

PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE – STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members have previously requested that the issue of monitoring of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works by the Environment Agency be considered as a matter of urgency, as conditions at the plant are changing. This Urgency Sub Committee has been called to consider how Members may wish to progress the request for Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation. This is a discretionary issue.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Transportation & Environmental Services Committee considered the minutes of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Party held on the 14th March 2000 and resolved that a request was sent to Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site.
- 2.2 Dr Clark has requested that the Council first writes to the Environment Agency and if the response is unsatisfactory or no reply is received then he will approach the Minister for the Environment. Essentially the Council has already written to the Agency. Appendices 1 and 2 are the letter to the Agency dated 14 January 2000 and their response dated 19 January 2000. It is unlikely that any further information would be obtained by writing again.
- 2.3 Dr Clark has also indicated that if he were ultimately to approach the Minister, he would need clarification of the issues the Council wishes to raise and the agenda for any meeting with a deputation.
- 2.4 A representative of the Environment Agency has been invited to attend in order to answer any questions, so that Members can determine whether they still wish to pursue a meeting with the Minister. At the time of drafting this report it is not certain whether a representative will be able to attend the meeting.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The processing of sludge is a matter of local and national concern.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The monitoring of the site, attendance of meetings etc diverts resources from other statutory functions of the Council.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The sewage works is in the parish of Stambridge although the N-Viro product (K-P_hlus) may be disposed of elsewhere.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES:-**

- (1) How the request for Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site, be progressed.
- (2) If a meeting with the Minister is to be pursued, the issues to be raised with the Minister and the proposed agenda for the meeting.

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