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PRESS RELEASE

Covanta call for public inquiry

Covanta have today announced that they have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate so that their application for an Energy from Waste plant in Middlewich can be considered at a public inquiry.

Malcolm Chilton, Managing Director of Covanta Energy said "Planning applications for Energy from Waste facilities are, by their nature, complex and inevitably are the subject of considerable debate.

"A public inquiry will ensure all aspects of our proposal are objectively and expertly scrutinised, whilst at the same time allowing all points of view to be heard and considered.

"Additionally, a new, identical application is being submitted to Cheshire East Council. This will allow ongoing discussions with Cheshire East Council on the s106 agreement including issues such as road improvements, potential contributions towards the bypass and issues on where the waste will be sourced from. This also allows Cheshire East Council to take the application to their Strategic Planning Board, should they wish to do this.

"We firmly believe Covanta's Energy from Waste proposal provides a sustainable way of treating Cheshire's waste and there remains a strong need for further Energy from Waste facilities in a central location within Cheshire, such as at Middlewich, to meet the county's needs, and specifically to divert waste from Landfill – a key Government and EU objective.

"Covanta believes that the Energy from Waste facility would meet Cheshire's waste needs in a way fully compliant with current planning policy and deliver a range of important additional benefits including:

- Up to 300 construction jobs

- 50 full time operational jobs
- Many further business opportunities connected with the operation of the facility
- A £2.5 million contribution towards the bypass, which itself would help deliver up to 3,500 new jobs to Middlewich.
- The safeguarding of 125 jobs at British Salt
- A £200 million inward investment in the Weaver Towns area of which Middlewich is a key location
- A reduction in the need to landfill
- A more sustainable way of treating waste than landfill
- Cheaper electricity for Middlewich and Sproston
- An estimated community benefit fund in excess of £1 million

A decision on the public inquiry could be made as early as later this year. If a favourable outcome is received, then work could start on providing the much needed job opportunities and the substantial inward investment almost immediately”

Ends

For more details please contact Daniel James at Pendragon Public Relations on 0161 786 8000