

To: Clive Saul, Strategy and Policy

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Site: Skelton Grange Road, Stourton

Proposal: Energy Recovery Facility (incineration of waste and energy generation), associated infrastructure and improvements to access and bridge.

You will be aware that the application site lies within the Aire Valley Leeds which is a major regeneration area with significant capacity to provide land for the planned growth of the city. The city recently confirmed its commitment to supporting economic growth in Aire Valley Leeds through the adoption of a new Leeds Growth Strategy (getting Leeds Working) and through the publication of its emerging Core Strategy.

You will be aware that the application site is at the southern extent of a number of sites awaiting development. This development context is recognised in the Core Strategy and specifically in the Area Action Plan which is being prepared for the Aire Valley Leeds. A range of infrastructure measures are identified for these sites, particularly a network of roads to service the sites and to provide public transport links into the area. The current application does not appear to provide details on the potential transport and other implications from the future development of these sites in order that informed decisions can be made on what enhancements may be needed to the access road and bridge (Skelton Bridge Road, Skelton Bridge and a future link for example to Knosthorpe Lane).

Through the Aire Valley Leeds programme the council has been working with the landowners and other stakeholders in the area. This is designed to facilitate a joined up approach to development with the objective of ensuring that sustainable new neighbourhoods are delivered which bring new jobs to the city, which are accessible to local people. The Skelton Bridge link provides the only access into this substantial area from the south. It is therefore particularly important that we consider the long term development of the river crossing and access road, and how this is impacted by the wider development of the other Skelton Grange sites and sites immediately to the north and east.

In summary, I am concerned that at the moment the application does not provide the wider context for the development of sites in the vicinity of the application site to assist with the assessment on whether the future development of these sites can be accommodated by the proposed measures to the road access and the bridge.