

## **SECTION A – REQUEST FOR SITE VISIT**

### **Planning Application ref. P2016/0078**

Former Margam Surface Mine, Fford Y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr CF32 0BS

Proposed alternative restoration and aftercare scheme in respect of the former Margam Surface Mine, comprising engineering and landscaping works including: Pumping, earthworks, soil relocation, installation of an overflow drainage channel, re-introduction of rights of way across the site, agricultural (rehabilitation) works to establish vegetation and drainage (amendment to the restoration and aftercare scheme approved under planning permission reference P2006/1727)

### **Background**

Following the update report to the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Planning Committee, Members are advised that the above planning application by Celtic Energy Ltd was registered on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Given that the site straddles two administrative boundaries, an identical application was also registered by Bridgend CBC (their reference P/16/128/FUL).

The 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 update report (attached at Appendix A for reference) detailed the progress to date, and the agreed timetable which seeks to ensure that all parties progress towards restoration of the site as soon as reasonably practicable. This timetable seeks determination of the application by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016, and for works to commence by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

It is currently the intention to report the above application to Planning Committee on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**. It is understood that the Bridgend application will be heard by Members of Bridgend CBCs Development Control Committee on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Given the controversy and complicated history associated with this site, Officers consider it to be essential that Members should be afforded the opportunity to visit the site in advance of the Committee so that they are able to fully appreciate the nature of the proposal before them.

Accordingly, and in order to avoid any delay to the determination of the application, authorisation is sought for a Members' site visit to be held on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 Planning Committee.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members agree to a Members Site Visit to be held on the morning of the Committee on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016.