

Councillors Carleschi, Chalmers, Turner and C Martin left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

**P107. DEVELOPMENT FOR COAL BED METHANE PRODUCTION, INCLUDING DRILLING, WELL SITE ESTABLISHMENT AT 14 LOCATIONS, INTER-SITE CONNECTION SERVICES, SITE ACCESS TRACKS, A GAS DELIVERY AND WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, ANCILLARY FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WATER OUTFALL POINT AT LETHAM MOSS, FALKIRK FK2 8RT FOR DART ENERGY - P/13/0521/FUL**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission to expand an existing network of coal bed methane wells and associated infrastructure at Letham Moss, Falkirk. The purpose of the report was to (a) confirm the Council's position at the forthcoming Public Local Inquiry, and (b) to determine if certain technical matters could be agreed in advance of the Inquiry at the request of the DPEA.

The Convener agreed an adjournment at 10.30 a.m. prior to full consideration of this item of business to allow officers to examine the contents of a letter received that morning from the applicant's agent. The meeting reconvened at 10.55 a.m. with all Members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillors Carleschi, Chalmers, Turner and C Martin.

Following clarification by the Director of Development Services, copies of the said letter were circulated to Members and the Convener agreed a further adjournment at 11.05 a.m. to allow Members to read the letter. The meeting reconvened at 10.55 a.m. with all Members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillors Carleschi, Chalmers, Turner and C Martin.

**Decision**

**The Committee agreed:-**

- (1) the recommendation in Paragraph 52 of appendix 1 to the report considered at the Committee meeting on 25 June 2013 in relation to the above ground works element of the application;**
- (2) to authorise the Director of Development Services to conclude the content of the Joint Statement of Common Understanding given the terms of the report; and**
- (3) to instruct the Director of Development Services to advise the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) that Falkirk Council considers that the absence of supporting information in relation to below ground works merits refusal of the planning application, being contrary to ENV 8 – General principles for Mineral Working of the Falkirk Council Structure Plan criterion (1) Falkirk Council Local Plan Policy EQ32 - General Criteria For Minerals Development - criteria (7) and (1) in that the applicant has**

failed to demonstrate there will be no significant adverse environmental impacts as a consequence of development as required by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.