

## **Guidance Note and Scope**

### **Protocol for Presenting Evidence**

Proceedings are to be fair and balanced, mindful of the interests of all parties.

The Chairman will invite experts and interest group representatives (witnesses) to the public hearings to provide evidence and answer questions before the Cross Party Working Group.

Only the Chairman and Members of the Working Group will put questions to the expert witnesses and those invited to contribute, to provide additional technical information or respond to points of clarification. This allows the Working Group to follow up points of interest from those who have made a submission, in order to amplify points and give additional information.

Although proceedings are guided by a number of rules, they are to be informal and not adversarial allowing members to discuss issues informally and not be constrained by party lines, allowing Members to assess issues in the interest of the public.

### **Involving the public**

The public are to be given as much information as possible about the proceedings commensurate with the proper conduct of the hearings and the interests of the parties involved.

A call for submissions from the public will provide opportunities for interest groups, academics, experts and individual citizens to inform the committee of their views on particular topics.

Members of the public, organisations and key stakeholders will be asked for written submissions. This will be undertaken by posting on the Council Web-site or writing to persons or organisations with specialist knowledge or a particular interest.

### **Timetable**

Operating as a Task and Finish Group, the proceedings will aim to conclude within a ten month period from the Groups inception. This will include, the hosting of up to five hearings/sittings and consideration of the evidence towards the production of a report to Executive.

A schedule of meeting dates and themes to be covered will be made available to the public.

## **Scope**

The Working Group has identified the following as being either in or out of Scope for the purpose of its investigation:

### **In Scope**

- Conventional and Unconventional Gas and Oil exploration techniques.
- The Economic costs and benefits for the Borough of Gas and Oil exploration and extraction.
- Environmental impacts for the Borough of Gas and Oil exploration and extraction and restoration and aftercare
- Issues relating to the Community of Cheshire West and Chester.
- Credible published evidence (for example scientific, geological, economic, health)
- Climate Change in relation to the Local plan

### **Not in scope**

- Individual and specific sites and locations.
- Individual Planning Applications
- Subjective evidence that cannot be substantiated.
- Geo-thermal energy exploration.
- The wider impacts on global climate change