

**CONSULTATION, UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999, BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL, ON A REQUEST FOR A SCOPING OPINION ON PROPOSALS FOR A WASTE FACILITY AT RIVENHALL OVERTYPE HERE WITH TITLE OF REPORT IN CAPITAL AND BOLD**

**Agenda Item 3.4**

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**Background Papers:- Gent Fairhead & Co Ltd Formal EIA Scoping opinion request**  
**Financial Implications:- None other than possible need for consultancy advice in formulating BDC response to consultation on any subsequent planning application**  
**Equalities Implications:- N/a**  
**Legal Implications:- N/a**  
**Options:- N/a**  
**Risks:- N/a**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**This is a report, for information, on the submission of a request (to Essex County Council) for a scoping opinion on the content of an Environmental Impact Assessment that will accompany a planning application for a waste facility at the Rivenhall Airfield site.**

**The report explains the purpose of such a request and includes, as an appendix, Braintree District Council's response to the County Council's consultation on this request.**

## **DECISION**

No Member decision required. The report is presented to Members for information only.

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Under the above Regulations, planning applications for certain types of major projects must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA draws together an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects. It takes the form of an Environmental Statement which sets out the anticipated environmental effects under a range of headings (for example traffic/highway issues, noise, air quality etc).

Before submitting a planning application and EIA, a developer is able to request a formal opinion (known as a "scoping opinion") from the Local Planning Authority on the information that is to be included in the Environmental Statement.

In this particular case, the developers, Gent Fairhead & Company Ltd, have submitted a request for a scoping opinion on the EIA to accompany proposals for the following development on the Rivenhall Airfield site.

Recycling and composting facility with integrated composting, anaerobic digestion, dry recyclable recovery, paper recycling and combined heat and power plant; for the treatment of residual waste comprising both municipal and commercial & industrial wastes; using mechanical biological treatment, material recovery facility, a mixed organic waste Anaerobic Digestion plant to generate green power from biogas, a market de-inked paper pulp facility and a combined heat and power facility to generate electricity, heat and steam; and associated engineering works; extension to existing access road and provision of offices; biogas generators, storage tanks, vehicle parking; and visitor/education centre.

The developers describe these proposals as an evolution of earlier proposals to provide a Recycling and Composting Facility at Rivenhall Airfield.

As these proposals relate to a waste development, the County Council (as Waste Planning Authority) will be the determining authority and accordingly the request for a scoping opinion has been directed to the County Council. The County Council is required to consult the District Council (and certain other statutory consultees) before providing its scoping opinion and a copy of Braintree District Council's response to this consultation is appended to this report for Members' information.

A fully copy of the scoping opinion request submitted by Golder Associates on behalf of Gent Fairhead is held in the public register at the Braintree Council Planning Reception desk, Causeway House in Braintree