

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Cllr Louise Gittins

Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA

Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Sent via email.

Please ask for: Cllr Louise Gittins

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Date: 18/05/2026

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council following the Council's consideration of the proposed Peak Cluster Carbon Capture CO₂ pipeline.

The Council welcomes the Government's commitment to decarbonising industry, supporting innovation in low-carbon technologies and meeting the UK's statutory net zero obligations. We recognise the potential role that carbon capture, usage and storage may play in reducing emissions from hard-to-abate sectors where alternative solutions are limited. We would encourage the Government to continue to invest in alternative climate strategies focused on renewable energy, nature recovery, and technology to deliver decarbonisation at scale.

Our position is not a rejection of climate action. We recognise the need to reduce emissions at pace. However, climate solutions must also be fair and achieve community buy-in, and must not impose disproportionate harm on communities that do not directly benefit from their implementation.

The Council therefore wishes to be clear that it formally opposes the Peak Cluster Carbon Capture project as currently proposed, including the routing of any part of the CO₂ pipeline or any associated above-ground installations within the boundaries of Cheshire West and Chester. This position was adopted by Full Council on 21st April, when a Notice of Motion was passed with a significant majority outlining clear local opposition and instructing officers to submit formal objections, where these can be substantiated, accordingly. This letter is sent in accordance with the resolution of full Council and reflects the collective view expressed in that decision.



Cheshire West & Chester Council

The Notice of Motion is appended to this Letter (Appendix A).

In light of the Notice of Motion, we ask that you:

- Recognise and give weight to the community and environmental concerns formally adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the routing of an onshore CO₂ pipeline through countryside and communities.
- Require a fully independent environmental and safety impact assessment, with meaningful public consultation in affected Cheshire West and Chester communities.
- Ensure that any consenting process includes CO₂-specific emergency planning, responder training and public communication systems as mandatory, legally binding requirements.
- Put in place statutory long-term governance, monitoring, audits and a legally binding decommissioning and financial guarantee framework.

The Council would welcome a meeting with your officials to ensure our communities' concerns are properly understood and accurately reflected in the Government's decision-making.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Louise Gittins
Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council



This letter is signed by 58 Members of Cheshire West and Chester Council, comprising:

Labour Group:

Councillor Louise Gittins, Leader of the Council
Councillor Karen Shore, Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Sherin Akhtar
Councillor Richard Beacham
Councillor Stuart Bingham
Councillor Robert Bisset
Councillor Tommy Blackmore
Councillor Matt Carter
Councillor Paul Chamberlain
Councillor Steve Collings
Councillor Felicity Davies
Councillor Olwyn Dean
Councillor Lisa Denson
Councillor Paul Donovan

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Councillor Caroline Ellis
Councillor Kris Fisher
Councillor Carol Gahan
Councillor Michael Garvey
Councillor Katie Kendrick OBE
Councillor Katrina Kerr
Councillor Adam Langan
Councillor Gina Lewis
Councillor Sheila Little
Councillor Keith Millar
Councillor Sam Naylor
Councillor Arthur Neil
Councillor Nathan Pardoe
Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor John Stockton
Councillor Lucy Sumner
Councillor Alex Tate
Councillor Ben Walker
Councillor Christine Warner
Councillor Rachel Waterman
Councillor Peter Wheeler

Conservative Group:

Councillor Adrian Waddelove, Leader of the Conservative Group
Councillor Simon Eardley, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group
Councillor Tom Cooper
Councillor Razia Daniels
Councillor Hugo Deynem
Councillor Lynn Gibbon
Councillor Charles Hardy
Councillor Mike Jones
Councillor Martin Loftus
Councillor Dan Marr
Councillor Phil Marshall
Councillor Margaret Parker
Councillor Patricia Parkes
Councillor Phil Rimmer
Councillor Sion Roberts
Councillor Gaynor Sinar
Councillor Lynn Stocks
Councillor Mark Stocks
Councillor Rachel Williams
Councillor Norman Wright

The Independent Group:

Councillor Gillian Edwards, Leader of the Independent Group
Councillor Martin Barker

Independent:

Councillor Elizabeth MacGlashan

