

# ITEM 7

## CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 02 November 2009

### LONGBRIDGE WEIR HYDRO PROGRESS UPDATE

#### Summary

- 1.1 In order to progress the project needs both Local Authority planning permission and a transfer licence granted by the Environment Agency.

#### Transfer licence:

The EA recently sent the Council a copy of the draft transfer licence for review and comment which is very encouraging news. The conditions proposed align with discussions between Council and EA and were as expected and achievable.

#### Planning permission:

The EA objected to the planning application on the grounds of fisheries, ecology and flooding issues. The fisheries and ecological issues have been resolved in discussion and are reflected in the draft transfer licence but the flood team are still not satisfied even though the Council has paid for the project to be modelled, by one of the EA's specialist consultants, and the modelling outcome was that the project had no discernable impact.

The EA have recently written to suggest that the Council wait until some new modelling software is developed (available April 2010 at the earliest) and then pay for the scheme to be modelled again and even then they may not be satisfied. There are various issues with this:

- The software does not presently exist and may not do so for some considerable time
- The eventual cost of modelling could be very high
- The Council has used the best available tools and advice to demonstrate that the project will not have any negative impact.
- The EA must have determined every single transfer licence issued by them to date without using this new software so it is not reasonable to delay the Council's project for an indeterminate period and cause unknown costs on the pretext of needing new modelling.

A meeting has been set up with the EA, the project team and Derby City Council planners for 5 November to discuss and hopefully resolve this issue. The aim being that the EA do not object to the revised planning application which is to be submitted by mid November. It is hoped that planning permission will be granted at the 17 December planning committee meeting.

If permission is granted at this meeting the project is planned to start on site around the end of April 2010 with completion some 6 months later.