

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 November 2015

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	ADDITIONAL WP	06/11/15	06/11/15

Submitted by:	Councillor Richard Lewis
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning
Relevant Director	Director of City Development

This Council opposes the current exploration licenses for fracking in the Leeds area.

Council believes that these plans have been promoted and supported by central government, who are in the process of considering onshore oil and gas exploration applications for 159 areas of the Country, including a large section of South and East Leeds. Council laments that at the same time as this support, proposed changes to feed in tariffs and the end of funding for Green Deal are reported to be forcing companies working on renewable energy out of business.

Council notes the significant concerns about health, ecology and environment that require much further investigation before fracking can be justified near to residential areas. Council notes that Rothwell Country Park, Rothwell Pastures and the St Aidan’s reserve are all in the proposed exploration area.

Council believes that if planning applications are made for fracking then they should be considered thoroughly, with full local consultation. Council therefore opposes changes that “fast-track” planning applications for fracking sites, including greater powers for the Secretary of State, at the cost of local decision making.

Council therefore calls on central government to:

- Withdraw the exploration licenses for fracking covering the Leeds district until the serious concerns about environment and health have been comprehensively addressed.
- Ensure that local people are given a say on these significant planning applications by reversing the policy to “fast-track” fracking applications and remove the threat of the Secretary of State making local planning decisions.
- Provide the conditions for British companies working on renewable energy to thrive in order to reduce dependence on non-renewables.

Council requests that the Executive Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning writes to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to confirm this resolution and calls on all members and officers to work towards these outcomes.



Deadlines for submission

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
