

FC57. MOTION

INEOS Plant, Grangemouth

The meeting had been requisitioned to allow Council to consider the terms of the following motion:-

“Council notes with concern the uncertainty over the future of the INEOS Plant in Grangemouth and the impact closure would have on the local economy.

Council therefore seeks an urgent statement from the relevant portfolio holder outlining the outcomes of meetings with both the Ineos management and the trade union, Unite, on this issue.

In addition Council requires a full statement on the actions Falkirk Council are taking to play our part in a positive resolution of the issue”.

The Leader of the Council provided an update on negotiations between management and Unite and advised that he would participate in a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth later that day. He stated that the UK and Scottish Governments and Falkirk Council were committed to securing the future of the site and that it was his intention to set up an all party task force, including local MSPs and business leaders and members from across the Council, to respond to the situation.

The following joint statement had been prepared by the group leaders in response to the decision by INEOS:-

“The announcement by INEOS is devastating news for Grangemouth and the local area. The planned closure will have a massive impact on the future of our communities. Falkirk Council has a critical role in supporting our communities through this difficult time and we are committed to working together in the best interests of the area.

Generations of local workers and local families have served the petrochemical industry in Grangemouth and the impact of the news cannot be overestimated. The crisis facing our local economy is huge. That is why we have agreed to set our political differences aside, put the needs of our community first and work together to respond to the situation we are facing as effectively as possible.

As well as the 800 INEOS jobs in the petrochemical plant directly affected, the plant is a major contributor to the wider local and national economy. The future of the refinery in Grangemouth is also under threat. This is of grave concern and it is essential that all parties get round the table again as soon as possible.

The Council will be setting up a task force to respond to the situation. We are liaising closely with the Scottish and UK Governments and will continue to work closely with Scottish Enterprise. We are also seeking further talks with INEOS and Unite as a matter of urgency and will be meeting local MPs and MSPs later this week”.

Decision

Council agreed the terms of the joint statement.