

The following report appeared in the Hull Daily Mail on Monday 10 June 2013

# Community's plea over waste incinerator plans

## Cheshire town residents appeal for help from people of East Yorkshire

### InShort

East Yorkshire councils setting up new waste contracts have been asked to rule out sending household rubbish to a planned new incinerator in Cheshire.

by Jon Townend

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**A COMMUNITY furious about plans for a waste incinerator near their homes is appealing for help from East Yorkshire.**

People in the Cheshire town of Northwich have contacted Hull City Council and East Riding Council to ask them not to send waste to the planned new facility.

The two East Yorkshire councils are working together on joint new waste contracts that have not yet been allocated.

They will involve disposing of about 2,000 tonnes a week. Companies behind the Northwich incinerator are understood to be bidding for council contracts.

The Cheshire facility is not yet built or licensed and campaigners hope to stop it.

Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network (Chain) has contacted all elected members of East Yorkshire councils and council officials handling the contracts, arguing that it would be irresponsible and unfair to send large quantities of rubbish by 240-mile round-trips for treatment when it could be done much closer to where it is created.

Chain spokesman Liam Byrne said: "Our community in Northwich has been battling to save the town for over four years.

"All groups and all parties, whether they be residents, councillors, or MPs, are opposed to having what would be a dangerous and ugly monster in our midst.

"Our fate now, to a significant extent, is in the hands of the people of East Yorkshire and we are pleading for their support.

**PROTEST:** Campaigners fighting against plans for a waste incinerator in Northwich.



"So far, the incinerator operators have not obtained a single contract; East Riding and Hull would be the first.

"If they win, it might mean they commence building and we would be left with the nightmare that campaigners fought so hard to prevent at Saltend.

"Notably, councils within Cheshire have no intention of

using a Northwich incinerator."

Chain says it hopes East Riding and Hull councils will honour the commitment of Councillor Symon Fraser, East Riding's environment portfolio holder, that future waste would be "expected to take place in existing facilities".

An East Riding Council spokesman said: "By letter and email, we have told Chain that the council's

waste will continue to be disposed of only at approved and licensed facilities."

East Riding is handling the waste contracts negotiations for both authority areas and an agreement should be in place within the next two years.

When the deals are done, they will be to deal with both recyclable and non-recyclable waste for a ten-year period.

Two years ago, Hull and East Riding announced they were terminating their existing waste contract with WRG.

Councillor Fraser has said future disposal of non-recyclable waste is expected to take place in existing facilities outside of East Yorkshire.

He also confirmed the council would not be building any new waste management sites of its own as part of the new-look contracts.

The current deal with WRG is due to expire in April next year, when the new contracts will commence.

### Campaigners fought off plans at Saltend in 2011

CAMPAIGN group Chain can point to the success of East Yorkshire campaigners who fought off plans for a waste incinerator at Saltend in 2011.

Central to the community's argument is the question of why it would be fine to incinerate waste near their

homes when it was deemed unacceptable in East Yorkshire.

Construction of the plant in Northwich has not commenced and it cannot be operational before 2017. It does not have an environmental permit from the Environmental Agency to operate.

But if it does go ahead, it will be as large as Wembley Stadium, with the capacity to deal with more than 1,600 tonnes of waste per day.

That would make it more than twice the size of the Saltend incinerator that prompted huge public outcry.