

ADDITIONAL ITEM

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

**HYNET NORTH WEST CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE – NATIONALLY
SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

RESPONSE TO STATUTORY PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT:

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council has been invited to respond to the statutory pre-application consultation on the proposed HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.
- 1.2 Denbighshire County Council has been consulted as a neighbouring local authority.
- 1.3 The consultation commenced on 9 February and will run until 22 March 2022.
- 1.4 This report seeks Members agreement not to submit formal observations in response to the pre-application consultation on behalf of the Council. The reasons for this are explained below with the Council's suggested response contained within the resolution section at the foot of this report.

2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 HyNet North West is a proposed hydrogen supply and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project, which is made up of different component parts, including a Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.
- 2.2 The proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline component is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The Proposal lies within the administrative areas of Cheshire West and Chester Council and Flintshire County Council.
- 2.3 Under the Planning Act 2008, consent for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is issued through the enactment of a Development Consent Order (a statutory instrument) rather than planning permission.
- 2.4 Applications for Development Consent Orders (DCO) are submitted to, and assessed by, the Planning Inspectorate and are determined by the relevant UK Secretary of State.
- 2.5 Prior to submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate, the developer is required to carry out a formal pre-application consultation with statutory bodies and the local community.
- 2.6 Host local authorities and neighbouring local authorities are statutory consultees.
- 2.7 Once a DCO application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, affected local authorities and other consultees will be formally consulted on the application.

3. HYNET NORTHWEST

- 3.1 HyNet North West is a proposed hydrogen supply and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project, being promoted by Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd (the 'developer').
- 3.2 The HyNet North West project comprises of several different components, which are summarised below:
 - Hydrogen Projection Plants;
 - Hydrogen Network;
 - Hydrogen Storage;

- Carbon Capture;
- Compressor Plants;
- Newbuild and repurposed onshore/offshore pipelines to transport CO2 (between Cheshire, Flintshire, and offshore);
- Offshore Carbon Dioxide Storage.

3.3 The plan below is an indicative representation of the HyNet North West Project taken from the developer's PEIR:



3.4 Different components of the project will require separate consent from the relevant approval body.

4. CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE:

4.1 The current consultation relates to the proposed onshore carbon dioxide pipeline to transport carbon dioxide emissions captured from existing industry, and the proposed new HyNet hydrogen production plant at Stanlow, to be permanently stored offshore in depleted gas resources under Liverpool Bay.

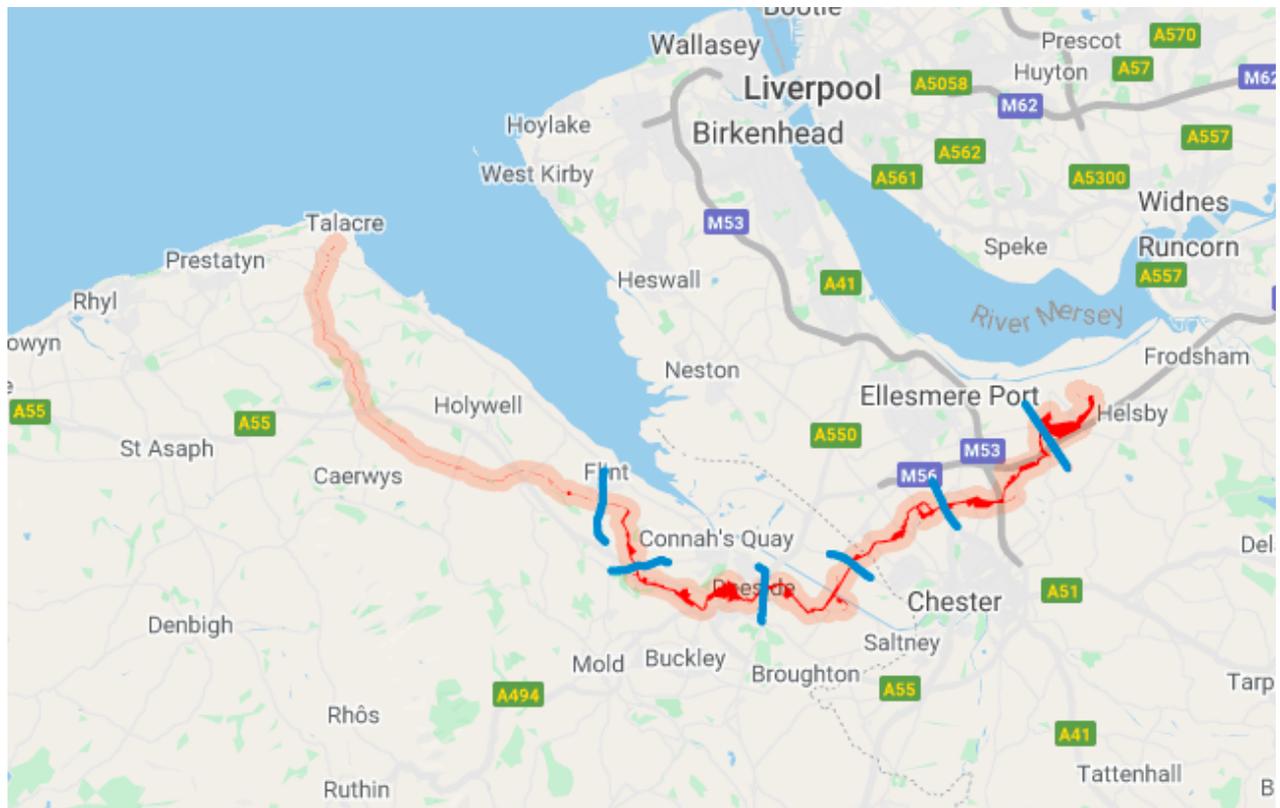
4.2 The onshore pipeline, which includes some above ground infrastructure, is proposed within the administrative areas of Cheshire West and Chester and Flintshire County Councils.

4.3 There are three sections of new build onshore pipeline which form part of the DCO Proposed Development subject of the current consultation:

- Ince AGI (Above Ground Installation) to Stanlow AGI Pipeline.
- Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline.
- Flint AGI to Flint Connection Pipeline.

4.4 . The new build pipeline will connect into the existing Flint Connection to Point of Ayr Terminal Pipeline which is being repurposed to carry carbon dioxide rather than natural gas.

4.5 The map below has been extracted from the developer's project website, and shows the proposed carbon dioxide pipeline route:



5. STATUTORY PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION:

5.1 The consultation is seeking views on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). A copy of this and other consultation documents can be found on the project website here: www.hynethub.co.uk

5.2 In Officers view, the only element of the proposed development of relevance to Denbighshire County Council interests is the change of use of the existing pipeline from Point of Ayr to Flint Connection which is proposed to be re-purposed for the transportation of carbon dioxide instead of natural gas.

5.3 Based on the conclusions of the PEIR, this element of the proposal would not give rise to any direct, adverse impact on Denbighshire interests.

5.4 Works to the existing Point of Ayr gas terminal, which lies close to the Denbighshire border will need to be carried out to facilitate the offshore export of carbon dioxide. Officers would note that such works are considered to be 'associated development' which fall outside of the scope of what can be included in the DCO application. Works to the Point of Ayr terminal are therefore not part of the current consultation, and would instead require separate planning permission from Flintshire County Council.

5.5 Similarly, the offshore works required to be undertaken to facilitate the storage of carbon dioxide in the depleted gas resources in Liverpool Bay also fall outside of the scope of the DCO application. The offshore works are therefore not part of the current consultation, and would be subject of a separate consenting regime.

6. RESOLUTION:

6.1 No works are proposed within Denbighshire County Council administrative area, and based on the conclusions of the PEIR, the repurposing of the pipeline from Point of Ayr to Flint Connection would not result in any direct, adverse impact on Denbighshire interests.

6.2 Approval is therefore sought from Members to submit the following response to the pre-application consultation:

Denbighshire County Council, as neighbouring authority does not wish to make any observations on the proposed carbon dioxide pipeline PEIR at this time, however the Council reserves the right to comment on the proposal at application stage, and to make representations on other component parts of the HyNet North West Project.

6.3 Members are also reminded that they are free to respond directly to the consultation in their capacity as ward Councillor or as a member of the public.

EMLYN JONES HEAD OF PLANNING, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COUNTYSIDE SERVICES