



Subject:	Exploratory Drilling in Woodburn Forest – Update
Date:	14th September, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Lead Operations Officer/ Head of Environmental Health
Contact Officer:	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer Alastair Curran, Scientific Unit Manger Stephen Leonard, Environmental Health Manager (Env. protection)

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide Members with an update on the outcomes from the Special meeting, which took place on Monday, 27th June, in relation to the exploratory drilling in Woodburn Forest.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the report and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at a Special meeting on 27th June, had agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none">to formally invite InfraStrata to a future meeting;that RPS, as the agents for InfraStrata, also be invited to that meeting;that clarification be sought from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

(NIEA) on the reference to alleged oil spillages;

4. that Stop the Drill provides the evidence as referred to by them as outlined previously; and
5. that officers continue to engage with the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council in relation to this issue, insofar as is possible with the ongoing judicial review.

1 – InfraStrata

3.2 The Committee had agreed to invite, once again, InfraStrata to attend a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, in relation to the drilling at Woodburn Forest.

3.3 A response has now been received from InfraStrata, which sets out the reasons why it is unable to attend. The response is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2 – RPS Group

3.4 The Committee had agreed to write and invite the RPS Group, as agents to InfraStrata, to attend a future City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

3.5 A letter was sent to the RPS Group on 6th July, but, to date, no response has been received.

3 – NIEA clarification on the reference made to oil spills

3.6 The Committee agreed that officers should seek clarification from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in relation to the oil spills which were discussed with NI Water at the Special meeting.

3.7 A copy of the relevant results are attached at **Appendix 2**.

4 – Evidence from Stop the Drill

3.8 The Committee agreed that the Stop the Drill campaigners should submit the following evidence for their consideration:

- details on the oil spillage from March, 2016;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Project documentation which stated that Biocide T was hazardous; and • the document on the policing of the site, from February to June 2016.
3.9	<p>Their response and the associated documents are attached at Appendix 3.</p>
	<p>5 – Continued engagement with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</p>
3.10	<p>The Committee agreed that officers should continue to engage with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on this issue; however, it was also mindful that there was a judicial review ongoing.</p>
3.11	<p>The judicial review proceedings remain ongoing. Mid & East Antrim Council have agreed to hold a member information workshop with the company responsible for this project and the proposed Islandmagee gas storage project.</p>
3.12	<p>Infastrata were due to reinstate and exit the borehole site by 8th August but was granted an extension to August 22nd by Mid & East Antrim due to the July holidays. A further extension has been granted until the 16th September on the grounds of wet weather.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from Infrastrata</p> <p>Appendix 2 – NIEA results</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Stop the Drill response</p>