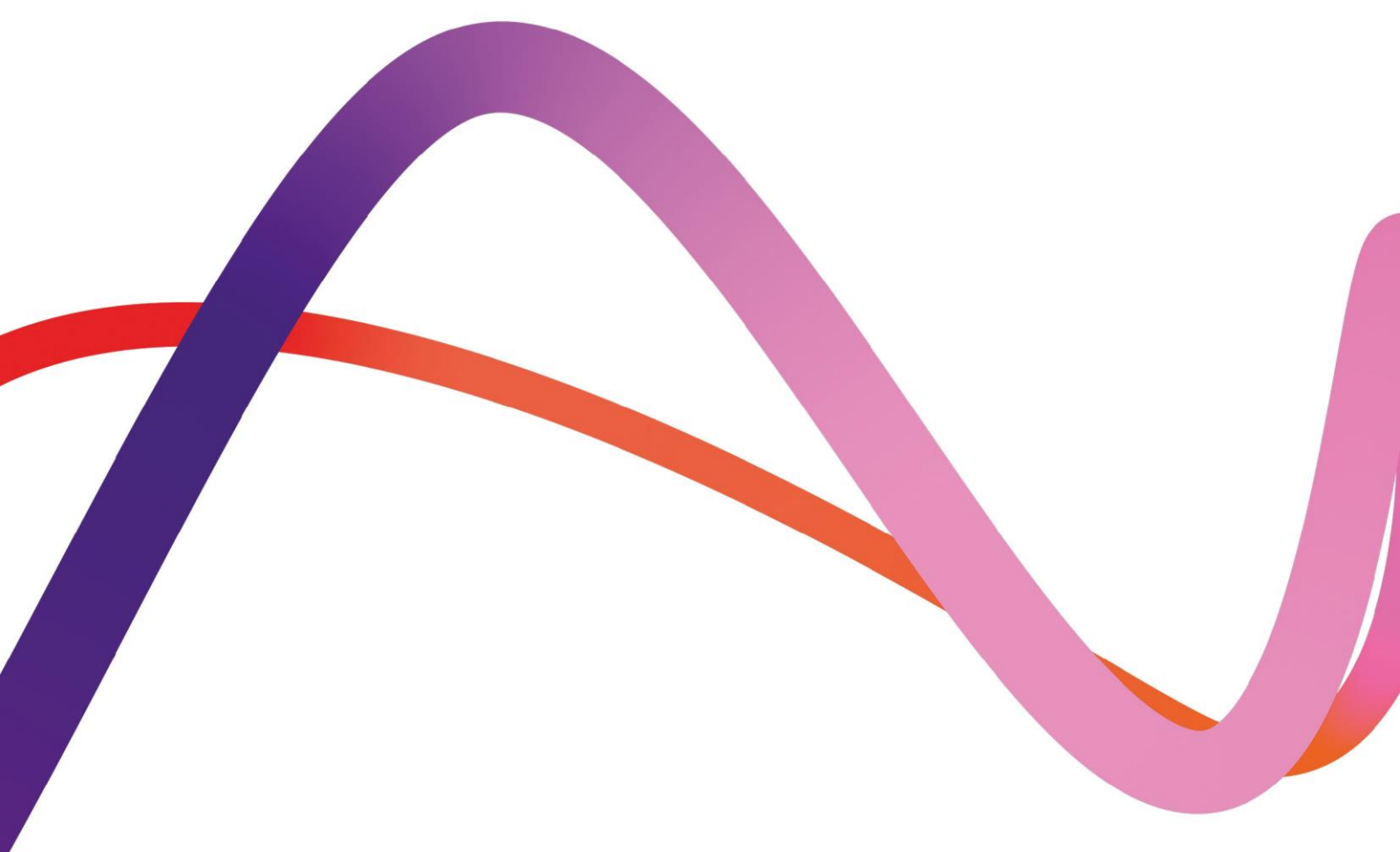


Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility



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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 This report is the Executive Summary to the Planning Statement for a Development Consent Order (DCO) application relating to the construction, operation and maintenance of an Energy from Waste (EfW) Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility on the industrial estate, Algores Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. Together with the associated Grid Connection, CHP Connection, Water Connections, and Temporary Construction Compound (TCC), these works are the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 3, Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) and, therefore, requires an application for a DCO to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). PINS will examine the application for the Proposed Development and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to grant or refuse consent. In deciding whether to grant or refuse consent, the 2008 Act requires that the SoS has regard to the National Policy Statements (NPSs) relevant to the Proposed Development, and any other important and relevant matters.
- 1.1.3 To assist PINS and the SoS in applying the provisions of the 2008 Act, this Planning Statement assesses the compliance of the Proposed Development with the relevant NPSs, as well as other national and local policies deemed important and of relevance to the determination of the DCO application.

Proposed Development Overview

- 1.1.4 The Proposed Development would recover useful energy in the form of electricity and steam from over half a million tonnes of non-recyclable (residual), non-hazardous municipal, commercial and industrial (HIC) waste each year. The Proposed Development has a generating capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) and the electricity would be exported to the grid. The Proposed Development would also have the capability to export steam and electricity to users on the surrounding industrial estate.
- 1.1.5 The Proposed Development comprises the following key elements:
- The EfW CHP Facility;
 - CHP Connection;
 - Temporary Construction Compound (TCC);
 - Access Improvements;
 - Water Connections; and
 - Grid Connection.



1.1.6

A summary description of each Proposed Development element is provided below. A more detailed description is provided in **ES Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.2)** of the ES. A list of terms and abbreviations can be found in **Chapter 1 Introduction, Appendix 1F Terms and Abbreviations (Volume 6.4)**.

- **EfW CHP Facility Site:** A site of approximately 5.3ha located south-west of Wisbech, located within the administrative areas of Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The main buildings of the EfW CHP Facility would be located in the area to the north of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board (HWIDB) drain bisecting the site and would house many development elements including the tipping hall, waste bunkers, boiler house, turbine hall, air cooled condenser, air pollution control building, chimneys and administration building. The gatehouse, weighbridges, 132kV switching compound and laydown maintenance area would be located in the southern section of the EfW CHP Facility Site.
- **CHP Connection:** The EfW CHP Facility would be designed to allow the export of steam and electricity from the facility to surrounding business users via dedicated pipelines and private wire cables located along the disused March to Wisbech railway. The pipeline and cables would be located on a raised, steel structure.
- **TCC:** Located adjacent to the EfW CHP Facility Site, the compound would be used to support the construction of the Proposed Development. The compound would be in place for the duration of construction.
- **Access Improvements:** includes access improvements on New Bridge Lane (road widening and site access) and Algores Way (relocation of site access 20m to the south).
- **Water Connections:** A new water main connecting the EfW CHP Facility into the local network will run underground from the EfW CHP Facility Site along New Bridge Lane before crossing underneath the A47 (open cut trenching or horizontal directional drilling (HDD)) to join an existing Anglian Water main. An additional foul sewer connection is required to an existing pumping station operated by Anglian Water located to the northeast of the Algores Way site entrance and into the EfW CHP Facility Site.
- **Grid Connection:** This comprises a 132kV electrical connection using underground cables. The Grid Connection route begins at the 132kV switching compound in the EfW CHP Facility Site and runs underneath New Bridge Lane, before heading north within the verge of the A47 to the Walsoken Substation on Broadend Road. From this point the cable would be connected underground to the Walsoken DNO Substation.

Summary of the Policy Context

1.1.7

The relevant energy NPSs in respect of the Proposed Development are:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy¹ (EN-1);

¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).



- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure² (EN-3); and
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure³ (EN-5).

1.1.8 In 2021, the Government issued draft NPSs for consultation; the Draft EN-1⁴, EN-3⁵ and EN-5⁶ are also of relevance to the Proposed Development.

1.1.9 In deciding applications for development consent, the SoS is required to have regard to any other matters which he or she thinks are both important and relevant to the decision including other national and local planning policy. The principle national policies of relevance to the Proposed Development are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework⁷ (NPPF), National Planning Policy for Waste⁸ (NPPW) and the Noise Policy Statement for England⁹ (NPSE). A number of other national plans and policies concerning energy security (the British Energy Security Strategy¹⁰), climate change (for example, the Net Zero Strategy¹¹), waste management (including the Waste Management Plan for England¹²) and economic growth (such as Build Back Better¹³) are also material to the SoS's decision on the DCO application.

1.1.10 Local policy relevant to the Proposed Development includes (*inter alia*):

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 203614 (adopted 2021);
- Fenland District Council Local Plan¹⁵ (adopted 2014);
- Norfolk County Council Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document 2010 – 2026¹⁶ (adopted 2011), Waste Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document¹⁷ (adopted 2013) and Revised PDF policies map¹⁸/the revised interactive policies map¹⁹; and

² Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

³ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (EN-5).

⁴ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021). Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

⁵ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021). Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

⁶ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021). Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework.

⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government (2014). National Planning Policy for Waste.

⁹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2010). Noise Policy Statement for England.

¹⁰ HM Government (2022). British Energy Security Strategy.

¹¹ HM Government (2021). Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener.

¹² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2021). Waste Management Plan for England.

¹³ HM Treasury (2021). Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth.

¹⁴ Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2021). Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036.

¹⁵ Fenland District Council (2014). Fenland Local Plan.

¹⁶ Norfolk County Council (2011). Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document 2010 – 2026.

¹⁷ Norfolk County Council (2013). Waste Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document.

¹⁸ Norfolk County Council (2017). Revised Policies Map (PDF).

¹⁹ Norfolk County Council (2017). Adopted Revised Policies Map.



- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Core Strategy²⁰ (adopted 2011) and Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (SADMP)²¹ (adopted 2016).

1.1.11

The policy context for the Proposed Development establishes that:

- the need to reduce the importation of oil and gas and increase domestic renewable energy generation to boost energy security, support economic growth and decarbonise the economy are priority Government objectives;
- additional renewable energy capacity is required to support the achievement of the UK Government's climate change commitments and carbon budgets;
- the DCO application for the Proposed Development should be assessed on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for such energy infrastructure and the SoS should start with a presumption in favour of granting consent;
- infrastructure investment is a key pillar underpinning the Government's wider economic policies and objectives and the economic benefits of proposals should be afforded significant weight;
- the waste hierarchy and the need to comply with its principles is a cornerstone of England's current waste management policy;
- there is a need to use resources efficiently and the Government encourages energy recovery from waste while minimising the environmental impact of managing it;
- the Proposed Development must demonstrate good design and ensure climate change resilience - EfW facilities should be configured to provide CHP;
- the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Proposed Development must be assessed and, where appropriate, mitigated. The SoS must take into account the adverse impacts and benefits of the Proposed Development at the national, regional and local level;
- operational greenhouse gas (GHG) are not reasons to prohibit the consenting of energy projects and the SoS does not need to assess individual applications for planning consent against operational carbon emissions and their contribution to carbon budgets, net zero and the UK's international climate commitments; and
- the EfW CHP Site is located within a Waste Management Area (WMA), as identified in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Planning Assessment Summary

The Need for, and Principle of, the Proposed Development

1.1.12

There is a compelling need for the Proposed Development. It will:

²⁰ King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (2011). Local Development Framework - Core Strategy.

²¹ King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (2016). Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan.



- help meet the urgent need for new energy infrastructure in the UK, providing enhanced energy security and supporting UK Government priorities in relation to economic development;
- deliver additional renewable energy capacity, supporting the achievement of the UK Government's climate change commitments and carbon budgets;
- provide CHP connectivity;
- address the shortfall of non-landfill HIC residual waste management capacity, enabling waste to be managed further up the waste hierarchy and reducing the need to export waste for treatment abroad, consistent with the proximity principle;
- secure carbon reductions associated with the diversion of residual waste from landfill; and
- deliver a range of environmental, social and economic benefits including biodiversity net gain, jobs creation and investment in local supply chains.

1.1.13

There is also clear, in principle support for the Proposed Development in national and local planning policy. Reflecting the level and urgency of the need for energy infrastructure, paragraph 3.1.3 of NPS EN-1 establishes that the SoS should “assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by the energy NPSs on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure”. At paragraph 4.1.2, NPS EN-1 sets out that the SoS should start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. As the Proposed Development will manage residual waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill and be located in a designated WMA, it also benefits from the in principle support provided by Policies 3 and 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Accordance of the Proposed Development with National Policy Statements

1.1.14

The Proposed Development is in accordance with the requirements of relevant policy contained in NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5, as well as the draft NPSs. Specifically:

- the Proposed Development is a form of renewable energy development and benefits from the express, in-principle support given to new energy infrastructure by NPS EN-1 and Draft NPS EN-1;
- in accordance with NPS EN-3 and Draft NPS EN-3, the Proposed Development conforms with the waste hierarchy, would not prejudice the achievement of local or national waste management targets and would not result in the over provision of EfW facilities locally;
- the DCO application is in accordance with the relevant NPS and draft NPS assessment principles and the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning have been robustly assessed; and
- taking into account policy contained in the designated and draft NPSs, a range of measures are embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to



manage any adverse environmental impacts which may arise during construction, operation and decommissioning. Where necessary, additional mitigation is proposed to ensure that the Proposed Development will not result in unacceptable adverse environmental effects.

Other Important and Relevant Matters

- 1.1.15 The Proposed Development is also in accordance with other relevant national and local policies. A range of measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to minimise the number of adverse environmental impacts. On this basis, the Proposed Development is assessed as being in accordance with the policies of the NPPF, NPPW, NPSE and development plan documents.
- 1.1.16 The Proposed Development also supports the objectives of other national plans and policies concerning energy security, climate change, waste management and economic growth which are also material to the SoS's decision on the DCO application.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

- 1.1.17 The Proposed Development does not contravene any of the legal tests set out under Section 104 (4), (5), (6) and (8) of the 2008 Act. Overall, the benefits of the Proposed Development, in terms of its contribution to meeting the urgent national need for renewable/low carbon electricity supply and the delivery of additional waste management capacity, as well as the wider benefits it would deliver, clearly outweigh the limited adverse impacts. In consequence, and pursuant to the Section 104 of the 2008 Act, the DCO application must be determined in accordance with NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5.
- 1.1.18 At paragraph 4.1.2, NPS EN-1 establishes a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs, reflecting the level and urgency of need for new energy infrastructure. The presumption, which is reaffirmed in Draft NPS EN-1 (paragraph 4.1.2), applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused. The planning assessment summarised above has confirmed that the Proposed Development is in accordance with the relevant policies of NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5, as well as the draft NPSs. There are, therefore, no policies which clearly indicate that consent should be refused. In consequence, the presumption in favour of granting consent applies.
- 1.1.19 Overall, the planning balance is firmly in favour of the Proposed Development and in accordance with the presumption in favour of development advanced in NPS EN-1 and Draft NPS EN-1, it is respectfully submitted that development consent be granted.

