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REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF SSE PLC TO THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT OPTION CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (JULY 2017)

I write on behalf of SSE PLC ('SSE') to make representations to the Local Plan Review - Preferred Development Option Consultation Document (July 2017).

SSE is the owner and operator of the 2,000-megawatt Fiddlers Ferry coal-fired Power Station, including adjoining land to the east and, notably, the ash lagoons to the south.

The Preferred Development Option Consultation Document (July 2017) makes the following statement about the Fiddlers Ferry Power Station:

"3.6 The Council is aware that Fiddlers Ferry power station may come forward for development during the Plan Period. It currently remains an operational coal-fired power station with ash processing operations but its long-term future remains uncertain. It may be that the site will continue to be used for power generation but the site could represent a major future brownfield redevelopment opportunity. There is not currently sufficient certainty for it to be allocated as a development site, but given the scale of the site, this will need to be kept under review and the site's future has been taken into account in the Council's approach to flexibility of land supply and safeguarding..."

SSE is broadly supportive of this statement and the Council's recognition that the Power Station remains an operational site and that it may continue to be used for power generation in the future. However, SSE would wish to see Policy PV2 of the Local Plan Core Strategy, which relates to Fiddlers Ferry, amended so that it is not only consistent with the above statement but also provides for a greater flexibility at Power Station site. In particular SSE considers that Policy PV2 should take account of the following factors:

- The existing Power Station is likely to continue operating into the next decade, with Government energy policy putting pressure on cessation of coal power by 2025.

- The decommissioning and demolition of the existing Power Station would take a number of years to complete.
- The existing ash processing activities at the site are expected to continue beyond the coal power station's life span given the current market demand for ash until the existing deposits are fully depleted.
- The site is ideally suited to power generation, being connected to the National Grid, having rail and road transport links, benefiting from a supply of cooling water and having a skilled workforce.
- Were a new power plant to come forward at the site in the future, this is likely to have a much smaller footprint than the existing Power Station, potentially freeing up land for power-related and other employment development.
- The site has the potential to be a major focus for employment and economic activity linking with other initiatives within the area, including the Widnes Waterfront regeneration area.
- In order to fulfil its potential, it will be crucial that surrounding developments and initiatives do not unduly constrain power generation development opportunities at the site.

I trust that these representations will be taken into account. SSE looks forward to engaging further in the Local Plan review process and reserves the right to make further representations as appropriate.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of these representations.

Yours sincerely



