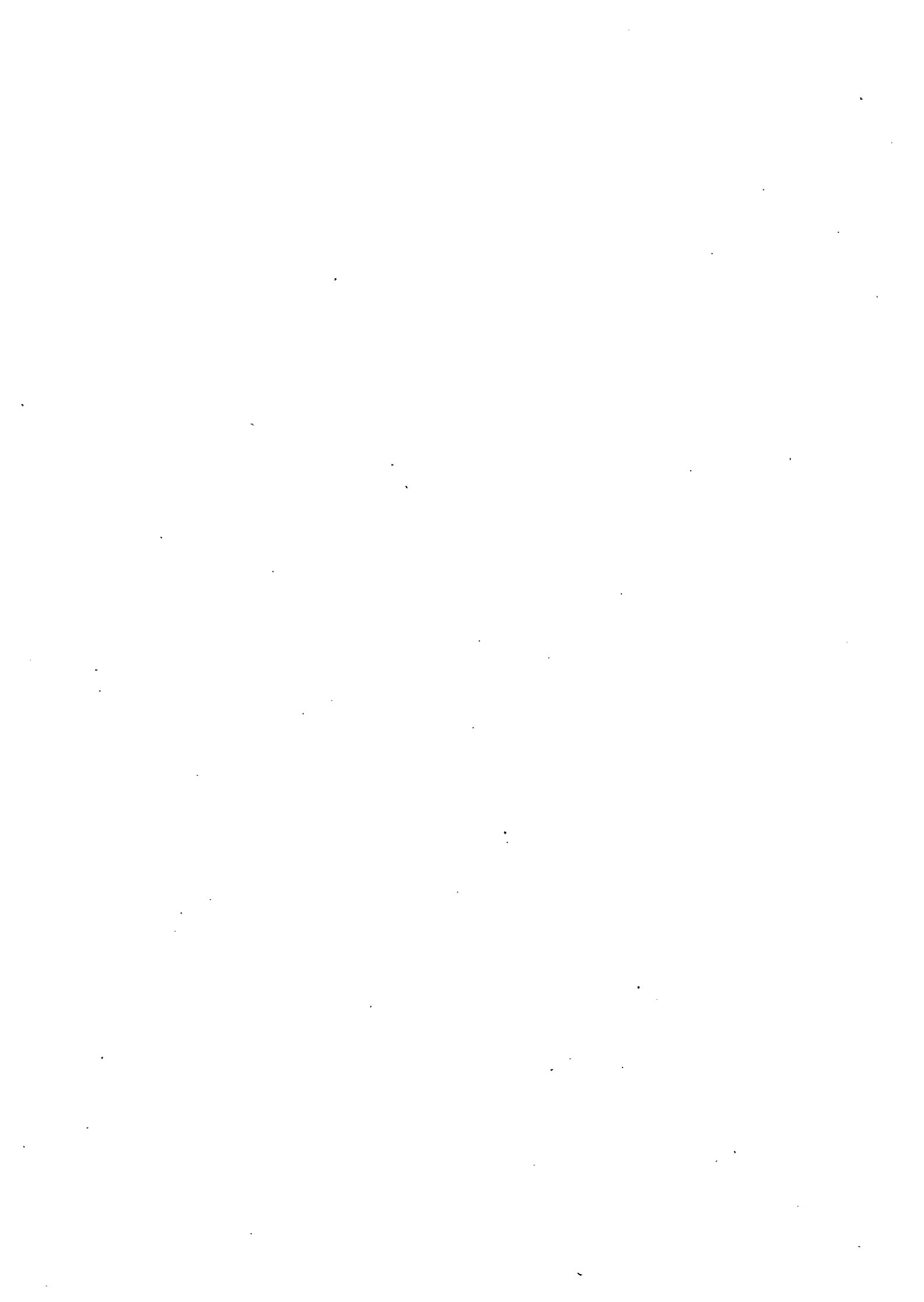
Chris Inch.

Thanks, your proposal relies on a supply of waste for energy, do you have any knowledge of where that's coming from and does that rely on Halton's supply?

IB- Ok at this stage we have no contracts in place so we have no fuel supply at the moment but its fair to say the plant has been sized to take the fuel that we produce from Halton, Merseyside, from Cheshire and from Manchester and if we were successful with all of those contracts that's the capacity of the plant but at this point in time we obviously have no contracts yet. There were very strict public procurement rules that all authorities have to go through to award those contracts, Merseyside is due, which Halton is partners with, due to kick off its process shortly and we will be tendering for that, we have no idea whether we will be successful or not, we have already pre qualified for the Cheshire contract and we are in discussions with Manchester at the moment and they are the only three parties we are talking to.

Councillor Lowe

Thank you, in the presentation you alluded to the fact that the technologies are tried and tested and is widely used throughout Europe, where are the nearest facilities that are similar to this and how are they performing environmentally? Have we got anything or have you anything available that can show us the impact that there having at the moment?



Louise Calviou - I can comment on where plants are, I mean for example the city of Cologne actually built a plant in about 2001 that is running that is a similar size to this, it treats about 550,000 tonnes a year of solid recovered fuel and as far as I am aware we have in doing all of the health assessments and impact assessments, all of the data from those sorts of plants have been looked at but there are plants operational in Belgium, Germany, Scandinavia, there are several of them. The one in Cologne is the one I've got the most details on that's a very similar size to this.

Councillor Nordahl

Yes, I did have several questions, some of them have already been answered but not clearly, especially where the process of the fuel was going to take place, making the fuel. If it's in Halton it would be a disaster for Halton, if the processing of the fuel. But my question which hasn't been asked yet is, is there really a market big enough to take the ash you're planning to use most of the waste for, is the market big enough to take those building material?

IB -Erm the short answer is yes, we have already had preliminary discussions with companies that take this material and then convert it and recycle it in aggregates and things like that, and yes the market is there for this material.

DP-I have one more question in this session, have I missed anybody

Councillor Bryant

The waste you're bringing in how are you going to secure the safety of it, before it comes in, before we burn it, who is responsible for actually cleaning this stuff before we actually incinerate it, if it goes that far? If you are going to bring it from all over everywhere to burn in our borough, how safe is it? Because, I'm not convinced with your facts that it is safe!

IB- Let me start by just pointing out we are not bringing in waste, we are not bringing in black bin bags or anything like that. We are bringing in the fuel that has already been through what is called an MBT process. Mechanical Biological Treatment process, where further recycling is done and the stuff is composted already. So the material coming in to us is a refined form of waste, it's fairly dry, it will be coming in sealed containers, either by rail as containers or by lorries. Those containers are then taken into what's called a tipping hall, which is an enclosed building which is kept under suction all the time for the air going to the boilers and it is within there. Fine, so I mean the material does not normally smell anyway because it has already been treated and it is totally enclosed, so there is no question of the fuel being blown around or anything like that. I understand it is a fuel, it's not waste, it's not black bin bags, this plant cannot burn those.

And just to be absolutely clear on this question on whether we are going to have a waste treatment facility here, absolutely not, just to be absolutely clear on that point. If it wasn't made clear before. The only facility we are proposing here is one that burns the fuel not that treats the waste.

DP-Councillor McInerney-. Final question in this round.

Well just referring back to the last question really. I mean I was in Fiddlers Ferry Power Station and you're talking about 75,00 tonnes of fly ash, they're taking out 17 million tonnes of ash and the question is really, do we need to come in by road? If this gets the go ahead, do you need to come in by road, can't you use a rail import infrastructure? They're putting a new railhead in there to stop the amount of vehicles going back empty because there is no railhead. If you can take it off the roads I think that's another safety point.

IB-Yes and we would fully agree with that. The plant is designed so it can take all the fuel in by rail. We referred earlier to Manchester. We believe that Manchester will be sending all its material by rail, that is what they have said. I think in terms of the other authorities, in the end it's for the authorities to decide how they are going actually transport the material. Now, as all local authorities have requirements around sustainability we will certainly be encouraging them to bring it in by rail. But in the end it is up to the authorities to decide how they are going to transport it and this partly depends on where they put their MBT plants because they need to be near rail facilities and that but we would strongly encourage and we hope that all the authorities go for rail transports in which case we won't need to bring any of the fuel in by road.

DP-OK so if we close that particular section off. Sir Kenneth if you want to bring your people across and I am conscious that we have slipped over a couple of minutes but we'll make those minutes up. You'll get the same amount of time and for Members if any more questions come into people's minds then we can pick those up under the open session at the end.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen my name is Ken Green. I was born 73 years ago in Percival Lane, you've probably heard that mentioned already this evening, like many generations of my family before me. The members of my team tonight are myself and two other speakers who are Mike Stackpool and Maureen Meehan. The other members of our group who are present are Professor John Dearden, Jeff Meehan, Alan Glory and Debbie Hamilton, and two of our members who are absent and are key members of our group who have professional engagements elsewhere are in fact Doctor Simon Lafenny and Doctor John Beecham and they have had a central role in the development of our case. Obviously in fifteen minutes we can only outline our concerns in brief. But they are more fully documented in the paper which we circulated in the last few days which I urge you all to read. We fully support the Council in its plans to develop more sustainable waste disposable solutions thereby reducing the levels of waste going to landfill. But this proposal by Ineos is entirely unrelated to the Borough's waste management policy, we have been told. And it is, therefore, solely motivated by Ineos' commercial interests, and in fact I think Mr Tane confirmed that this evening. It will increase not reduce pollution and waste going to landfill in the borough, and in particular vastly increase the amount of toxic waste dumped here. Now if that's the policy for reducing waste disposal in the borough, then certainly the earth is flat and I'm the man in the moon. This proposal also conflicts with the Council's vision for Halton, as outlined in the Constitution, and

fails to meet the criteria identified in the Unitary Development Plan. This is fundamental, since the Unitary Development Plan clearly states that proposals for waste incineration must meet all the criteria. Our statement of concerns identifies issues where these have not been met. We are totally opposed to the building of a large energy from waste incinerator at Weston Point to provide a regional centre for the disposal of treated waste from across the North West and probably beyond.

This is a densely populated, highly polluted, deprived area with one of the worst health records in the UK, particularly in relation to those medical conditions which have also been linked to incinerators. We can identify in this proposal no opportunities only threats, no advantages or benefits only costs and great risks for Halton residents. We believe that this development could only be detrimental to the borough's image and adversely affect the health and quality of life enjoyed by its residents and its future social and economical development. Throughout this presentation, I would ask you to keep in mind just one fundamental question – why would Halton Borough Council wish to see the largest regional energy from waste incinerator built here in Halton?

Mike Stackpool

Councillors, ladies and gentlemen my name is Mike Stackpool. I'm a Halton resident and a member of the Halton Action Group. I would like to share with you some of the concerns we have about the proposed incinerator at Weston Point. First of all, location. The incinerator would not be built in an isolated industrial area but in the midst of a housing estate. Some of the houses are only 50 metres away from the plant. The proposal also locates in an area which is in conflict with the Unitary Development Plan, the guidelines of which state that an incinerator plant should not be located and I quote "within close proximity to residential areas or other sensitive land uses. In fact this area is one of the most densely populated regions in Cheshire, with over 10,000 people living within 2 kilometres of the plant. This also includes three schools, pre schools and a sixth form college. So what are the dangers to these residents and the rest of Halton? Well it is a well established fact that incinerators of this type generate pollutants such as carcinogenic dioxins, acid gases and particulates. All of which threaten the health of people living close to incinerators. Due to the prevailing winds, mainly from the west and the south, the pollutants will be blown both over Runcorn and Widnes. The chimney stack height of the incinerator is proposed to be 105 metres, a height believed to be governed primarily by the aircraft safety requirements of Liverpool Airport. However, if one considers the incinerators at Ince Marsh, for example, the stack height recommended for smoke dispersal there was 100 metres. There are some worrying discrepancies between the stack heights of the Ince incinerator and this one at Weston Point. Firstly, the Ince incinerator was of much smaller capacity than that proposed at Weston Point. Secondly, the residential housing in Weston Point is much closer to the plant. Thirdly, the Ince incinerator was on flat land, whereas the Weston Point incinerator would be in an area of hilly terrain. For example, houses in Higher Runcorn at an elevation of about 80 metres would only be about 40 metres below the top of the stack and, therefore, subject to smoke pollution. It seems illogical, therefore, that the stack on flat land should be 100 metres and yet one in a hilly area is only 105 metres. There is no way that a lay man can challenge this

commuter model derived stack height but if this is such a serious pollution concern that we believe it needs to be checked out by an independent agency.

Second point. I would like to raise some concerns about the size of this incinerator. It will be the largest in the UK and need 850,000 tonnes of waste derived fuel to feed it. However, the Halton waste is only a small fraction of this at 30,000 tonnes. In other words 4% of the total and that is all. The overwhelming of waste will be transported into Halton from Manchester, Merseyside and the whole of the North West and will require 400 heavy goods vehicles per day from five train loads to bring the waste in. The rail is mainly night time transport. It is hard to see how this continuous vast amount of movement of waste into the plant and residue out of the plant cannot cause problems of congestion, noise and pollution to people in the area. As an example, five train loads of fuel, which is ten journeys, will pass within approximately 20 metres of housing along Percival Lane at roof height. This is every day and every night, 365 days a year. How this cannot impinge on the lives of the residents along this track is hard to believe. Regarding the incinerator residue, this will require a fleet of heavy goods vehicles to transport the 155,000 tonnes per year of hazardous incinerator residue through the roads of Runcorn to the dump at Randle Island.

The fly ash residue containing heavy metals and dioxins has the potential for causing air borne pollutions with risks to medical, food and scientific establishments in areas of Astmoor, Manor Park and the Daresbury Science Park. Similarly, the Wigg Island Country Park which is next door to Randle Island, will lose much of its attraction being located so close to the waste dump. To get things in context, the equivalent of 25 years of Halton's toxic waste will be deposited every year at Randle Island. Coming now to monitoring and control. Whilst it is claimed that the plant will be built to standard regulations, regulations do not guarantee safety. Abatement equipment will not prevent the incinerator emitting potentially dangerous fine and ultra fine particles which have been linked to increases in birth defects, respiratory disease and cancers. Present regulations do not require the monitoring control of these fine particles that's under 10 microns but these are now known to be the most dangerous to health, especially to the unborn and infants. Similarly, the requirements for Government monitoring of dioxins is only conducted twice per year. This would lead to concerns regarding the intervening unmonitored periods. Furthermore, there is growing scientific beliefs that there is actually no safe level of dioxins below which cancers cannot be induced. Finally, Halton residents already have one of the country's worst ill health records, they will not thank you if you vote to continue this legacy. We, therefore, urge the Councillors to reject the planning permission for the sake of health and quality of life of the people of Halton. I now hand over to Maureen.

Maureen Meehan

Good evening, my name is Maureen. I speak not only for myself but also for many others who can't be here tonight. I have lived in Runcorn all my life and cannot imagine living anywhere else. My home, which I love, will unfortunately, be one of the closest to the incinerator. I am very aware of all the improvements which have been made in our area and I think it would be a huge backward step to allow this



incinerator. It would undo so much hard work that has already been carried out, both by the Council and local community.

In their application, Ineos Chlor's view of the area is grossly misleading. They appear to deliberately undermine the locality and its wealth of detached and semi-detached properties within close proximity to its boundaries.

I was involved in the fight against the Luvella Incinerator and I, like many others, remember the considerable stress its operation had on the local community. No-one should be subjected to that again. I'm no expert in technical matters but I have read several reports and newspaper articles and there are statements like incinerator fumes in baby death link, waste incinerators cause pollution linked to cancer, health disease, infant mortality and birth defects. Even Halton's Unitary Plan says that incinerators should not be built close to residential areas, why? This frightens me. If every other incinerator of the type envisaged has these disastrous effects on health and particularly on children and the unborn child, what makes the Ineos Incinerator the exception. I tried to gain more understanding about the application so with difficulty I have read as much as I could about it. This did not allay my fears. One thing I particularly noticed was that Ineos claims that up to ten trains a night can pass within yards of our homes and not cause detrimental effects, I couldn't believe that. From the experience of Luvella, I remember the nuisance of ash on our windowsills and cars, the constant noise from its operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and now to add to this we will have trains running and shunting, lorries sounding reversing alarms day and night, plus all the additional traffic to our already busy roads. It will be a nightmare, this can't be denied.

The visual aspects. Ineos say that the area will be landscaped with shrubs but as the main building would be five times higher than my house, I can't imagine which shrubs they intend to use. Halton residents are well aware of the effects from the Fiddlers Ferry Power Station's cooling towers. To put six more within yards of our homes will condemn us to live under a permanent cloud. My garden, which provides me with so much pleasure, would become a noisy, dusty place, cut off from the sunshine and all the while the prospects of knowing that even the air we breathe will be harmful to us. We who live closest will be the most affected, but over 10,000 people live within 2 kilometres of the site. Please, for the sake of our and our children's health, please please I urge you to reject this application. Thank you so much for listening to me.

Sir Kenneth Green

If I could just wind-up on behalf of the Action Group. In addition to the deficiencies that we have already heard describe this morning, this evening in the Ineos prospectus, which is what it is. It presents little or no information on a number of issues, such as the nature and composition of the processed fuel or of any quality specification, the nature of the emissions, where Halton's waste will be treated and where Ineos will obtain its fuel if the Government's recycling targets, in the first instance of 50%, reduce the overall amount coming in from the North West. It completely ignores the considerable evidence available, well documented, in relation to the health risks to residents living downwind from energy from waste incinerators and fails to recognise residents' perceptions of the adverse effects on their health.

and quality of life. Due to its spin doctor's tradition, the environmental statement is bland and disarming, it is difficult to find a page where issues or effects are other than minor, minor adverse, neutral, insignificant and so on. All meaningless phrases designed to mollify and disarm the reader. I can assure you from my own experience this would not stand up for very long in any reasonable academic seminar.

As we have indicated if this incinerator is built it will have a profound and detrimental effect on the image of the borough and the lives of its residents. As far as the residents are concerned they do not like this proposal and they will vote with their feet. So consider my original question, why would Halton Borough wish to see the largest energy from waste incinerator in the UK built in Halton and finally, if I can just tell this little anecdote, four weeks ago Doctor Lafenny and I met Professor Viviane Howard, a leading national and international authority on incineration and its effects on health and currently leading a major piece of research into these issues. As we were leaving after being treated to a two hour academic master class on incineration, his final words regarding this proposal were, it's utter madness, it's difficult to think of a worse place in the UK to build a waste incinerator. Now that says it all. Thank you.

Thank you very much.

David Parr

If you want to stay there and we'll take questions from Members. Again we'll take the same approach, if you put your hands up I'll get your names and if Councillor Inch wants to start the question then I won't lose any time, hopefully.

Councillor Inch

You claim in your report that we received that the proposed height of the chimney stack is a matter of serious concern, can you explain why?

Professor Dearden

Thank you, good evening ladies and gentlemen, I'm John Dearden, I'm Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Liverpool John Moores University and part of my expertise is in (inaudible) toxicology. Let me stress that I have no expertise in calculating stack heights but in looking at the documents provided by Ineos, I was concerned to note that the predicted concentrations at ground level were identical for whether the calculations were done with the absence of Runcorn Hill or the presence of Runcorn Hill. Now I have to say from a layman's point of view, I found that very surprising that the hill apparently made no difference, whatsoever. Now, RBS use two software packages to do their calculations, one called ADMS and one called AERMOD. ADMS is supplied by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants and I spoke to one of their people this afternoon and they said I found it surprising that their calculations seem to indicate that the presence of the hill made no difference whatsoever to the predicted concentrations. The lady I spoke to said "I find that very surprising too". So I can only conclude that she was concerned, she did ask if she could see the original calculations which of course I haven't got. But I think this

supports the argument that's already been made and which Vale Royal Borough Council have made, that there needs to be an independent assessment of the predicted health risks based on stack heights and so on.

Councillor Murray.

The question I would like to ask is, if the refuse derived fuel is safe, how does the incineration process generate the nasty results that you're concerned about?

Geoff Meehan

Good evening, I'm Geoff Meehan. I'm no expert in anything. However, because of the involvement we had with Luvella, I did have to look very carefully at the time at the combustion process. The fuel as it's being brought in contains carbon atoms from the wood, paper and card which is present in all domestic waste. It also contains and cannot be taken out, plastic. They need the plastic to lift the calorific value of the fuel. Plastic contains chlorine atoms. In the combustion process, if you have chlorine atoms and you have carbon atoms, during the cooling down phase from 600°C to 300°C the carcinogenic forms of dioxins and fumes are formed. That's what turns, what is basically a safe inert fuel, when it comes into the plant, into a position where some of the nasties are trapped in the ash which goes to a toxic landfill; but no abatement process in the world can stop the very fine particles which act as carriers for the dioxins and fumes and will therefore come up the stack and land on all of you.

Councillor McInerney

Right thanks. I'm sure from a residents' point of view, the main worry to them is about their health and you've stated a few times about what it's supposed to do and what it isn't supposed to do and I'm sure Ineos can find as many experts to tell you it won't do anything as you'll find to tell you it will, but I would just be interested to know that in Ineos' presentation they said they've got a place in Cologne and in the back of your document you've got technical information from somebody from the WHO in Bonn and I'm just wondering if you had any information from Bonn or from Cologne plants as to what its supposed to have done to the health of those people, it's been there since 2001, and it would be of interest mainly for yourselves and for Ineos to come up with an answer to that. Thanks.

Geoff Meehan

The plant itself in Cologne we have no particular information for. If you look in the back of the report we have circulated it's the World Health Organisation and it's a generalisation, it's a concern that they are raising about fine particulate matter and the health risks that that causes. It's a generalised thing, it's not isolated to one plant.

Councillor ?



You have particularly emphasised the health risk which had been linked with incinerators, yet Ineos Chlor claim tonight that it is low and acceptable. Acceptable to who and who am I to believe?

Professor Dearden

Mention has already been of particulate emissions and the risks that they pose. I would stress that the greatest concern is not about PM 2.5 as was mentioned earlier, but in fact about PM1 or PM0.1 because these very fine particles can be drawn deep into the lungs, they have a much greater surface area than the larger particles for a given weight, they can therefore absorb a lot more toxins, take them down into the lungs, they can be taken into the body and all sorts of problems such as destruction cell signalling can occur. There are also concerns that I have about the figures in the Human Health Risk Assessment document that was submitted with the application, for example, it indicates that an acceptable cancer risk is 1 in 100,000 and quotes that as being a figure derived from the US Environmental Protection Agency. In fact, that is incorrect, the US Environmental Protection Agency figure is 1 in 1,000,000 and that is a de minimis figure, and, therefore if you take that figure of 1 in 1,000,000 cancer risk as being acceptable 23 of the 37 receptor points, which are detailed in the Human Health Risk Assessment document, are in fact above that figure of 1 in 1,000,000, in other words on Ineos' own figures there is a significant cancer risk from this plant alone, and that ignores all the existing pollution that we have already, so their own document in my view indicates that it is an unacceptably high risk. Can I mention briefly one other thing. Questions have been asked about other plants, like Cologne and so on, and it was also mentioned the very statement that this proposed plant will be using the latest technology and so on. Can I very briefly show you some figures which have just come out. The Government has released fairly recently figures showing infant mortality for fairly small districts throughout the whole country. These have been examined in detail for infant mortality around existing incinerators. These, by the way, are for 2003/2005. They are not old data so they are existing incinerators, presumably using modern technology. Let me just show you very briefly three. Here is one in Edmonton, the incinerator is located here the prevailing wind is in this direction, the areas marked green have got an infant mortality rate of 2.5 per 1,000 live births. The area marked red, which is downwind of the incinerator, has an infant death more than four times that, 10.5 per 1,000 live births. Another one, this of the many incinerators I'll just mention three. This is near Coventry. Up wind infant deaths mortality 3.2 per 1,000 live births, downwind 8.2 per 1,000 live births. And finally one in Yorkshire in Kirklees, upwind 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, downwind 9.4. So the facts from the Government's own figures indicate that around incinerators, and especially downwind, there is increased infant mortality.

David Parr

Councillor Peter Blackmore and then finally Councillor Howard.

Councillor Blackmore

If the proposed incinerator operates to the standards required would that mean that it is safe?



Mike Stackpool

Regulations don't guarantee safety. They can put whatever regulations they like on it, if there are accidents people will get injured. So just building to standard regulations, and certainly some of the regulations are quite slack. When we are talking about dioxins, it's only twice per year that they are going to be actually monitoring this thing. What happens in the intervening times, that is just not acceptable. It should be continuous monitoring or not at all and in fact we are very worried about the two periods per year that they are monitored by the Government Agencies because I believe the incinerator plant operators are given advance warning when they are going to have a check on their emissions so on those days it's not surprising they will probably pass them. So regulations don't guarantee safety and as Professor Deardon was just saying, the fine particulates less than say 2 microns or even 1 micron, the regulations don't even cover monitoring those, they stop at 10 microns and so the regulations, maybe they will increase in the future, but at the moment when the plant's being running they will be 10 microns above only, so that regulation wouldn't catch the dangerous ones.

David Parr

Councillor Howard to finish the questions

Councillor Howard

As a number of the speakers have said, I have lived in the town all my life, as in Widnes and now in Runcorn. I have also earned my living in the chemical industry all my life. I accept that I live in an area which has a high intensity of process industries. I might prefer to live Bermuda but I don't. I certainly don't want to live in an area that's unsafe. I certainly am impressed by one of the points that have been made by the Action Group tonight, in terms of the, not of the health effects because I really am not convinced by what either the Action Group have said and I've read the document that the Action Group sent, or what Ineos have said on that. I think I will leave that to the real experts who will have a heck of a job in making that decision. But I am impressed by the comments about the impact on the people in the area with the transport, so I would be very interested to know what Ineos intend to do about that. But my question to the Action Group, is, have you in making your comments, because what your colleague just said about regulations and what he said earlier, really bothered me. Because if we can't rely on regulations we have got nothing left, have you taken into account the fact that this isn't (inaudible) this is Runcorn. It doesn't mean that Runcorn people don't deserve the best but it does mean that we will have the best surely in a somewhat different environment than might be the case in other parts of the country.

There is now a whole speech that cannot be heard on the tape

David Parr



We are going to move on now to Fiona Johnstone, the Director of Public Health from the Primary Care Trust.

I think we will be finishing near to 7 o'clock in terms of following the timetable that is in front of you. I think it is very important that the time is important and well spent tonight. I do appreciate some people have other meetings they have to go to and please if you need to do that leave as appropriate.

Fiona over to you.

Fiona Johnstone

Can I introduce who I have with me so you are clear who is coming to the presentation. On my right is Helen Castles who is from the Environmental Public Health Team at John Moores University and on her right is Doctor Alex Stewart who is from the Health Protection Agency and I have sought both their expert advice in coming to the conclusions that I am going to present here this evening. Can I thank you for the opportunity to actually join in the discussion around this. I think clearly what I would like to do this evening is perhaps provide you with an understanding of the role of the Primary Care Trust and the key messages that have come out of the report that I have commissioned and the key recommendations that come from that report and you may wish to consider those in making your own decisions at a local level. So in terms of the role of the Primary Care Trust, at this point in the planning process there is no statutory role for the Primary Care Trust and I just say that to inform you really. The statutory consultation role for a Primary Care Trust comes at the integrated pollution prevention control stage of any development. The report that I have commissioned has come from the fact that I have received a lot of questions about this proposal at a local level, people have been asking me for a view, including my own Board in terms of the Primary Care Trust, and I have been asked to review the evidence, relating to energy from waste plants, and to provide in my role as an independent Director of Public Health, a view on whether there are issues which may impact on the health of our local population. In doing that, I have tried to ensure that the report is evidence based. It has been prepared by the Environmental Public Health Team at the Centre for Public Health at John Moores University and the Health Protection Agency. I commissioned it from them independently and asked for the report to be brought to you so I could present the report and it is a commentary on the available evidence relating to the perceived and potential health effects from the proposed energy from waste plant that we have been hearing about. What the report aims to do and I would like to say that I will be putting it in the public domain because I am only giving you the headlines tonight and you may want to have a look at it in more detail individual, but it aims to inform the decision making process and I suppose that is just as true at a local level as it is in terms of informing the DTI.

In terms of the scope, the report is evidence based and draws on authoritative documents from appropriate agencies, such as the Health Protection Agency, and also on the information provided by the applicant. It does assume, and we have just touched on this point I think, that any development is appropriately regulated under existing legislation which is designed to protect the environment and human health. Should the situation come where the PCT is consulted that would be as I say at an IPPC process and so the report that I have relates to the outline planning application

that we have seen to date. So having reviewed the evidence and having thought through what are the issues that I would want to ensure were considered in ensuring the safety and health of our local population, as your Director of Public Health. There are a number of things that we have to take into account. We've acknowledged, I think, in all the presentations the need for this country to do something about waste. Energy from waste is a form of renewable energy in some senses. It has to be acknowledged that constructing a plant like this, and the processes around it, will increase potential noise and traffic nuisance, but I would hope to see in any planning application that there would be some conditions put in place to mitigate against these and we would expect to see that in the planning regulation.

The development I think also, in terms of positive health impact, does have the potential to create employment and regenerate the area. The evidence, the epidemiological studies and risk assessments indicate that emissions from modern incinerators have little effect on health. We have made the assumption that the proposed development will be regulated and that there will be further opportunities for comment on specific operational issues and emissions through the pollution prevention permitting regime. Having said that, the development is proposed to be located in a local authority whose population has significantly higher than average levels of poor health including respiratory disease and cancers and heart disease, we have heard that there are both high levels of these issues and that is certainly the case.

As a result of that there are two key issues that I have put into the report that I would perhaps want to put into the debate this evening. The first is, in the application we have seen, it doesn't identify any significant concerns regarding particulate emissions from the process, or their impact on human health in the surrounding area and without any operational data it is not possible to review the potential health effect. The Committee for the Medical Effects of Air Pollution has recently concluded that as there are clear associations between both daily and long term average concentrations of air pollutants, in particular fine particles, and effects on the cardiovascular system, though a precautionary approach should be adopted in future planning. The second issue to perhaps highlight is a specific concern related to the transport of fly ash and flue gas treatment refuse from Weston Point to Randle Island landfill site. This will result in about, from the application, 20 heavy goods vehicle movement per day, and I suppose the risk is if this hazardous waste is in the form of a dry dust there is the potential for it to become airborne, which could result in significant deposition of dioxins, furans and metals at a local level. From the report that has been produced, I have focussed on three key recommendations. First of all we need to understand the full health impact of a proposal like this and I would recommend to the Department of Trade and Industry that a Health Impact Assessment should be commissioned if independent. The second issue relating to the particulate evidence that we are aware of and has been touched upon is that the DTI consider a requiring the applicant to quantify the effects of the additional particulates air pollution generated from this proposal on the health of local residents. And finally, that appropriate control measures need to be put in place to ensure that the local population are not exposed to hazardous waste in the form of the dry dust during transportation to landfill.

As I have said to you already, the full report will be available to you from tomorrow. I will make it available to anybody who requests it and I am more than happy to put that into the public domain. It is based on evidence that we have to date and I think that point I'll conclude.

David Parr

Open to questions from Members to Fiona or her colleagues.

Councillor Murray

I have listened very intently to both sides and I think they have both presented it quite well, being objective. But I think the most significant thing that I've seen here today is what the Doctors held up five minutes ago with regards to the direction of the wind and the increase deaths. I've noticed that you are saying you've got evidence to date, have you taken any of that into account when considering what you were going to say today.

Alex Stewart

I'm Alex Stewart from the Health Protection Agency.

I've looked very briefly at the maps that the Professor showed but I haven't sat and studied them in detail. My first question when looking at data like that is what else is going on there and I would want to know, for example, how the communities to the east and the west of these incinerators compare in terms of deprivation, wealth, that kind of thing, because that has a huge impact on health. And then there's a whole raft of other things that I would want to look at as well. If they were taken into account then I'd have another look at it.

Councillor Lowe

You've just asked about what other things are going on there. A couple of years ago we had, a thing that was left over from Ineos' predecessors ICI, about the contaminated land. It was all over Weston Point. ICI totally refused to investigate the area on the other side of the expressway, siting that the expressway stopped any contaminants going through there. I failed to see that and still fail to see it. But that is the sort of answers that we keep getting. One of the things that came out from your department was a survey of renal problems within the area. Can I ask you if you remember that? where was the highest incidence of renal problems, which ward was it in?

Alex Stewart

Sorry my ignorance of Halton detail is going to come to the fore here. I don't know the names of the wards but if you look at the map of Halton the highest incidence is in all the wards round the plant and inland for several miles, however, there are also hot spots of renal disease in Widnes and downwind in Warrington so it is quite a bit wider than just round the Weston area.



Councillor Norddahl

Is it true that as many of the local people smoke that they will be at greater risk from air pollution than the general UK population?

Fiona Johnstone

Smoking really has an effect on your respiratory health in terms of breathing.

Councillor Norddahl

Will they be at greater risk with air pollution from the incinerator?

Fiona Johnstone

One of things that I have recommended is that we understand the effects because actually at this point in the process I don't know the answer to that because the information isn't available to me.

Alex Stewart

If you have got pre existing heart disease, pre existing lung disease, and you are subjected to particles in the air your condition might very well get worse. I can't promise it will but some people's will get worse.

Councillor Bryant

What would be your recommendation on the sanctioning, the checks on it because they told us tonight there are only two checks per year, could you not put a sanction on it that it's checked on a weekly or monthly basis through health reasons?

Helen Castles

I can answer in terms of what's happened to date with the Environment Agency, with requests we've made under integrated pollution prevention and control from health authorities right across the North West. We do get an opportunity to request monitoring and modelling information and for that to be fed back to the Primary Care Trust and we have on occasion requested specific frequencies of that. The Environment Agency do generally respect our requests and feed them back to us as and when they get those data.

Councillor Rowe

At the start of the presentation you indicated that effectively this is a review of existing evidence. Are you satisfied that there is sufficient evidence over the effect of exposure to the smallest of the particulates?

Fiona Johnstone



One of the reasons we mentioned the Committee that provided the medical effects of air pollution is because it does acknowledge that there needs to be further research and evidence to understand the impact.

Councillor Philbin

There is just one on the medical aspect. Professor Deardon gave us some startling figures on mortality rate in clusters around there and I wonder whether you or anyone else has the figures prior to those incinerators being there, what were the figures like before that?

Fiona Johnstone

You are talking about the maps we saw there before and did we have the information before and after? I haven't seen that information, certainly I think we would need to find out whether it was available. But there is not to our knowledge a before and after situation. It may be that this is a new set of knowledge and if you like at some point there has always got to be a before and this might be it.

Councillor ?

The question I'd like to say, I asked a question before about medicals and screening and gentleman said he thought there was no reason whatsoever of any other medical than the normal, do you agree with that?

Alex Stewart

You've got to have a good reason to put a screening programme in, because screening by itself will cause anxiety in the people. So to put any sort of screening programme in, there is a clear set of criteria that we like to meet to do with what we know about the condition we're looking for, what we know about the test, what we know about the community we are doing it in and what resources we've got to respond to the people if we do something, so it's quite a big job to do that. At this point we don't have enough information to say you should screen or you shouldn't screen. I think it's unlikely that screening would be of help. I think it would be better to tackle the situation in different ways to ensure that the emissions are as low as possible, for example, rather than to go for screening. Screening's a bit late in many ways, you want to catch it before you get to that point.

Councillor Norddahl

I did notice in the presentation that you advised caution by saying caution should be taken in planning, does that in fact mean that you are advising against the proposal?

Fiona Johnstone

The presentation I've given you today is not recommending for or against the proposal. It is reviewing the known evidence about the likely health impact. At the moment the evidence that I have available to me suggests that modern incinerators do not have a huge impact on human health. However, there are a couple of



questions that have been raised by information not available to me, which I have identified and shared with you today. The decision on whether or not this particular application should go ahead, I don't think can be taken by me without understanding the information further.

David Parr

We are now going to move to the Environment Agency. We have Ian Grady with us. Ian, I am told doesn't have a presentation but is available to answer any questions that Members may have. I don't know whether you want to comment about the regulatory process Ian, just to help people understand your role in this process. That would be helpful I think before inviting Members to ask questions.

IanGrady

The Environment Agency doesn't really get involved in this process until after the decision has been made by yourselves to allow (David Parr – it's the DTI rather than the Council). Once that decision is made, Ineos will be required to make an application under IPPC to get a licence to operate under these environmental regulations. That's when our work starts. We will then take this application, we will then determine it and if all is well we will issue a permit. At the start of the determination process we will invite comments from various statutory bodies, plus local members of the public. Statutory bodies will include yourselves, the local authority, Health and Safety Executive, Primary Care Trust and one or two other organisations which might get involved if they are in the proximity, I don't think the Harbours Authority perhaps will get involved but they are an option. And of course members of the public will be invited to make representation. All comments will be viewed by the Agency. The determining process will come up with a permit which will contain conditions and those conditions are generally standard, however, there will be some bespoke aspects to it which will be particularly release limits, either to air and to water, the kind of limits there will be on the incoming raw material we will define precisely what is allowed in as the raw material, the fuel. We will determine the quality of the waste as it leaves the site, and company will decide where it is actually going to go, but there will be some controls on the disposal of that waste. That in a nutshell is the work. The determination is the first part of the process after the permit issued and the plant commences operations we then start our regulatory role and we will regulate according to the conditions of the permit.

David Parr

Questions for Ian.

Councillor Loftus.

There have been some concerns expressed tonight over the regulation and statutory and whether people are going to be prewarned when the emissions are going to be checked. Is that a fact of life? If the emissions actually go over the level for emissions what powers do you have, taking into account this is a major investment, that if they continually breach their emission levels to close them down?

Ian Grady

To take the second part of the question, our power are, yes we can shut them down if they continually breach

Councillor Loftus

I know you can shut them down, what would be realistic, would you shut them down?

Ian Grady

Realistically, it probably wouldn't happen once it is up and running but we would work very strongly with the company to make sure that they brought into line what was out of line. This is a routine thing the Agency does with all its regulated.

Councillor Loftus

Do you pre warn people that your coming to monitor?

Ian Grady

I don't. The Agency doesn't. Whenever we have a routine monitoring regime to undertake, we clearly have to give some notice to the company, otherwise they might not be running at the time our people turn up. Now that would be a waste of everyone's time and money so we have to make sure that they are operating at the time that the testing team go in.

Councillor Lowe

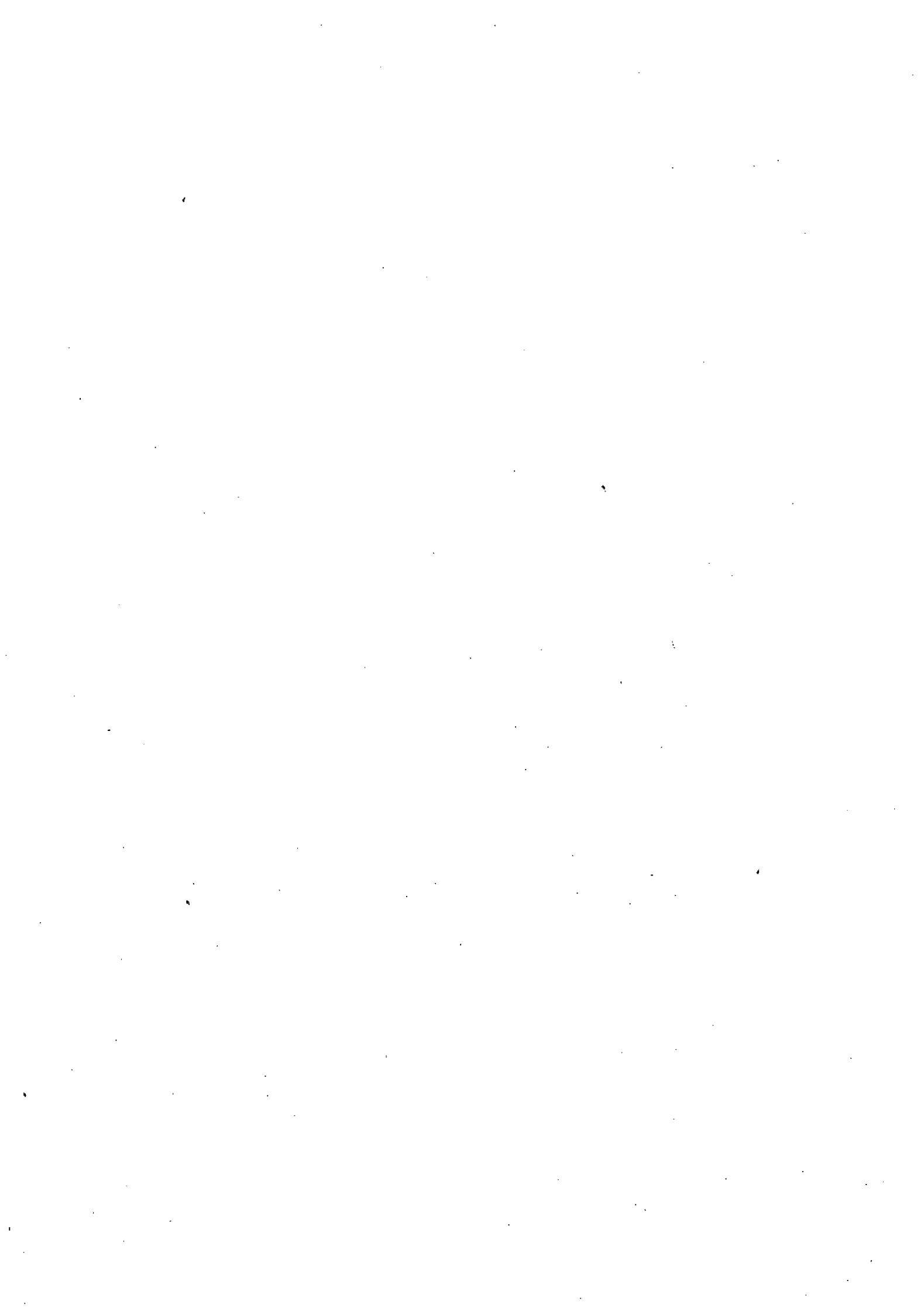
You say that they might not be running when your team went in. It's a 365 24 hour 7 day a week turnover and it's got to be done. That's what they are telling us so it wouldn't matter whether you gave them notice or not. And notwithstanding that, I am more concerned about the process as far as Randle Island goes. We had an island right next to that in Wigg Island, couldn't be used for years because of the contamination that their predecessors had put on it. We finally managed to get that right, cost us a fortune but we managed to get it right and turn it into a nature sanctuary. That's going to be affected by Randle Island being contaminated yet again. What are you going to do to prevent that?

Ian Grady

Specifically, I don't know the conditions on Randle Island, I don't know the conditions of the new material that is going to put onto this landfill but when we do find out we will put on appropriate conditions, I can't say any more than that because I just don't know. But there will be appropriate conditions to protect the local environment.

Councillor S Blackmore

My question relates to an ongoing situation where there has been a company who has constantly broke their boundary emissions, they are supposed to keep the



emissions within their boundary but constantly over four years it comes out of the boundary. We get complaints from constituent continually and when I question what could be done, after arguing about it for four years, I am told that the company only has to prove that they are using best practice and if they can prove they are using best practice we can't actually do anything about that. Can you enlighten me then if Ineos Chlor were doing the same, if they were breaking the boundary of their emissions, and they proved that they were using best practice, what could we do about that?

Ian Grady

The term best practice that you use, we have a different phrase, it's called best available techniques BAT. The company is required to use BAT to operate its plant, all its plants not just this one. We know that by using BAT that the emission limits we will set, and these limits are set across Europe, they are European wide standards, we know they can be met. So if this plant doesn't achieve those limits then they can't be using BAT by definition.

Councillor S Blackmore

So why haven't you called the company in after four years then.

I don't know the company you are talking about so I can't really comment.

Councillor Rowe

Monitoring.. One of the major concerns for people is, not so much what's happening on the plant as what's happening on the street. Obviously there will be techniques for air quality monitoring that could be set up throughout the borough to monitor the air quality. However, I can foresee there will be problems with that in identifying the source of the pollution. Any thoughts?

Ian Grady

The kind of particulates that I would imagine will come from an operation like this will be ash particulate and ash particulate is going to be much the same as anything else that comes out of a chimney anywhere. How you would identify Ineos's ash from Fiddlers Ferry ash from any ash, I have no idea. Unfortunately, it's in the local authority's remit to do environmental monitoring.

David Parr

I'm going to go to open forum now. First of all I'm going to give Members the opportunity to raise any questions that they haven't had the opportunity to raise with our colleagues.

Councillor Norddahl

(Question inaudible)

Sir Kenneth Green

First of all can I refer Members to our actual written documents. I have in mind here particularly Councillor Philbin's question, where in the bibliography you will find a list of papers where some of the issues he was trying to raise are in fact described. But to answer the specific question, I doubt whether anyone on Ineos' side and certainly not on this side, will give any guarantees about anything. Because you are dealing with science and there is nothing certain about science, it's the very nature of the exercise. So basically, what we are talking about is probability, correlations, probable risks and whether those risks are worth taking and that's why some of the questions are worthy. Our major platform has been that most of the things that we are saying are fearful are not measured, lower level regulations are not required to measure so, therefore, so trotting out stories about regulations don't cover this issue. In America they are monitored at those levels. There is a rumour that 2010 the same measures of operating in America will operate here but they don't currently and that is exactly what Professor Deardon was trying to point out. Therefore, in this paper and that's why I drew attention to it, Doctor Lafrenia wrote the whole of our health section specifically identifies a number of cases in the past where regulations seem to suggest that things were safe and there is a whole list of them. Most people here will remember in Widnes was the whole issue of asbestos, where people said it was safe etc etc because there were no immediate effects but it's one of those diseases that takes years and years to come out. Therefore the point I am trying to make is the regulations only do what they say at the time. They only regulate what they can regulate, however, inevitably some of these conditions come out later and that's the problem with this kind of exercise why my colleague who spoke last couldn't give an answer to say you can spot it here or you can spot it there. That's why, finally I want to say this, as the Halton Health Report said in 2003, and I was on the PCT Health Board at the time, and I had a lot to do with the examination of that report, it was very clear, it said there was strong evidence of particulate pollution in this borough, more than in fact is evident from the potential areas. It then went on to say we recommend strongly that precautionary principle is applied. That is the onus is on the proposer, in this case Ineos Chlor, to prove there are no health affects etc. The onus is not on (Inaudible) that is an important principle as if I understand it Mr Parr was adopted by the Council.

David Parr

I'm sure that report will be considered by the Council and by the advisers from the Health Agency.

Councillor Inch

I have a question for Ineos. In terms of this plant will generate 20% of your energy, therefore, if the gas price changed as he described by 25,000,000 a month, you'd still be borne with a 20,000,000 hit. Wouldn't that have a major impact, if this was the answer to the security of the site wouldn't this be generating 40 or 50% of your energy?

Chris Tane



Yes, you are quite right. This will be a very significant step to where we need to get to but it is by no means the only one we need to take so, for example, I can tell you that other things we are looking at, which are nothing to do with Halton Borough, you will be pleased to hear, for example we are talking to companies about off shore wind farms as a source of electricity for us and so on, so we're not saying this is the only answer we need, we are saying it's a very significant part of the answer we need.

Councillor Murray

Good I ask your opinion on this Mr Chairman because I just want to clarify something that's in this document but I think I need to address the planning but it's a matter of fact as opposed to opinion. Would that be possible?

David Parr asked Councillor to ask the question.

Councillor Murray

In page 4 of this document it talks about the Unitary Development Plan criteria and it says that waste incineration plants should not be located within close proximity to residential areas. It's the residential area I'm asking about. The first part of the question is, is that accurate? The second part, in close proximity, has that ever been defined, 5 metres, 20 metres or is it taken on a case by case basis?

David Parr

I think that's a reasonable question for Members to have answered. It doesn't go to the decision at the end of the day but we're here to have more information and if we can share that, if Phil can answer that.

Phil Watts

The UDP doesn't define proximity in terms of distance so it's always a judgement in all cases are dealt with on merit. In terms of what the UDP said, the quote is directly taken from the UDP, all I would say is and I'm not here to pre-empt any report I'm about to write or my officers are about to write as we haven't done that yet, is that the UDP cannot be read in isolation one paragraph or one clause. You have to read the UDP both in part 1 wider strategic policies and part 2 which are the operational and land use policies. We can't just look at one in isolation, you have to look at it in its entirety.

David Parr

The officers report that goes to the Development Control Committee will be able to address a number of issues that have been raised and Members will be able to ask questions at that meeting as well specifically on the duty and obligations that the Development Control have at that meeting on 31st.

Councillor Bradshaw

I was expecting by this time that we'd have had some more fully comprehensive authoritative and independent reports on the process itself, the effects on health, the effects on transport, none of which yet seem to have been done although they were promised. So at this stage until we do see these reports, is it absolutely essential that we rely on precautionary principle. Not when an activity raises a threat of harm to human health or environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if it's not been absolutely established scientifically.

David Parr

I think you are referring to a conversation you and I had a week or so ago at another seminar and I indicated we'd provide reports as quickly as they were available to Members. Those reports have not yet been finalised, the reports that have been finalised have been provided to Members to date and when the reports are available they will be made available as soon as possible.

Councillor Bradshaw

So we will be able to look at them before the actual Development Control meeting and decision.

David Parr

That is what we are working towards Councillor Bradshaw and I am pleased to see that Phil's nodding his head.

Councillor Alan Lowe

Over the years the ICI, Ineos has come to this Council on numerous occasions for one thing and another. I can remember ICI asking for something and they said if we don't get it we are pulling out. We gave it to them and they pulled out, sold it to Ineos. Ineos have been to us and the Government and have asked for money from the Government and favours from us and each time they have said if we don't get it, we're going to cut the workforce, and eventually cut the work force. Can I ask what guarantees you are going to give about the workforce in your area? Are you going to guarantee that there'll still be over 3,000 employees there directly employed in 10 or 20 years time?

Chris Tane

Maybe I can just pick up a couple of those points. First of all I think it's fair to say, I'm not here to stand up and talk for ICI because we are not ICI. But I think it is fair to say ICI's point previously was the Runcorn site if it is not able to make profit and prosper it will have to close and that, fundamentally, that is the nature of business today. We are in a very very competitive market and if we aren't able to compete with the Chinese, the Middle Eastern countries then sooner or later, we cannot sustain losses at the levels we saw last year. So I don't want to go back into that, I understand your question, of course I can't stand here and predict or guarantee what the situations are going to be in 20 years time, I can guarantee quite clearly, if we are able to overcome this issue, on this issue at least it will give us a platform to

continue to invest the sort of money that we have done already. I repeat again, we have invested £400,000,000 in five years in this site. That is because,

Cllr Lowe

How many jobs

Chris Tane

We have reduced by, I don't know, 150 or 200. We have reduced jobs, no question of that. Why – because we have to remain competitive. You see the whole picture, we are making ourselves more competitive, we are solving our problems that energy costs being one of our major problems and when we do that we invest in growth and I very much hope that in future there will be more jobs on this site. I don't have any problem with growing the site, getting more prosperous and building new plants. I would love to do that and I would love to stand here and ask you to give us permission to build new plants on the site, I hope I can do that but we will not be able to do that unless we've got the financial conditions in place to enable us to invest in the future and that's what this is all about from that point of view.

Councillor Ratcliffe

At a past presentation the waterways were mentioned for transport, casually, and waterways has not even been mentioned at all tonight. I see waterways could be the biggest potential for transport they've got because the waterways we've got in Runcorn is open to the world and one of my concerns would be that Ineos, quite rightly, be looking for the cheapest fuel and the cheapest fuel could come from the third world. If that's the case, what regulations are going to be put in place because we had the EEC standards but we don't have any standards round there. Do they intend to use that waterway to its full extent.

Louise Calview

There is actually several questions I think in that. The first one is that the standard for the fuel, as I think the EA actually mentioned, would be part of the IPPC permit so it wouldn't actually matter where the fuel came from, it would be to a standard. But let me reassure you that we have no intention, and in fact we are not planning to import fuel from outside this country, we are focussed on waste, the fuel from the North West region, potentially some fuel could come from outside the North West, but we have no intention, no plan, no consideration to actually import fuel. And yes the waterways is another way because the port is there to bring it in, so if there was an MBT plant in Cheshire, for example, that was situated on the waterways and that was the best way to bring it in the plant, then that would be considered.

Councillor Mrs Lowe

My question is to the Environment. Would you be doing spot checks on the fuel coming in?

Ian Grady



We would be reviewing the quality control of the company in that respect. We don't have a facility for doing laboratory analysis so in some respects we rely on the company but they rely on their suppliers. If the supplier doesn't treat the end user, Ineos, correctly, then they are likely to lose that contract. If we find that their emissions are awry because of the raw materials they are bringing in are incorrect, then we will take appropriate action against Ineos and they will bounce that action back to their suppliers. So we don't have a direct monitoring the incoming raw material.

Councillor Rowe

This is a question aimed at the Ineos team and it surrounds the current usage of Randle Island. We've had instruction that that is the proposed site for disposal of the residues. Can you perhaps give us a little bit of history about that site itself and the currently volumes of usage?

Ian Barlow

Can't give you a lot of detail. Randle Island is a waste disposal site that has been used for many years and has been used to dispose of potentially hazardous material from the site at Runcorn. What I can say is that, I think part of your question is can Randle actually accept this fly ash and residues going forward in time and the answer to that is yes. Randle has capacity to actually take these for the entire life of the plant, well over 25 years. I think the other thing, if I might just add to that, is that although at the moment these residues have to be disposed of to landfill, there is work going on and processes are actually being developed to treat this so it can actually be recycled. We have not mentioned the planning application because it probably some years away but in the medium term we would be looking to actually be able to reuse that material and actually to recycle it.

David Parr

It's now 7.00 p.m. Councillor Blackmore

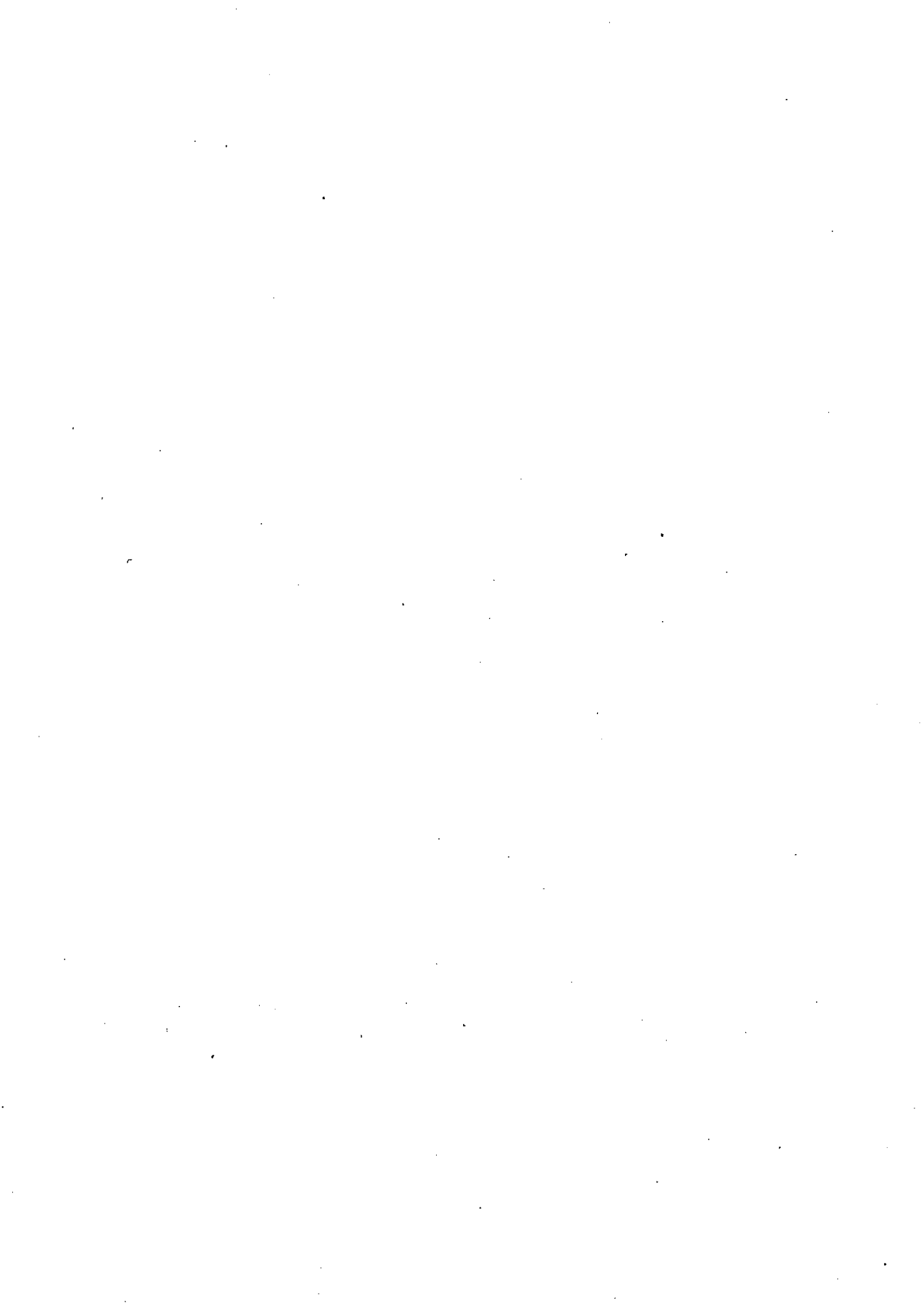
Councillor Blackmore

Is the cost of the actual fuel that you get in to power the incinerator, is that actually cheaper than paying for gas, that you pay for now?

Louise Calview

The economics of the project are very different from a gas station. The capital cost is much higher and the operating costs are much higher and you actually get paid to take the fuel because the alternative is that it goes to landfill, so it's actually a cost saving in the fact that it's a lower charge to send it to us than it is to landfill it, but the economics only work because you are paid to actually take it, because the capital cost is so high.

Councillor Fraser



We know that the toxins are proved but we haven't proved anything else the other things hypothetical on both sides of the argument. But the big debate with me is what the lady says on your doorstep. I think this is the biggest question for a lot of people who are residents, where they are it's on my doorstep, because I happen to live in Weates Close and we've got a site problem on our doorstep.

David Parr

So you'd like to ask Ineos their views on their doorstep, I think, is the question, or on the doorstep of the neighbours rather than on Ineos' doorstep.

Chris Tane

I didn't hear all the question I'm afraid.

Repeated

Chris Tane

Where I live is in Chester, where I work is here. I've worked here 25 years, I actually spend more time working here than I do at home. Would I like it in my back garden, of course I wouldn't and I'd be stupid to stand up and say I would. Would I agree to it, would I object to it being in my back garden, on health grounds, absolutely not.

Inaudible

Chris Tane

Absolutely not, no I'm, sorry

David Parr

Respect people's comments and you've done brilliantly at that, thank you very much.

Chris Tane

Genuinely, I repeat what we said before, genuinely, I would not, you don't have to take my word for it about residents, I would not with our employees put them in that kind of health risk if I thought there was a significant health risk. We have exactly the same on our manufacturing site at the moment, our standards in terms of controlling the exposure our workers have on a number of difficult chemicals that we use, we are extremely tight and we invest a huge amount of money, a very large proportion of the £400,000,000 that we've talked about is all about reducing the exposure that our workers have to levels which are very much lower than the standards that we have to apply. And so when I say to you I would not object on health grounds, I might object on house price grounds or noise grounds which is understandable, but I would not object on health grounds if there was one built near my house. I am absolutely genuine on that point.



David Parr

OK, I'm going to close there. The first thing I would like to say is thank you to everybody for the way they have conducted themselves. I think it is a credit to everybody in the room with the way the meeting has been organised and how people have conducted themselves. So thank you very much for that. Can I say thank you to all our guests for the way that they have put their case over and the questions that they have asked. Thank you very much for giving up your time to give Members the opportunity to have more information and I hope that that will enhance the decision making process. Can I also thank Andrew, who has been running around with the mic backwards and forwards and I hope you have a safe journey home.

Thank you very much.

END

