

Julie Ballard



30th January 2024

Re: Wisbech Mega-Incinerator Application – Secretary of State Consultation
Interested Party Reference No: 20032430

Further to your letter of 29th January 2024 inviting final comments on consultee responses to outstanding matters with respect to the Wisbech Mega-Incinerator Application, I would like to highlight issues that I believe are of particular concern, as follows:

No local need

- There is no local need for the proposed incinerator as the local councils have all objected and local businesses indicated in their responses that they did not need or intend to contract with the applicant for power provision.
- During the consultation it has been highlighted that there is also no local need for waste disposal. In addition, it should be noted that there are two other incinerators within close proximity at Peterborough and the recently approved incinerator to be built at Boston.

Health and Safety

- The consultation responses highlighted the size of the proposed incinerator which would be one of the largest in Europe and its extreme proximity to local schools. There is clear evidence that particulate matter and heavy metals, both produced by incinerators, have a significant detrimental impact on health and the size of the incinerator and proximity to local schools further raises these health concerns.
- It is also concerning that the site of the proposed incinerator is on a flood plain, highlighting concerns regarding construction and safety.

Traffic and road infrastructure

- The responses highlighted that there would be an estimated 300 lorries per day coming from a distance of more than 2 hrs away not only will this have a significant environmental impact but will substantially add to the traffic pressure on already overcrowded local roads. The roads around Wisbech are prone to frequent traffic jams and multiple road closures with traffic often using local drove roads to access their destination, these roads are not suitable for heavy traffic and already require considerable upkeep, a problem that will only be made worse if the incinerator is approved.

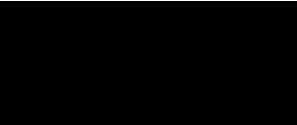
Local Prosperity

- Local and national businesses located in Wisbech have indicated their objection to the proposal, and there is hence a substantial concern that businesses will relocate and move away from the area. In addition, many local residents have also indicated that they would move away from the area if the application were approved.
- A new rail link between Wisbech and Cambridge which would be a major opportunity to improve local prosperity would also be jeopardised if the application were approved.

Finally, the above issues are particularly impactful and are heightened with the facility proposed for within the town itself adjacent to local schools. Given, as we know, that the facility is not proposed out of need to deal with waste in the local area and that waste will be transported from up to 2 hours away it seems

absolutely ludicrous to put health of school children and the other local population and their livelihoods at risk and further worsen inequalities/deprivation in this area.

Yours sincerely



Julie Ballard