

Council Motion on Fracking

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its 11 June meeting, Council passed a motion which instructs the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board to conduct an investigation and report back on the likely environmental impact of fracking within the city. However changes were also agreed at the same meeting to the overview and scrutiny boards' terms of reference, which means that Climate Change now falls within the remit of the Regeneration and Culture Board.
- 1.2 The Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board is therefore asked to refer this review to the Regeneration and Culture Board.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To request the Regeneration and Culture Board to undertake a review into fracking and report back to Council, on the likely environmental impact of fracking within the city, as per motion agreed by Council on 11 June.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Following changes agreed by Council to the overview and scrutiny boards remits, issues related to Climate Change now fall within the responsibility of the Regeneration and Culture Board.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council agreed the following motion:

Council notes that:

- It is publicly committed to being a greener and cleaner city and is committed to the promotion of renewable energy sources
- The Government's policy of promoting 'fracking' for shale gas across large areas of Britain may mean that applications may be made for

licenses to start exploratory drilling within the city boundary

- Fracking has a long history of operations in North America, but in many European countries it has been banned or is subject to a moratorium.

Council therefore resolves:

- To instruct its Corporate Scrutiny Board to investigate and report back to Council on the likely environmental impact of fracking within the city.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Janie Berry, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Financial officer	
Human Resources officer	Karen Jewell, Director of HR & Business Support
Estates/Property officer	
Service Director(s)	
Other(s)	Phil O'Brien – Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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Background papers:	none
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Conducting a detailed review on fracking may involve some expense which will be contained within existing budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people. Equality implications will be scrutinised as part of the general investigation.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 The review will assess the environmental impact of fracking on the local environment.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life.