

Item 4(d)

Cabinet

Meeting to be held on 9 July 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

Electoral Divisions affected: All

Progress update on the recommendations made by the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to address the potential health impacts of the proposed shale gas exploration sites in Lancashire
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

The Director of Public Health and Wellbeing (DPH) submitted a Health Impact Assessment report to the Cabinet in November 2014 with recommendations to address the potential health impacts of the two proposed shale gas exploration sites in Lancashire. Most of the recommendations relevant to the current stage of the industry development have been addressed. Recommendations aimed at future local and national policy development are being followed up on an ongoing basis. This report describes the progress made against each of the recommendations in the HIA report.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to note:

- (i) The progress made on the HIA recommendations contained in this report.
- (ii) That no further site specific HIA work is being planned until we know whether there will be an appeal against the Development Control Committee's decision.

Background and Advice

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, LCC became responsible to protect and improve public health and wellbeing of Lancashire residents. The role of the Director of Public Health (DPH) is to provide expert advice and support to the Council.

public and any other relevant body, with an aim to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.

On the 8th November 2014 LCC's Cabinet authorised the Director of Public Health (DPH) to take steps to action the recommendations outlined following the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the two proposed shale gas exploration sites in Lancashire (Preston New Road and Roseacre Wood). Shale gas exploration, like any other industrial activity, has its risks to the health and wellbeing of the population. Having completed the HIA for each of the two sites the DPH concluded that the key risks to the health and wellbeing of the residents who live near the two proposed sites in Lancashire include:

- Lack of public trust and confidence, stress and anxiety from uncertainty that could lead to poor mental wellbeing
- Noise related health effects due to continuous drilling, and
- Issues related to capacity for flow back waste water treatment and disposal.

45 recommendations were outlined highlighting various issues and proposing actions to mitigate them by LCC, Environment Agency (EA), Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to protect the health and wellbeing of local residents. Following the authorization from Cabinet the DPH has been following up on the progress against the recommendations.

Appendix 'A' describes the organisations that each recommendation applies to and progress to date on these recommendations.

DECC were unable to provide detailed comments on the HIA recommendations as they felt that it was not appropriate to discuss live planning applications while they are being decided but stressed that they will engage as appropriate once the planning decisions have been made.

There were also 16 recommendations specifically aimed at the Development Control Committee. These were addressed in the planning officer's report to the committee and during the deliberations by the committee.

- **Development Control Committee's Decision in June 2015**

The county council's Development Control Committee decided on the planning applications for shale gas development at the two sites at Preston New Road, Little Plumpton and Roseacre Wood and for the associated applications for the monitoring arrays to each site.

Members of the county council's Development Control Committee have voted to refuse the application to explore for shale gas at Preston New Road, Little Plumpton by drilling, hydraulically fracking and testing the flow of gas. The application to drill, frack and test at Preston New Road, Little Plumpton was refused on the grounds of noise and visual impact.

The committee also refused a separate application for the monitoring arrays for the same site because of impact on the landscape.

Members of county council's Development Control Committee voted to refuse the application to explore for shale gas at Roseacre Wood by drilling, hydraulically fracking

and testing the flow of gas. The committee approved a separate application for the monitoring arrays at Roseacre site to enable monitoring works.

The application for Roseacre Wood was refused in line with officers' recommendations that the proposal would have an unacceptable and potentially severe impact on the road network, both in terms of traffic and the increased danger to other road users.

- **Further work on HIA**

Following the decision made by the Development Control Committee, no further site specific HIA work is being planned until we know whether the applicant chooses to appeal against the committee's decision.

The HIA report identified areas for future policy development, both locally and nationally. These are being followed up with relevant bodies and will be reported to the members as appropriate.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

This item makes recommendations to various agencies in improving the policy, planning and regulatory framework.

Risk management

N/A

Financial

N/A

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Report to Cabinet - Potential Health Impacts of the Proposed Shale Gas Exploration Sites in Lancashire	6 November 2014	Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, (01772) 536287, Public Health and Wellbeing

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A