

VIRIDOR

**Proposed Development of a
Waste Treatment Plant,
Lostock Gralam**

Volume 1: Supporting Statement

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Proposed Development of a Waste Treatment Plant, Lostock Gralam

Volume 1 – Supporting Statement

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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Viridor are one of two remaining bidders that have reached Stage 3 of Cheshire's Household Waste PFI Contract.
- 1.2 Through the Contract, Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East will establish how they will address their residual waste challenge over the next 25 years. Like all local authorities, they have to meet challenging targets to divert large volumes of waste away from landfill in order to avoid increasing rates of landfill tax and large potential fines (under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme).
- 1.3 Viridor is seeking planning consent for the development of a Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at the former chlorine chemical works at Lostock Gralam, near Northwich, Cheshire. The development will be in a strategic location for the treatment of all kerbside collected and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) derived residual municipal waste from across West Cheshire and Chester, and East Cheshire areas.

Contract Objectives

- 1.4 The aim of the Contract is to find methods of managing Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East's residual waste in an economical, environmental and sustainable way that protects the interests of the community and the environment, and is affordable. In doing this there are a number of principal targets to be achieved including:
 - Meeting national targets derived from the EU Landfill Directive to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste disposed of to landfill;
 - Significantly increase recycling and composting levels to 50% by 2020;
 - Comply with regulations requiring pre-treatment of waste, which came into effect in October 2007;
 - Comply with LATS allowances introduced by the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (WET), and
 - Meet or exceed local Best Value performance standards and objectives of the Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (CCJMWMS).
- 1.5 If successful, under the Contract, Viridor will be responsible for the residual municipal waste from Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East, Unitary

Authorities, and will undertake to carry out the following waste management functions:

- Reception, treatment, recycling, transport and final disposal of kerbside collected and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) derived residual municipal waste; and
 - Provide, manage and maintain three transfer loading stations (TLS) and the proposed Waste Treatment Plant.
- 1.6 The collection of residual household waste for recycling, recovery or treatment will continue to be carried out under the existing Waste Collection Authority (WCA) arrangements in Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East Unitary Authorities.
- 1.7 The Contract period will be 25 years after which the facilities will be returned to the control of Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA).

Environment Policy

- 1.8 The facilities will be operated by Viridor, a Company committed to the principles of sustainable waste management, to the protection of the environment and to being a good neighbour to the communities in the vicinity of all its operations. To this end, it operates an Integrated Management System (IMS) accredited to the International Standard ISO14001 at its sites. In addition, it has adopted the following Company Environmental Policy:

The Company is committed to meeting the following aims:

- *Continuous improvement in environmental performance, maximising environmental benefits and taking all necessary steps to prevent pollution;*
- *Setting and monitoring of objectives and targets that reduce negative impacts on the environment and augment positive impacts;*
- *Using energy and natural resources more efficiently and encouraging the development and use of alternative fuels and recycled products;*
- *Identifying and implementing environmental improvement schemes to benefit the public, stakeholders and employees, wherever possible;*
- *Achieving and maintaining registration to ISO 14001 (Integrated Management System), the highest available international standard;*

- *Complying with all applicable legislation, including environmental, health and safety and other requirements relating to the Company's environmental aspects. These represent the minimum standard;*
 - *Providing training and information for all employees so they gain a better understanding of health, safety and environmental issues and the Company's commitment, policies and programmes for protecting and enhancing the environment;*
 - *Proactive consultation and dialogue with the public, stakeholders and employees on the Company's environmental performance; and*
 - *Effectively communicating this policy to all employees, external resources, members of the public and other stakeholders.*
- 1.9 This Policy applies to Viridor sites and will be reviewed at each bi-annual Senior Management Review and will be updated as necessary.

This Application

- 1.10 Viridor has appointed Wardell Armstrong LLP to prepare and submit a planning application for the development of the proposed Waste Treatment Plant at the former chlorine works, Lostock Gralam.
- 1.11 This Supporting Statement (Volume 1) describes in detail the proposed development, examines the proposal in terms of current planning guidance and policies, and assesses the need for the development. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement (Volume 2), which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed waste management facility, and a Design and Access Statement (Volume 3) which provides detailed proposals for the design of the facility and access arrangements at the site.
- 1.12 As part of the preparation for the application, public consultation exercises have been undertaken comprising of a stakeholder briefing, a media briefing, public exhibitions held on two separate occasions, four briefings to Parish Councils, and a public meeting for Cheshire West and Chester. These are detailed in Section 4 of this report.
- 1.13 A Non-Technical Summary accompanies the Environmental Statement and offers a summary of the key issues.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located off Griffiths Road, Lostock Gralam, approximately 2km east of Northwich town centre. The site is located in an industrial setting consisting of existing and former chemical works close to the A559 (Manchester Road). Access to the site is via a private estate road located off the A530 Griffiths Road, which is shared with the adjacent Solvay facility and the Brunner Mond works. The location of the site is shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 001A.
- 2.2 The site of the proposed Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) is circa 3.66 ha in size and presently comprises derelict industrial buildings, tanks and pipework, having been used formerly for chlorine manufacture up until 2001. Railway sidings are present along the northern edge of the site. The site is part of a larger chemical industrial complex. Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 002A shows the setting of the site, and Drawing Number LE10104/EIA005A shows on aerial photograph of the area.
- 2.3 The site is bounded to the north by the Altrincham and Chester railway line. Beyond the railway line to the north lie a number of light industrial units and residential properties. The closest industrial unit is approximately 143m to the northwest. The closest residential property is approximately 200m to the north, on Manchester Road.
- 2.4 There are also proposals in the wider area for residential developments at Hargreaves Road and Wade Works. These are permitted developments, and lie approximately 250m or more to the south west of the Lostock Gralam site.
- 2.5 An area of open land lies to the west, beyond which are residential properties, the nearest of which lies some 590m west south west of the site. Bedminster International/Organic Waste Management Ltd have recently received planning permission for the development of a bio-energy plant on part of this open land that lies immediately adjacent to the western site boundary.
- 2.6 Wade Brook runs adjacent to the southern site boundary, in a general east to west direction. To the south of Wade Brook lies Griffiths Park, a former landfill site. Beyond Griffiths Park are residential properties some 500m from the site. Adjacent to the east of the site is the Solvay industrial plant. Beyond the Solvay facility are further works which make up the Brunner Mond facility.
- 2.7 In developing their strategy, Viridor will take into account all of the potential physical and social receptors to ensure that the design and operation of the proposed development will have minimal negative effects and, in fact, may lead to improvements since it will result in the redevelopment of a currently derelict, brownfield site.

3 LAND USE AND PLANNING HISTORY

Land Use History

- 3.1 The development is proposed on land formerly used for a variety of industrial uses. A review of the historical maps of the surrounding area shows numerous industrial uses, including (but not limited to):
- A Bleach Works, formerly located on-site and to the east of the site,
 - Railway sidings, formerly located on-site;
 - A pump house, formerly located to the west of the site;
 - A gasometer, formerly located approximately 100m to the east;
 - A former landfill site located approximately 100m to the south.
- 3.2 Along with those uses noted above, Warehouses, and Works have also been present within 250m of the site.
- 3.3 The site currently comprises a disused chlorine manufacturing works, comprising various derelict plant and buildings required for chlorine production, with hardstanding surrounding. To the east of the site the Solvay chemical works and beyond that the Brunner Mond facility are currently operational.

Planning History

- 3.4 The historical planning permissions for the site are listed below. All permissions have now lapsed.

4/00/00428 – Outline Planning Permission – 28.10.1974
New diaphragm cell plant and overhead line

4/00/01351 – Reserved Matters Planning Permission – 29.07.1975
Erection of plant structure and buildings for production of chlorine and ancillary products

4/00/03327 – Full Planning Permission – 02.03.1977
Additions to chlorine plant, rectiformer bay for experimental cells

4/15995 – Full Planning Permission – 10.12.1986
Modular building for use as drawing office

4/21441 – Full Planning Permission – 10.01.1990
Buildings for site training centre.

4/22897 – Full Planning Permission – 26.09.1990
Mess room amenity building

4/24471 – Full Planning Permission – 16.10.1991
Port cabin office accommodation

4/27255 – Full Planning Permission – 13.10.1993
2.4 high palisade fencing and associated gatehouse

4/28118 – Full Planning Permission – 02.06.1994
Single storey research and development laboratory

4/30567 - Full Planning Permission – 01.05.1996
Prefabricated office building

Registration Status

- 3.5 The Health and Safety Executive have confirmed that neither the application site, or the Solvay and Brunner Mond facilities are registered as Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH) sites.

Ownership

- 3.6 The site is in the ownership of INEOS Chlor Vinyls.

4 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 To support this application, it was considered likely that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals would be necessary under the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999 (amended 2008) and a Screening and Scoping Opinion was sought from Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority.
- 4.2 Prior to preparing the planning application and Environmental Statement, Viridor and Wardell Armstrong LLP met with officers at Cheshire County Council, and more recently Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority to outline the proposals and help identify the issues to be addressed in the Environmental Statement. This led to the preparation of the Scoping Report, which identified the issues to be included in the assessment. These are:
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
 - Ecology and Nature Conservation;
 - Geology, Mining, Ground Conditions and Land Quality;
 - Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Drainage and Flood Risk
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
 - Traffic and Transport;
 - Noise;
 - Air Quality, Odour and Public Health; and
 - Consideration of Amenity.
- 4.3 The Scoping Report was submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority on 21st May 2009. The Screening Opinion issued on 10th June 2009 by Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority confirmed that an EIA was required and the response to the Scoping Report, issued on 5th August 2009, confirmed the major topics to be included within the Environmental Statement.
- 4.4 Briefings and Public Exhibitions were held to present the proposals, hold discussions with the public and allow comment as necessary. Following the exhibitions, public comments were taken into account in preparing the application prior to submission. The briefings were held on the following dates:
- Stakeholder Briefing – 23rd June 2009
 - Media Briefing – 24th June 2009
 - Public Exhibitions – 24th and 25th June 2009
 - Parish Council Briefings – 6th, 8th and 13th July 2009

- Cheshire West and Chester Public Meeting – 16th July 2009.

4.5 The feedback received from stakeholders and the public is included in a Statement of Community Involvement, provided as Appendix 4.1, Volume 1.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

- 5.1 Viridor is seeking planning consent for the development of a Waste Treatment Plant (WTP), incorporating mechanical and biological treatment (MBT) processes, at Lostock Gralam, together with a site office and education centre. The WTP will be constructed to treat household residual waste and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) derived residual municipal waste from across Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East areas. A small percentage of waste treated at the WTP will be residual commercial waste. No other waste types will be treated at the facility. The end products from the MBT process will be recyclates, including plastics, metals and aggregates; solid recovered fuel (SRF); and a small proportion of residual waste to be sent to landfill (approximately 6%).
- 5.2 Waste will be delivered to the site by refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). The end products; i.e. a range of recyclates, will be transported by road to third party users. The solid recovered fuel, produced by the process, will be packed in containers and transported by rail direct from the site to a purpose built, SRF fuelled power station at Western Point, Runcorn. This power station, located at Runcorn, was granted planning permission in 2008, and is currently under construction. It will provide renewable energy to the INEOS chemical complex located at Runcorn. The facility at Lostock Gralam is designed to process up to 250 000 tonnes per annum of residual waste delivered from three waste transfer stations (WTS) and direct from HWRCs across the Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East areas. To help to minimise road travel, kerbside collected residual waste will also be delivered direct from the area surrounding the WTP.
- 5.3 Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 003B shows the proposed site layout while Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 029A shows a three dimensional visualisation of the proposed facility. The current topography is shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 007. The proposed development comprises four main buildings; the mechanical biological treatment processing building; the household waste recycling centre (HWRC) waste treatment facility, the biofilters for cleaning the process air, and a site office and education centre. Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 006A shows the proposed development superimposed on an aerial photograph.
- 5.4 The site will be operated by Viridor for the Contract period of 25 years, after which time it will be returned to the control of Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East Unitary Authorities.

Site Access and Infrastructure

- 5.5 The site will be accessed from Griffiths Road, via a private estate road. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) delivering residual waste from across Cheshire, will weigh in at the weighbridge, located as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA003B. After weighing in, vehicles delivering residual waste direct from HWRCs will proceed to the dedicated HWRC waste processing building, where they will off load into the waste reception area inside the building. Vehicles transporting residual waste from the WTSs and direct from household collections will proceed to the main MBT processing building and off load their waste in the designated waste reception area, within the building.
- 5.6 The main service yard will be hard paved and will be of sufficient size to ensure that interaction between operational and delivery vehicles poses no interruption to the service or danger to site users. The access points will be clearly visible from the service yard.
- 5.7 Rail sidings will be renewed along the northern boundary of the site, to be used for the transport of SRF to the power station at Runcorn. Rail sidings were previously in use at the site. These have however become disused and require renovation. The proposed sidings will be equipped with a small gantry crane for the loading and unloading of rail wagons.
- 5.8 The perimeter of the site will be fenced with 2.4m high security palisade fencing, as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 009. The location of the fencing is shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 003B. A 2.4m high acoustic barrier is proposed in the north of the site adjacent to the rail sidings. The site will benefit from 24 hour CCTV security monitoring.
- 5.9 An Integrated Management System (IMS) will be used to demonstrate environmental performance. This will include Quality Management, Environmental Management and Health and Safety Management. Prior to construction a Site Waste Management Plan will be drawn up and submitted by the developer.
- 5.10 The site will have adequate foul and surface water drains. Surface water runoff will pass through an interceptor prior to discharge off site. Off site discharges will comply in all respects with the requirements of the Environment Agency.

Staffing

- 5.11 The development will provide both short and long term employment opportunities. Short term opportunities will arise in the form of construction jobs at the site. The operation of the development will create permanent long term skilled positions for operational staff.

5.12 During the operational phase, the WTP will directly provide 45 permanent jobs at the site, as follows:

- 2 x Production Manager/Supervisor
- 1 x Electrician
- 12 x Plant Loading Operative
- 5 x Support, Managerial and Educational Staff
- 8 x Plant Technician
- 2 x Weighbridge Clerk
- 15 x Truck Drivers

5.13 The staff associated with the facility will also undertake the necessary site management and maintenance duties required under relevant Planning Permission and Environmental Permitting, including litter retrieval and inspections.

5.14 Viridor recognise that the required workforce is available locally, and is committed to employing staff from the local area without the need to bring in staff from other regions.

5.15 Viridor technical staff and external consultants will provide further management support for pollution control monitoring, surveying, materials testing and supervision of the engineering works during the construction phase and when the site is operational.

Hours of Operation

Opening Hours

5.16 The WTP will be open to accept waste and dispatch recyclates and unusable residual waste, and load containers of SRF to waiting rail trucks, between the hours of

- 0700 and 1930 Monday to Sunday, including Bank Holidays.

5.17 Waste will be delivered direct from Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), the HWRC Contractor and from the WTSs between these hours.

Processing

5.18 Waste processing will take place on a 24 hours/day basis, 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays.

Traffic and Parking

- 5.19 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) and HGVs will visit the site daily to deliver residual waste and collect recyclates. In total, on weekdays, there will be 56 vehicles per day (or 112 vehicle movements) associated with the delivery of municipal waste and removal of recyclates. In addition, there will be a small number of vehicles (approximately 6 per day) delivering industrial and commercial waste to the facility. Vehicle numbers will be substantially reduced at weekends and Bank Holidays.
- 5.20 Parking requirements are based on staff levels. It is proposed that 43 parking spaces will be provided within the WTP, including two allocated for disabled drivers, allowing for visiting supervisory staff as well as regular employees. In addition, one space for coach parking will be provided to accommodate groups visiting the education centre. The parking areas are located as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA003B.
- 5.21 A Transport Assessment has been carried out as part of Volume 2 – Environmental Statement, full details are provided in Chapter 11, and Appendix 11.1, Volume 2.

Rail Movements

- 5.22 The SRF produced at the site will be transported directly to Runcorn Power Station by rail. There will be one train leaving the site each day.

The Waste Treatment Plant

Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant

- 5.23 The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) processing building comprises a waste reception hall, a mechanical separation process hall, a biodrying tunnel hall and a refinement processing hall. Together, the MBT processing building will be approximately 159 x 131m, with a maximum height of 18.6m. It is located in the centre of the site, as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 003B. Drawing Number LE10104/EIA010 shows the internal layout of the MBT building, while Drawing Number 1239002083 shows the elevations.
- 5.24 RCVs carrying residual waste direct from local kerbside collections, and HGVs carrying residual waste collected from the three WTSs will weigh in at the weighbridge and proceed to the waste reception hall inside the main building. All waste tipping, temporary storage and processing will take place within the MBT building which will be sealed with controlled ventilation to prevent odour release, and to ensure a safe working environment for plant operators. The waste

reception hall will be kept under negative pressure through the use of an air extraction and biofilter system. This will prevent the release of odours from the doors of the building during waste deliveries and will treat odorous air prior to its release from site.

- 5.25 Once tipped in the waste reception hall, residual waste will be initially screened for oversized objects and transferred using a loading shovel and a wheeled 360° excavator with a grab attachment, into the processing equipment. A first-in first-out operating procedure will apply in order to ensure good management of waste to comply with Environmental Permit storage conditions and prevent waste material from being left for long periods in the reception hall.
- 5.26 The waste reception hall will have six entrances to allow the entry/exit of delivery vehicles. These doors will be equipped with fast acting roller shutters. These will remain closed unless a vehicle requires entry/exit from the hall and when the door is open, the entrance will be shielded by an air curtain to maintain a barrier to fugitive emissions, particularly of odour. By undertaking all tipping operations within the building, minimising the time doors are open and protecting open doors with air curtain technology, the incidence of airborne dust and litter migrating out of the reception hall is also negated.
- 5.27 The control of dust, odour and bioaerosol levels within the reception hall will be maintained by the constant change of air provided by the process air treatment system.
- 5.28 Two shredders will be employed at the front end of the mechanical treatment process to reduce the size of the waste material to less than 250mm. The shredded material will be transferred by belt conveyor to a series of mechanical plant.
- 5.29 The Mechanical Treatment process will segregate ferrous and non-ferrous metals, plastic, glass and aggregate from the residual waste, generate a component of the final output SRF and leave an organic rich fraction which will pass to the biodrying (biological treatment) process. By separating metals and high calorific waste, a substantial amount of the residual waste will be used for material recovery and energy production.
- 5.30 The objectives of the Mechanical Treatment phase are:
- Reduction of waste size by shredding;
 - Size fractionation of the shredded waste to facilitate separation of component fractions;
 - Separation of ferrous and non-ferrous (mainly aluminium) metals for further recycling;

- Removal of contraries;
- Separation of a component fraction of the SRF to be dispatched off site for energy recovery; and
- Production of an organic fraction to be dried in the biodrying process.

5.31 The mechanical element of the process will take place using a combination of enclosed and sealed sorting equipment and enclosed conveyors with air extraction to reduce the levels of dust and bioaerosols in the working environment to the lowest practicable level.

5.32 A Process Flow Diagram of the MBT process is included as Appendix 5.1, Volume 1. The mechanical processing plant will comprise the following:

Trommel Screens	These will separate the shredded waste into separate size fractions
Windsifters	These remove the least dense materials from the waste stream. Low density materials will be collected as a constituent part of the SRF.
Overband Magnetic Separators	These remove ferrous metals from the waste stream for recycling
Eddy Current Separators	These remove non-ferrous metals from the waste stream for recycling
Near Infrared Optical Separators	These separate out mixed plastics for recycling

5.33 At the end of the mechanical treatment process, the wet organic fines fraction will be transferred via conveyors, to concrete 'biodrying' tunnels in the adjacent biodrying hall.

5.34 During the aerobic biodrying phase, the organic materials from the mechanical treatment phase will be automatically loaded into one of thirteen biodrying tunnels enclosed within the biodrying hall. Each tunnel is filled on a batch basis, to a depth of around 2.4m. During the biodrying process air is introduced, via pipework, through the base of the waste. The waste is kept in each tunnel for drying for 8 days. The temperature of the tunnels will be maintained at 35°C automatically. A Process Logic Control Unit will increase or decrease the flow of air depending on the temperature.

- 5.35 The biodrying tunnels will reduce the moisture content of the organic materials to approximately 15%, typically removing around 30% of the mass of the input material in moisture.
- 5.36 The bio-drying process is managed in closed aerobic treatment units with exhaust air collected in the closed exhaust air system direct from the tunnels, ensuring no odours are released. The extracted air from the tunnels and process areas will pass through dust filters and a biofilter, in order to minimise any odours, prior to being vented to atmosphere via a 27m high stack.
- 5.37 On completion of the biodrying phase, the material is unloaded from the tunnel and passes to the refining hall where further recyclate recovery takes place and the remaining material passes to the outloading area to be added as a component of the solid recovered fuel (SRF).
- 5.38 In summary, the waste treatment process follows the stages set out below:
- Waste reception;
 - Mechanical process – outputs comprise SRF feedstock, aggregates, metals and untreatable material to landfill;
 - Biodrying – water loss and SRF feedstock;
 - Refining – bio-dried material refined to remove aggregate; and
 - Combining of SRF feedstocks to produce an SRF suitable for treatment at the power station.
- 5.39 The biofilters are located to the south of the main building, as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA003B, and will be approximately 8.6m high. The stack will be circa 27m high. The air discharged from the stack will meet the requirements of the Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency.

The HWRC Waste Treatment Facility

- 5.40 The HWRC Waste Treatment Facility will receive residual waste from HWRCs in Cheshire, with the waste either being direct delivered by the HWRC Contractor or delivered from Waste Transfer Stations by Viridor haulage vehicles.
- 5.41 HWRC collected residual municipal waste has very different characteristics to kerbside residual waste. The waste stream has much greater variability and contains fewer organic materials. As such there is significantly less benefit in biodrying this waste stream. Instead a solution of recycling and mechanical treatment only will be provided.
- 5.42 The treatment facility for the HWRC residual waste will accept the waste, will carry out some separation of bulky recyclable materials and unsuitable materials

and will then shred the waste. Further metal removal will then be undertaken and the composition of the remaining waste is such that it can then go to form a component part of the solid recovered fuel (SRF) to be dispatched from the site for energy recovery. Materials which cannot be recycled or form part of the SRF stream will be dispatched from the site to landfill.

- 5.43 The doors of the HWRC Waste Treatment Facility will be of a fast acting design and will remain closed other than to allow delivery vehicles to enter or exit the hall. They will be fitted with air curtains, to maintain a barrier to fugitive emissions. An air extraction system connected to the main plant dust filter and biofilters will be installed within the facility.

Summary of Odour Control Measures

- 5.44 Due to the nature of the residual municipal waste being treated at the WTP facility, there is a potential for odours to be produced. However, the design of the odour control measures at the facility will ensure no odours are released to the environment. To summarise, the odour control measures comprise the following:
- Negative air pressure within the buildings;
 - Fast acting roller shutter doors, with air curtains, only opened to allow for vehicle access and egress;
 - Unloading/loading of all waste/recyclates/SRF to be undertaken within the buildings with shutter doors closed;
 - Mechanical separation of waste within sealed processing machinery;
 - Biodrying within sealed tunnels;
 - Air extraction system sending air for treatment by dust filter and biofilters, removing any odours prior to venting to atmosphere via the 27m high stack;
 - All waste entering and leaving the site will be transported in closed containers or RCVs.
- 5.45 The adoption of these measures will ensure that the operations at the WTP will not affect adjacent sensitive receptors with unwanted odours.

Site Office, Education Centre and Welfare Facilities

- 5.46 Site office and welfare facilities will be provided for employees and visitors. Located in the east of the site, near the site entrance, as shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 003B, it will have adequate parking provided for cars,

motorcycles, bicycles and disabled users. An education and visitor centre will be incorporated into the design of the site office. The education centre/office floor plans are shown on Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 013. Elevations are shown on Drawing Number 1239 002 031 Rev A. The dimensions of the office building will be circa 39.4m x 26m and a maximum of 9.9m high. Facilities will be designed to modern standards (Building Regulations Part L and DDA Regulations).

- 5.47 A weighbridge office/gatehouse will be located between the two proposed weighbridges located in the east, near the site entrance. It will have a building footprint of approximately 9.4m by 3.8m and will be circa 3.7m high. Drawing Number LE10104/EIA 014 shows the proposed layout, elevations and dimensions of the weighbridge office.
- 5.48 There is provision for 43 car parking spaces for staff and visitors, including 2 spaces for disabled users. One coach parking space will be provided.

Landscaping

- 5.49 Areas of the site which are not hard paved will be landscaped with a combination of grass and low maintenance ground cover planting as appropriate.

6 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

Introduction

- 6.1 Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires that applications for planning permission are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Applications which are not in accordance with the relevant policies in the Development Plan should not be allowed unless material considerations justify a grant of permission.
- 6.2 This section of the Planning Supporting Statement considers and analyses the Development Plan and other relevant planning policy affecting the proposed Lostock Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) incorporating Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), and demonstrates that the planning application is entirely consistent with national, regional and local planning policy and, as such, should be considered favourably.

National Planning Policy Context

- 6.3 At the national level, the Government has issued planning policy guidance notes (PPGs) and more recently planning policy statements (PPSs), which set out Government policies on different aspects of planning. Regional, sub-regional and local planning authorities are required to take this guidance into account when they are formulating planning policy and when they are making decisions on individual planning applications.
- 6.4 The overall thrust of the UK Government Policy guidance since the late 1990s has been to promote sustainable waste management and through the EU Landfill Directive (99/31/EC), there has been a drive to reduce the UK reliance upon landfill as the principle means of treatment and disposal of waste.
- 6.5 The planning policy guidance notes and statements considered to be most relevant to the proposals are:
- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development;
 - PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms;
 - PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation;
 - PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management;
 - PPG13: Transport;
 - PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment;
 - PPG16: Archaeology and Planning;

- PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control;
- PPG24: Planning and Noise; and
- PPS25: Development and Flood Risk

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (February 2005)

- 6.6 PPS1 affirms that the plan-led system, and the certainty and predictability it aims to provide, is central to planning and plays a key role in integrating sustainable development objectives. Paragraph 8 of PPS1 explains that where the development plan contains relevant policies, applications for planning permission should be determined in line with the plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The PPS also emphasises that planning is a tool for local authorities to use in establishing and taking forward the vision for their areas as set out in their community strategies.
- 6.7 The approach adopted by Viridor to the development of the WTP addresses the principles outlined in PPS1; one of the key considerations is to satisfy the objective of sustainable development, in particular the aim of finding new ways of managing waste in the Cheshire area in an economical, environmental and sustainable manner.
- 6.8 The development proposed by Viridor takes into account the principles outlined in PPS1. It is considered that the proposal, as part of a wider network of waste facilities, is able to satisfy the key objectives set out in PPS1 regarding sustainable development, in particular finding new ways of managing waste in an economical, environmental and sustainable manner.

PPG4: Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms (November 1992)

- 6.9 PPG4 provides guidance on issues relating to industrial and commercial development and small firms. The PPG emphasises that one of the Government's key aims is to encourage continued economic development in a way which is compatible with its stated environmental objectives.
- 6.10 Whilst PPG4 is now considerably out of date, it is considered that the development of the site would be entirely in accordance with the principles outlined, in terms of balancing continued economic development against wider environmental objectives.

Draft PPS4: Planning for Prosperous Economies (May 2009)

- 6.11 Within PPS4 economic development is defined as that which provides employment or opportunities, generates wealth or produces or generates economic output or product.
- 6.12 Authorities in their Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) should positively and proactively plan for economic growth, simplify the planning process where appropriate, support existing business sectors and ensure that site allocations enable economic development. LDFs should also prioritise previously developed land which is suitable for re-use and where necessary safeguard land from other uses.

PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (August 2005)

- 6.13 PPS9 sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system. The PPS advises that in taking decisions, LPAs should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment (paragraph 1).
- 6.14 Furthermore PPS9 states that the aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests and where granting planning permission would result in significant harm to those interests LPAs will need to be satisfied that the development cannot reasonably be located on any alternative sites that would result in less or no harm (paragraph 1). In the absence of any such alternatives, PPS9 explains, LPAs should ensure that before planning permission is granted adequate mitigation measures are put in place. Where a planning decision would result in significant harm to biodiversity and geological interests, which cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated against, appropriate compensation measures, should be sought. Paragraph 1 goes on to state that if significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against, or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.
- 6.15 The PPS9 states that sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include regionally important geological sites, and local sites, have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets; contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community; and in supporting research and education.
- 6.16 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site has been undertaken to establish the baseline ecological conditions of the site. This concludes that the site is of low ecological value, however, there is potential for the scrub vegetation to support nesting birds and the existing buildings potentially to contain bats. The survey

concludes that with mitigation measures the proposal accords with the advice in PPS9.

PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005)

- 6.17 In July 2005, the Government issued Planning Policy Statement 10 'Planning for Sustainable Waste Management' (PPS10). PPS10 replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 10 'Planning and Waste Management', published in 1999 and forms part of the National Waste Management Plan for the UK.
- 6.18 PPS10 sets out the Government's national policy and is to be taken into account by regional and local planning authorities when considering the development of appropriate strategies for growth, regeneration and prudent use of resources and by providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities. PPS10 states that where proposals are consistent with an up to date development plan, it will not be necessary to demonstrate quantitative or market demand. In the case of the proposed WTP, the Development Plan is up to date and the proposal would not be a departure from it, therefore there is no requirement to demonstrate the need for the proposal.
- 6.19 Paragraph 5 of PPS10 states that "in considering planning applications for waste management facilities before development plans can be reviewed to reflect this PPS, [Planning authorities should] have regard to the policies in this PPS as material considerations which may supersede the policies in their development plan. Any refusal of planning permission on the grounds of prematurity will not be justified unless it accords with the guidance in the Annex to PPS1- *The Planning System: General Principles*".
- 6.20 Whilst the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan was adopted in July 2007, the Local Plan was largely prepared on the basis of the previous PPG10. In light of this PPS10 is a material consideration to which very significant weight should be attached.
- 6.21 The PPS provides advice on determining planning applications including those which come forward prior to the Development Plan being updated. PPS10 at paragraph 24 states

"planning applications for sites that have not been identified, or are not located in an area identified, in a development plan document as suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities should be considered favourably when consistent with:

- Policies in the PPS including criteria set out in paragraph 21;
- The waste planning authority's core strategy."

- 6.22 PPS10 sets out seven key planning objectives, and states that regional planning bodies and all planning authorities should, to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities prepare and deliver planning strategies that accord with these objectives.
- 6.23 *Objective 1: Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy.* The proposed development is an integral part of the overall project which meets this objective by providing a means of moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and ensuring that Cheshire meets its targets in relation to waste recycling, recovery and diversion from landfill disposal. The strategy adopted has been designed to enable the Waste Collection Authorities to increase their recycling, ensuring that the management of waste is driven up the waste hierarchy and diverted away from further landfill, with recovery of energy from waste and in preference to disposal to landfill.
- 6.24 *Objective 2: Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste, and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their communities.* A principal objective of the facility proposed by Viridor is that it is an essential component of the overall network of facilities for Cheshire, and is essential in meeting the targets for dealing with municipal solid waste and to support the apportionment in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).
- 6.25 *Objective 3: Help implement the national waste strategy, and supporting targets, and are consistent with obligations required under European Legislation and support and complement other guidance and legal controls such as those set out in the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.* Cheshire needs to substantially reduce its reliance on landfill and in order to achieve the targets set out in the national waste strategy, rates of recycling and composting in Cheshire need to rise. At the same time methods of recovery and treatment need to be provided. The proposals would help implement the national waste strategy in relation to the recycling, recovery of waste and SRF, and would be consistent with the obligations required under European Legislation, in particular, through substantially reducing the requirements for further landfilling of waste. The proposals would also complement other relevant guidance and legal controls including the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.
- 6.26 *Objective 4: Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations.* The project would help secure the recovery and safe treatment and disposal of waste without endangering human health, and when taking into account the various mitigation measures that would be incorporated, would cause minimum harm to the

environment as possible. The proposal would be a key component within a network of integrated facilities for the recovery of waste in accordance with regional self sufficiency and the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility.

- 6.27 *Objective 5: Reflect the concerns and interests of local communities, the needs of waste collection authorities, waste disposal authorities and business, and encourage competitiveness.*
- 6.28 The proposed development is part of an overall approach which embodies the above objective; in particular through the commitment to work closely with a range of authorities and bodies including waste collection authorities; community groups; Government bodies such as DEFRA and WRAP; the Environment Agency; planning authorities and various other statutory bodies in order to ensure that the highest quality of waste management service is provided for all within Cheshire.
- 6.29 This, combined with the provision of a network of local facilities ensuring that management of waste is carried out close to where it arises, will help support community ownership of the issues and support bottom-up decision making. In accordance with the above objective Viridor are committed to active consultation and discussion with local communities.
- 6.30 *Objective 6: Planning Strategies should protect Green Belts, but recognise the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when defining detailed Green Belt boundaries and, in determining planning applications, that these locational needs, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be given planning permission.* The proposed site lies outside the Green Belt. A site identification exercise has been undertaken to identify potential sites for use as waste management facilities and also alternative sites, this has fully taken into consideration the above objective in relation to 'Green Belt' issues.
- 6.31 *Objective 7: Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.* In accordance with this objective all development required to deliver the proposal has been very carefully sited and designed in order to ensure that sustainable waste management is achieved. This will also include, where necessary, mitigation measures incorporated into the site design in order to ensure that any negative impact created by development will be minimised to an acceptable level.
- 6.32 In considering the proposed development at this site, careful consideration has been given to each of the key objectives set out in PPS10.

- 6.33 In determining planning applications for waste management facilities before development plans can be reviewed to reflect PPS10, the planning authority should have regard to the policies in this PPS as material considerations which may supersede the policies in their development plan. Any refusal of planning permission on grounds of prematurity will not be justified unless it accords with the policy in 'The Planning System: General Principles.' (PPS1)
- 6.34 In the absence of the Waste Development Plan Document, PPS10 advises that applications should be considered with regard to the policies within PPS10, and that the criteria within PPS10 should be fully taken into account as material considerations, which may supersede the policies in the development plan.
- 6.35 The Companion Guide to PPS10 published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in June 2006 provides further guidance on the process to be adopted; this indicates that the aim should be to identify as many sites as possible in the production of the Local Development Framework. It recognises that even the best plan-making process can miss good opportunities to accommodate waste development. There may be significant changes in, for example, technological impact and land ownership that occur over a short period of time and provide opportunity that was not anticipated. Planning applications that come forward for sites that have not been identified, or are not located in an area identified in a Development Plan Document (DPD) as suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities, may help implement the planning for waste strategy and should not be lost simply because they had not previously been identified. PPS10 indicates that in such circumstances the key test is their consistency with the Statement and the waste planning authority's core strategy. Where they are consistent they should be considered favourably.
- 6.36 PPS10 also requires (paragraph 21) there to be an assessment of the suitability for the development judged against the policies in the PPS and against physical and environmental constraints; Annex E sets the criteria which should be considered. These include: protection of water courses; land stability; visual intrusion; nature conservation; historic environment and built heritage; traffic and access; air emissions, including dust; odours; vermin and birds; noise and vibration; litter and potential land use conflict.
- 6.37 The proposed development has considered carefully the advice in PPS10 in respect of site search, and assessed the suitability for the development as set out in Annex E. An Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the application process which demonstrates that the development will not have an unacceptable impact upon any identified sensitive environmental receptors.
- 6.38 In order to fully consider sites and their suitability for waste management facilities it is necessary to balance the affects of the proposals and their ability to comply

with the criteria set out in PPS10 together with the presumption for the use of brownfield sites.

PPG13: Transport (March 2001)

- 6.39 PPG13 was published in March 2001 and sets out the Government's general objectives on transportation. These include reducing dependence on cars and lorries by promoting greater accessibility to jobs and services and movement of freight by alternative means of transport.
- 6.40 The transportation implications of the proposed development have been considered very carefully. An assessment of the traffic impact of the proposal has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment; demonstrating that the site has good accessibility to the strategic highway network, the network is able to accommodate the relatively low traffic generated by the proposal, and will result in a limited impact on the surrounding highway network. The rail network will be utilised for the transport of SRF from the site, which will take 28 lorries off the highway network, and as such will be encouraged as a sustainable means of transportation.

PPG15 – Planning and Historic Environment (September 1994)

- 6.41 PPG15 provides a statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment. Guidance on listed building control, conservation areas, transport and traffic management is provided. It seeks to complement the guidance on archaeology and planning given in PPG16.

PPS16: Planning and Archaeology (November 1990)

- 6.42 Archaeological remains are irreplaceable as they provide evidence of the past development of our civilisation. PPG16 was published in 1990 in order to provide those involved in the planning process with guidance on how to deal with archaeological issues. It states that archaeological remains should be considered as a finite and non-renewable resource and that appropriate management is essential to ensure that they survive in good condition.
- 6.43 PPG16 considers where and how archaeological issues should be dealt with within the planning process, including advice on preparing development plans, site and monument records, and planning applications. With regards to planning applications, applicants are required to complete four steps in order to satisfy

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) that no harm or detriment will be caused by a proposal. These steps are:

- 1 Early consultation between developer and LPA;
- 2 Field evaluations;
- 3 Consultations by LPA; and
- 4 Arrangements for preservation by record including funding.

- 6.44 An evaluation of the archaeology and cultural heritage has been undertaken. This concludes that given the existing buildings on the site have resulted in disturbance; the development is unlikely to have a significant impact on buried archaeology and cultural features.

PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (November 2004)

- 6.45 PPS23 refers to a number of issues which affect the relationship between Planning and Pollution Control, including new proposals which may give rise to pollution. Whilst waste planning specifically is dealt with in PPS10, we consider that parts of PPS23 are of some relevance with respect to the application for the Lostock site. PPS23 emphasises in Paragraph 15 that development control decisions can have a significant effect on the environment, in some cases not only locally but also over considerable distances. It goes on to state that LPAs must be satisfied that planning permission can be granted on land use grounds taking full account of environmental impacts.
- 6.46 In accordance with PPS23, consideration has been given to the associated impact of the development for a waste management facility in this location on the environment. In terms of pollution control, the potential for any harmful environmental impact arising from the new development will be minimal; mitigation measures will be incorporated to ensure any potential risk is minimised.

PPG24: Planning and Noise (September 1994)

- 6.47 The aim of PPG24 is to provide advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business. PPG24 states in Paragraph 2 that the impact of noise can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, and that the planning system has the task of guiding development to the most appropriate locations.
- 6.48 In accordance with the guidance set out in PPG24, consideration has been given to the impact of the development of this waste management facility on

surrounding land uses with a priority to minimise the impact on sensitive land uses.

- 6.49 An assessment of the impact of noise on the surrounding area has been undertaken. This assessment states that given the existing ambient noise levels are moderate and that the nearest noise sensitive receptors are circa 200 metres away, noise will not be a significant issue and can be minimised through appropriate mitigation measures.

PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk

- 6.50 All forms of flooding and their impact on the natural and built environment are material planning considerations. PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development sets out the Government's objectives for the planning system, and how planning should facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of development, avoiding flood risk and accommodating the impacts of climate change. The PPS Planning and Climate Change, provides expanded policy on planning's contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 6.51 Positive planning has an important role in helping deliver sustainable development and applying the Government's policy on flood risk management. It avoids, reduces and manages flood risk by taking full account in decisions on plans and applications of:
- Present and future flood risk, involving both the statistical probability of a flood occurring and the scale of its potential consequences, whether inland or on the coast; and
 - The wider implications for flood risk of development located outside flood risk areas.
- 6.52 The aims of PPS25 are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk.
- 6.53 Regional and Local Planning Authorities should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by:
- Appraising risk;
 - Managing risk; and
 - Reducing risk.
- 6.54 Annex D of PPS25 highlights four zoning categories of risk which development proposals must take into consideration no matter where they are located. The categories are set out in general terms below.

- 6.55 Zone 1: Low Probability. This zone comprises land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year (<0.1%).
- 6.56 Zone 2: Medium Probability. This zone comprises land assessed as having between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% - 0.1%) or 1 in 200 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of sea flooding in any year.
- 6.57 Zone 3a: High Probability. This zone comprises land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding in any year.
- 6.58 Zone 3b: Functional Floodplain. This zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) should identify this Flood Zone – land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year or is designed to flood in an extreme (0.1%) flood.
- 6.59 An assessment of hydrology and flood risk has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, set out in the Environmental Statement submitted with this application. This concludes that the development will not have a significant impact on the hydrology and hydrogeology of the area. The proposed development area is located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by PPS25, and is suitable for the type of development proposed.

Statutory Development Plan

- 6.60 The Statutory Development Plan for the area comprises the approved Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS) published in 2008; the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan (CWLP) (adopted in July 2007) and the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (adopted in June 2006).

Northwest Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (2008)

- 6.61 The RSS provides one overarching Policy DP1 and a set of eight policies to amplify the principles of DP1, these relate to:
- The need to promote sustainable communities;
 - The need to promote economic development;
 - Best use of existing resources;
 - Reduce the need to travel and increase accessibility;
 - Marry opportunity and need;
 - Promote environmental quality;

- Safeguard rural areas; and
- Reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

- 6.62 With regard to waste management the adopted RSS Policies EM10 – EM13 set out a regional approach. The RSS requires that plans, strategies, proposals and schemes to promote the provision of sustainable new waste management infrastructuring facilities contribute to the development of the north west by reducing the harm to the environment including reducing impacts on climate change, improving the efficiency of resources, simulating investment and maximising economic opportunities (Policy EM10).
- 6.63 Policy EM11 seeks to promote waste minimalisation and securing the management of waste at the highest possible level in the hierarchy. EM11 also seeks to promote a sequential approach to determining waste facilities.
- 6.64 In accordance with the advice in PPS10, Policy EM12 adopts “locational principles”, rather than “proximity principles”, to ensure that communities take more responsibility for their own waste, enabling the waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations, the principle of this is to avoid unnecessary transportation of waste to distant facilities and the need to achieve regional and sub regional self sufficiency.
- 6.65 Policy EM13 requires plans, strategies, proposals and schemes to provide an appropriate type, size and mix of development opportunities to support the waste management facilities and bring forward and safeguard sites for waste management facilities that will deliver the capacity to deal with the indicative volumes of municipal, commercial and industrial and hazardous waste in each sub region.

Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan (July 2007)

- 6.66 The Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan (CWLP) was adopted by Cheshire County Council (CCC) in July 2007 and replaces the previous Waste Local Plan which was adopted in 1987. The CWLP contains policies which planning applications for waste management facilities should be assessed against and identify sites which are considered appropriate in principle for a waste management use.
- 6.67 The overall purpose of the CWLP is to provide land use policy framework for sustainable waste management in Cheshire having regard to the waste hierarchy, the locational principles, regional self sufficiency and guiding the principles of sustainable development. In this context the aim of the CWLP is to set out

policies to assess planning applications for waste management facilities and to identify sites which are considered suitable “in principle” for a waste management use to 2015. One of the key objectives of the Waste Local Plan is to reduce the need for the reliance on landfill by identifying sites suitable for the development of facilities for the recycling and recovery of resources and energy from waste.

- 6.68 The CWLP allocates a range of sites to develop a network of waste management facilities to meet Cheshire’s identified needs in terms of waste arising. Whilst the site is not specifically allocated within the CWLP as a “Preferred site for Waste Management Facilities” (Policy 4) it lies immediately to the east of two allocated sites WM12A (Lostock West) and WM12E (Lostock East).
- 6.69 The CWLP recognises the need for new waste management facilities and that landfill facilities will have a diminishing role in the future; with more emphasis being placed upon recycling and recovery plans.
- 6.70 Chapter 4 of the CWLP relates to site selection, this sets out the process undertaken to site search, assessment and site selection. The sites identified are those which are considered to have the greatest potential to provide a network of waste management sites and meet the waste needs of the County during the plan period. The original site search undertaken as part of the Waste Local Plan was carried out on the basis of the criteria within PPG10, which was in force at that time.
- 6.71 The preferred sites identified in the CWLP were those considered to have the greatest potential to provide a network of waste management facilities during the planning period i.e. up to 2015. The stated purpose of the list of allocated sites is that sufficient flexibility is provided to ensure there is an adequate range of sites available to provide a network of waste management facilities that Cheshire require.
- 6.72 The specific policies relating to the development of waste management facilities are set out in Chapter 5. In relation to sustainable waste management, Policy 1 requires proposals for waste management facilities to demonstrate the following:
- “a) *Contribute to an integrated network of waste management facilities;*
 - b) *Satisfy the objective of enabling waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations;*
 - c) *Maximise opportunities for transporting waste by rail or water;*
 - d) *Protect environmental, economic, social and community assets;*
 - e) *Optimise the use of previously developed or used land or buildings”.*

- 6.73 The site has also been fully tested against the selection criteria within the adopted Cheshire Waste Local Plan and it has been concluded that the site is not constrained by the highlighted criteria and it is considered that the proposal would accord with the CWLP.
- 6.74 In relation to the “need” for the development, Policy 2 states that the objective and planning benefits of all applications for waste management facilities will be taken fully into account, where material planning objections outweigh the benefits, the need for the development should be considered; Policy 2 states that if there is no overriding need for the proposal the planning application will not be permitted.
- 6.75 In addressing the issue of “need” within Policy 2 and with specific reference to figures outlined within a public consultation exercise carried out by the Cheshire Waste Partnership, Cheshire requires a significant number of new waste management facilities to recycle and recover value from waste. Although landfill sites are required, they are expected to deal with a diminishing proportion of the waste produced. Therefore, there is a proven need for the solution proposed by Viridor which includes the MBT proposed; this is supported by the Replacement Waste Local Plan which seeks to provide suitable potential sites throughout Cheshire. Further information regarding “need” is contained within Chapter 8 of this Supporting Statement.
- 6.76 Policy 4 seeks to protect the allocated sites to uses specified on the Proposals Map. It states that if an application is made for a use other than those specified on the proposals map, there is a presumption that permission will be granted subject to compliance with the other policies within the Plan.
- 6.77 In this respect it is noted within the Plan that it is important to provide flexibility for technological and legislative changes and Policy 5 provides for additional sites to be considered where the identified sites are unsuitable, unavailable or less acceptable than the alternative site proposed. Policy 5 relates to proposals for waste management facilities on sites not designated. It states that proposals will not be permitted unless:
- “(i) the preferred sites are either no longer available or less suitable for a proposed development; or*
 - (ii) the proposal would meet a requirement not provided for by other preferred sites; and*
 - (iii) the Proposed sites are located according to the sequential approach to meeting developed needs within the Regional Spatial Strategy.”*
- 6.78 The criteria within Policy 5 states it is necessary to demonstrate that the “Preferred Sites” are no longer available or are less suitable for the proposed

development; therefore alternative sites designated for MBT within the Local Plan have been considered. Consideration has been given to all “preferred sites” identified in the CWLP Policy 4; in particular those sites being identified as suitable for MBT.

- 6.79 The site selection process which was undertaken demonstrated that the development of the application site accords with the advice within Policy 5 of the CWLP and that it is an appropriate site for the MBT facility proposed. It has also been demonstrated that there are no sequentially more preferable sites that are either available or suitable at this time. Details of the Site Selection Process are provided in Chapter 7 of this Supporting Statement.
- 6.80 Policy 12 of the CWLP states that applications for new waste management facilities must be accompanied by an evaluation of the proposed development and its likely direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. An Environmental Impact Assessment of the development has been undertaken which demonstrates that the proposal will not have an unacceptable impact either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.
- 6.81 Policy 18 of the CWLP states that an application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where there would be an unacceptable risk from flooding affecting the site of the development.
- 6.82 In regard to Policy 18, an assessment of hydrology and flood risk has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, set out in the Environmental Statement submitted with this application. This concludes that the development will not have a significant impact on the hydrology and hydrogeology of the area. The proposed development area is located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by PPS25, and is suitable for the type of development proposed.
- 6.83 With regard to the agricultural land quality of the site, the majority of the site falls within an area classified as urban. The northern section of the site adjacent to the railway line is classified as being of quality Grade 4. The development of the site would therefore accord with Policy 19, which states that applications to develop waste management facilities which affect the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a) will not be permitted.
- 6.84 In relation to noise and air quality, policies 23 and 24 state that proposals will not be permitted where they would give rise to unacceptable levels of noise and pollution or where there is an impact of dust, which have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby residence or occupiers of adjoining buildings.
- 6.85 In accordance with policies 23 and 24 there has been an assessment of the potential for noise emissions and releases to air from the proposed waste management process, this has demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impact from the proposed facility.

- 6.86 Policy 25 seeks to control litter from waste developments and Policy 26 seeks to ensure that odour from any proposals would not have an unacceptable impact upon the amenity of adjoining residents or occupiers of nearby buildings.
- 6.87 In regard to Policies 23-25, an assessment of the impact on amenity has been undertaken, this includes dust, pests and litter, together with a detailed odour assessment. It is considered that the development proposals will not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of the surrounding area.
- 6.88 In relation to the highway safety issues Policy 28 seeks to ensure that the highway network can accommodate the type and number of vehicles generated by the proposal and that there is no unacceptable impact on local communities or the local environment. A Transport Assessment has been undertaken and is included within the Environmental Statement, Volume 2. It concludes that the traffic generated as a result of the WTP will have no significant impact on the highway network. On the basis that the proposal involves the utilisation of rail to transport solid recovered fuel from the site, the requirements of Policy 28 are satisfied.
- 6.89 In accordance with Government guidance and the objectives of Policy 27 – “Sustainable Transportation of Waste and Waste Derived Materials,” the proposal seeks to minimise the distance that waste is transported on the road network and therefore the waste will be moved in the most sustainable way which accords with the principle of Policy 27.

Local Planning Policy Context

Cheshire Structure Plan

- 6.90 The Cheshire 2016: Structure Plan Alteration was adopted in December 2005 and replaces the Cheshire 2011 Structure Plan which was adopted in 1999.
- 6.91 The North West RSS was published on 30th September 2008. The North West RSS replaces the majority of the policies contained within the Cheshire Structure Plan. As such the Structure Plan policies relating to waste have been replaced and addressed within the North West RSS.

Vale Royal Adopted Local Plan First Review Alteration (June 2006)

- 6.92 The Vale Royal Borough Local Plan First Review was adopted by the Council in June 2001. It sets out the Council’s policies for development and the use of land in the Borough between the period 1996 to 2006. The Council made amendments to the Local Plan relating to housing, transport, retail and employment and the Vale Royal Local Plan Alteration was adopted in June 2006.

- 6.93 Within the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan First Review, the site is allocated within the Town and Village Boundary, as such Policy E7 'Northwich and Winsford Town' is relevant and should be considered. Policy E7 states that within settlement policy boundaries at Northwich a number of categories of development for employment purposes will be allowed including new development in buildings or on sites which are not identified on the proposals map. Whilst the site is not specifically allocated for employment related development, Policy E7 accepts that certain development cannot be located on land which is specifically allocated for employment, and would support development, such as that proposed, within the defined settlement boundary.
- 6.94 The site lies to the east of land allocated for employment purposes; Policy E5.2 states that this site is suitable for uses falling within Use Class B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution). Therefore the principle of development is established on the land to the east; the proposal would form an extension to this allocation and would be compatible with the uses identified in Policy E5.2.
- 6.95 The proposed development area is located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by PPS25. Policy NE15 'Protection of the Floodplain' states that in areas at risk from flooding proposals for new development must:
- “i) provide an assessment of whether the proposal is likely to be affected by flooding and whether it will increase flood risk everywhere and of the measures proposed to deal with the effects and risks; and*
- ii) satisfy the Borough Council that any flood risk to the development or additional risk arising from the proposal will be successfully managed with the minimum environmental effect, to ensure that the site can be developed and occupied safely; and*
- iii) demonstrate that an alternative lower risk location is not available; and*
- iv) the proposal would not result in extensive and unacceptable culverting; and*
- v) implement Sustainable Drainage Systems wherever possible.”*
- 6.96 An assessment of hydrology and flood risk has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, set out in the Environmental Statement (Volume 2) submitted with this application. This concludes that the development will not have a significant impact on the hydrology and hydrogeology of the area, that the site is suitable for the type of development proposed.
- 6.97 In relation to the selection of sites Policy GS1 'Selection of Sites' states that sufficient land will be provided to satisfy demand for new services arising in the Borough up to 2016.

- 6.98 Policy GS2 'New Development in the Borough' goes on to state that new development will generally be concentrated in or on the edge of a number of locations including the edge of Northwich.
- 6.99 In regard to Policy GS2, the site of the proposed WTP is located approximately 2km east of Northwich town centre; therefore it is considered that the location of the proposed development is in accordance with Policy GS2.
- 6.100 Policy P7 'Development of a Non-Hazardous Nature in the Vicinity of Non-Hazardous Installations' states that development will not be allowed if it would involve more of the public being exposed to unacceptable levels of risk in either areas already subject to significant risk levels, or areas where it is known that future risk levels are certain to increase as a result of hazardous development.
- 6.101 Policy P8 'Contaminated and Derelict Land' states that before determining planning applications for sites which are known or strongly suspected to be adversely affected by contamination, the site developer is required to carry out a site investigation where appropriate, to assess the nature, extent and significance of the contamination and identify specific remedial measures to deal with any hazard, to safeguard future development, neighbouring uses and other sensitive receptors.
- 6.102 In accordance with both Policy P7 and Policy P8, consideration has been given to the associated impact of the development for a waste management facility in this location on the environment. In terms of pollution control, the potential for any harmful environmental impact arising from the new development will be minimal; mitigation measures will be incorporated to ensure that site workers and the public are not exposed to any significant risk.

Local Development Framework

- 6.103 The Local Development Framework for Vale Royal is due to be reviewed in light of the establishment of a single Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority on 1st April 2009. The documents making up the Local Development Framework are set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted on 1st February 2009.
- 6.104 Within the LDS, the Preferred Options document for the Core Strategy DPD is expected on 1st February 2010. The submission to the Secretary of State is expected in June 2010, with adoption expected in May 2011.
- 6.105 The Preferred Options reports for the Site Allocations DPD and DC Policies DPD are expected in February 2011 and October 2011 respectively. Adoption of both DPDs is not expected until May 2012 and December 2012 respectively.

Other Material Considerations

The Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 to 2020 – Headline Strategy Document (October 2007)

- 6.106 This Strategy covers the arrangements for the sustainable management of municipal solid waste (MSW) that is collected by Cheshire Waste Partnership Authorities (CWP). It sets the framework for addressing reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy and covers collection, treatment and disposal of MSW.
- 6.107 The Strategy has six key themes this includes:
- Theme 1: Waste Reduction and Re-Use;
 - Theme 2: Recycling and Composting;
 - Theme 3: Residual Waste Management;
 - Theme 4: Working Together;
 - Theme 5: Promoting and Delivering the Strategy; and
 - Theme 6: Environmental Protection and Compliance.
- 6.108 Theme 3 ‘Residual Waste Management’ is of particular relevance. The CWP has identified a preferred approach which was supported by a public consultation exercise in 2004. The preferred approach comprised the following elements:
- Plan to achieve recycling rates of 40% by 2010 and 50% by 2020. Plan to achieve a reduction in annual waste growth to 1.5% by 2009 and 1% by 2015;
 - Seek to treat all residual waste in order to minimise landfilling;
 - Locate new treatment facilities at more than one site, phasing in new facilities over time as required;
 - The choice of waste treatment facility should not be based on cost alone;
 - Use one or two mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities to pre-treat Cheshire’s residual waste in order to increase recycling and produce a refuse derived fuel (RDF); and
 - Seek to secure industrial markets for RDF if possible and build a smaller ‘energy from waste’ facility, if necessary, to generate heat and electricity from the remaining RDF.
- 6.109 Within Theme 3, the Strategy goes on to state that the use of waste pre-treatment such as MBT allows more recyclable materials to be extracted from the waste and as the process also partially breaks down the waste, it leads to a reduction in

the tonnage requiring final treatment/disposal. This would lead to a direct displacement of fossil fuels if the resulting RDF is used in industrial facilities and although landfill would still be required, it would be on a more limited scale.

- 6.110 The Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years in order to take account of potential changes in waste policy and legislation over that timescale.
- 6.111 There is a demonstrable need for the development as stated within the CWLP for the facility proposed. The site is well located being central to the area it serves. It accords fully with Policy 2 of the CWLP, which requires that applicants demonstrate that existing capacity is unable to meet waste management needs as described by the RSS and that the benefits fully outweigh the potential harm.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 6.112 Two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) are relevant to the proposed development of the WTP at Lostock Gralam:

Landscape Character SPD

- 6.113 The Landscape Character SPD was adopted by Vale Royal Borough Council in September 2007; this SPD is being used by Cheshire West and Chester as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The SPD aims to:
- Provide information on the variety and diversity of landscapes across the borough;
 - Indicate key landscape sensitivities;
 - Provide guidance on landscape management and built development.
- 6.114 The prime aim of the guidance is to prompt an applicant to respond to landscape character considerations and produce a proposal that meets the objectives of the policies mentioned below. The site falls within the East Cheshire Lostock Plain and also within the defined Urban Area. The SPD states that development should be proposed within the area should be accompanied by the enhancement of existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees in the vicinity of the site to ensure the landscape structure around any new facility is maintained. The SPD also encourages the softening of built edges and views of main roads, commercial sheds and industry in Lostock Gralam by introducing planting schemes and using native broadleaved species. A detailed assessment of the landscape character of the area has been undertaken, together with an assessment of the visual impact of the proposed development. These are presented within the Environmental

Statement (Volume 2), submitted as part of this application, and demonstrate that the development will not compromise the wider landscape character.

Development Contributions SPD

- 6.115 The Development Contributions SPD was adopted by Vale Royal in September 2007. Within the SPD it states that the Council will aim, where appropriate, to seek contributions from developers in order to provide for additional facilities and the infrastructure demands that are generated as a result of new development. It may also require suitable obligations to restrict or control the use of land to mitigate development impacts and secure any necessary benefits.
- 6.116 Within the SPD it is noted that whilst Planning Obligations will continue to be considered on their merits and negotiated with developers in accordance with the provisions of Circular 05/2005 it is recognised that similar types of development create similar impacts and that contributions should be made in a consistent and transparent way.

Planning Consent

- 6.117 Planning permission was granted in April 2008 to Bedminster International (UK) Limited for the construction of a bio-energy plant (LA Ref. No. 4/08/00034) on land immediately to the west of the application site. The site is allocated in the CWLP as a “preferred site” for waste management. In permitting the application Cheshire County Council indicated that the use of land for a bio-energy plant in this location would be appropriate development, as the land already has planning permission for an in-vessel composting facility. The Council also confirmed that there were no objections on the grounds of flood risk, drainage and pollution control; and there would be no unacceptable impact as a result of emissions, air quality, noise, dust, or visual impact.
- 6.118 The planning history on this adjacent site provides an important precedent for the development of the proposed Waste Treatment Plant.

7 SITE SELECTION PROCESS

- 7.1 Government guidance (PPS10) and the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire West and Chester fully recognises that where sites come forward which have not been identified in a DPD the sites should not simply be refused because the site was not available at that time. In accordance with PPS10 and Policy 5 of the Cheshire Waste Replacement Plan (CWLP), a sequential assessment of alternative sites for MBT has been undertaken in order to demonstrate that there are no sequentially more preferable sites than that at Lostock.
- 7.2 The CWLP was adopted in July 2007 and attempts to achieve a more sustainable approach to waste management within Cheshire. As part of the CWLP a range of sites were identified and considered suitable 'in principle' for the development of waste management facilities in Cheshire up to 2017.
- 7.3 Chapter 4 of the CWLP describes how the Waste Planning Authority identified, assessed and selected preferred sites for waste management facilities and sets out the details of the three stage site selection process that was undertaken. This included: site search; site assessment and site selection.
- 7.4 The search was guided by a set of criteria which was based on Government Guidance within PPG10 and took into account the proximity principle; areas of subsidence; access issues including the ability to transport by rail; water or pipelines; environmental issues; and impact on residential properties. The list of potential sites was then assessed by the County Council through site visits, internal consultation and discussions with the district authorities. The decision on whether or not a site was included within the Plan was made during the final stage of the site selection process.
- 7.5 The final list of preferred sites included within the CWLP, were those that were considered to have the greatest potential to provide a network of waste management sites during the plan period. It is noted within the CWLP that it is not intended that all of the sites identified are developed, or that all of the uses listed are necessarily required. The aim was to provide a degree of flexibility while ensuring that sufficient sites are available to provide the network of waste management facilities that Cheshire will require.
- 7.6 To maintain and provide flexibility for technological and legislative changes the CWLP also provides for additional sites to be considered where identified sites are unsuitable or less acceptable than the alternative site proposed. This follows advice provided within PPS10 which recognises that planning applications for waste related facilities that come forward on sites which are not identified in a DPD, should not necessarily be refused simply because they had not previously been identified. The comparison guide to PPS10 also recognises that good

opportunities for waste development can be missed even in the best plan making process.

7.7 In following guidance provided within the CWLP and PPS10 regarding unallocated sites, it is highlighted that during the site selection process undertaken as part of the CWLP, the application site was not available and as such was not considered within the original site selection process undertaken by Cheshire.

7.8 Therefore whilst the application is bounded on the west and east by allocated waste sites (WM12A and WM12B) the application site is not specifically allocated within the CWLP as a Preferred Site for Waste Management Facilities and is not specifically designated in the adopted Local Plan for a waste related use.

7.9 When taking into consideration criteria used by Cheshire County Council during the site selection process, it is considered that if the site had been available, it would have scored highly against the criteria for being potentially suitable for siting or development of a waste management facility. In particular the site is:-

- Vacant;
- Established Employment Site;
- Contaminated Land;
- Adjacent to an allocated site;
- Adjacent to the railway line; and
- Brownfield

7.10 When tested against the selection criteria adopted by Cheshire the site was not constrained by the following criteria:

- Greenbelt;
- Grade 1 or 2, agricultural land;
- Area Special County Value (ASCV);
- Conservation Area;
- Site of International importance for major conservation;
- Ancient woodland;
- Scheduled monument;
- Flood Risk Area;
- Listed Building;

- Regional Importance, geological site;
- Historic Parks and Gardens;
- Allocated for B1 Employment Use; and
- Further than 2 kilometres from the primary road network.

7.11 As the site is not constrained by the above criteria, it is considered that the proposal would accord with the CWLP and advice provided in PPS10 and would be appropriate for a Waste Management Facility.

7.12 When examining guidance relating to alternative sites, criteria provided within Policy 5 ('Other Sites for Waste Management Facilities') of the CWLP states that it is necessary to demonstrate that the "Preferred Sites" (Policy 4 of the CWLP) are no longer available or are less suitable for the proposed development; therefore alternative sites designated for MBT within the Local Plan have been considered. A further search for sites has also been undertaken on behalf of Viridor, by Atisreal. This considers other potentially suitable sites within the catchment area for the MBT. The results of the search are attached as Appendix 7.1 to this Supporting Statement.

7.13 Consideration has been given to all "preferred sites" identified in Policy 4 of the CWLP; in particular those sites being identified as suitable for MBT (see table 7.1 below). Viridor have commissioned property consultants Atisreal to identify any other potentially suitable sites within the catchment area of the MBT which are not allocated. Due to reasons of capacity, sustainability and economies of scale a one MBT site solution is proposed. Such a facility would need to be located on a site of between 4.5ha-6ha, therefore the preference is for a centrally located site close to the strategic highway network which minimises the need for travel.

7.14 Sites for the proposed MBT have been assessed on their ability to meet the following criteria:

- Physical availability i.e. suitable, physical characteristics;
- Proximity to sensitive receptors i.e. residential, schools etc;
- Centrally located i.e. a location central to the Waste Authority area in order to minimise tonnage mileage;
- Site size – the minimum size for a MBT solution would be 4.5 hectares;
- Accessibility – suitability of local roads to accommodate the facility and proximity to strategic highway network; and
- Potential for rail link – the ability to transport the SRF via rail is an important consideration in order to develop the most sustainable solution.

Table 7.1 Policy 4 Allocated MBT "Preferred Sites"		
SITE	SIZE	COMMENTS
WM2 - Associated Octel, Ellsemere Port	36.6ha	Site poorly located on North West fringe of Waste Authority Area. No direct rail access
WM3B - Bridge Lane (East)	13.4ha	Site poorly located on North West fringe of Waste Authority Area.
WM5 – Cledford Lane, Middlewich	22.4ha	Site not currently available, dependant upon construction of Middlewich By-pass.
WM7 – Bumpers Lane, Chester	21ha	No potential for Rail Link
WM10 – Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Macclesfield	26.1ha	No potential for Rail Link No land currently available on Estate
WM12a - Lostock, Northwich (West)	13.5ha	Planning for Bio Energy Facility granted in May 2008.
WM12b - Lostock, Northwich (East)	3.4ha	Site too small
WM13 – Lyme Green, Macclesfield	17.9ha	Release of site requires new distributor road link, therefore the site is not immediately available.
WM16a – Pyms Lane, Crewe	8.6ha	Potential for Rail link poor Potential impact on nearby land uses. Site has potential for Bentley Motors expansion,
WM16b – Pyms Lane, Crewe	6.9ha	Potential for Rail link poor Potential impact on nearby land uses. Site has potential for Bentley Motors expansion
WM19a – Winsford Eastern Industrial Estate (West) Winsford	51.3ha	No land currently available on Estate
WM19b – Winsford Eastern Industrial Estate (East) Winsford	41.1ha	No land currently available on Estate
WM20 – North Road, Ellsemere Port	4.5ha	No direct rail access Site poorly located on North West fringe of Waste Authority Area
WM21 – Newbridge Road, Ellsemere Port	4.7ha	No direct rail access Site poorly located on North West fringe of Waste Authority area

7.15 Due consideration has been given to other potential sites to ensure that the process was comprehensive and robust. All sites were assessed against the

criteria set out above. Firstly consideration has been given to other allocated sites in Policy 4 for waste related development, other than for MBT.

SITE	SIZE	COMMENTS
WM1– Adlington Industrial Estate	0.43ha	Site too small
WM3a- Bridges Road, Ellesmere Port	13.4ha	Site poorly located on North West fringe of Waste Authority area
WM4 – Brook Lane Industrial Estate, Middlewich	6.2ha	No land currently available
WM6 – Brunswick Street, Congleton	0.66ha	Site too small
WM8 – Clayhanger Hall Farm, Crewe	67ha	Landfill site not suitable for MBT
WM9 – Gowry Landfill Site, Wimbolds Trafford	55.5ha	Landfill site not suitable for MBT
WM11 – Kinderton Lodge, Middlewich	61.5ha	Landfill site not suitable for MBT
WM14 – Chester Road, Oakmere	1.1ha	Site too small
WM15 – Parkgate Industrial Estate	21.8ha	New access road required off Moberley Road, site not currently available.
WM17 – Radnor Park, Congleton	8.5ha	No land currently available
WM18 – Tattenhall Works, Tattenhall	2ha	Site too small
WM22 – Congleton Sewage Works	1.8ha	Site too small
WM23 – Chelford Depot, Chelford	1.74ha	Site too small

7.16 Secondly a site search was undertaken by Atisreal of unallocated employment sites within or adjacent to the Waste Authority catchment area; these sites were assessed against the criteria set out above.

SITE	SIZE	COMMENTS
Lostock Green, Griffiths Road, Northwich	4.72ha	Site only available on a leasehold basis
Octel Site, Lostock Gralam, Northwich	6.4ha	Very poor location outside the Waste Planning Authority area
New Cheshire Business Park, Wincham, Northwich	7.68ha	Area being considered by Vale Royal Borough Council for major mixed use scheme.

Table 7.3 Other Potential Waste Sites		
SITE	SIZE	COMMENTS
		Owners are looking to develop site for employment therefore not currently available.
Folly Lane, Warrington	1.4ha	Site too small
Faraday Road, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn	2.4ha	Site too small Very poor location outside the Waste Planning Authority area
Gorse Lane, Widnes	16.19ha	Very poor location outside the Waste Planning Authority area

7.17 The site selection process undertaken demonstrates that the development of the Lostock site accords with the advice in PPS10 and with Policy 5 of the CWLP and that it is an appropriate site for the MBT facility proposed. It also confirms that there are no sequentially more preferable sites that are either available or suitable at this time.

8 THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

- 8.1 This section sets out the context in relation to the need for the proposed waste facility together with the national, regional and local planning policy context against which the proposals should be considered and demonstrates that the planning application is entirely consistent with relevant planning policy and as such should be considered favourably.
- 8.2 In accordance with Policy 2 of the CWLP there is a presumption in favour of waste management facilities unless material objections outweigh the benefits. Policy 2 states that the need for the development is a material consideration; this Section therefore fully considers the need for the facilities proposed.

Background

- 8.3 Waste management in the UK is at a critical point as we seek to meet European and National policies and targets, to move away from reliance on landfill and move waste up the “waste hierarchy”.
- 8.4 All Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs) are preparing or reviewing Municipal Waste Management Strategies in order to set out how they intend to meet European and National policies and landfill diversion targets. The provision of the necessary infrastructure is usually undertaken by Contract with the private sector.
- 8.5 The proposed development is the central component of Viridor’s integrated proposals to meet the requirements of the Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan. The need for the facilities proposed within the development must therefore be assessed in the context of the wider strategy.

Planning Need for the Waste Treatment Plant

- 8.6 PPS10 advises that waste planning authorities should allocate sites to support the pattern of waste management facilities set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in accordance with the broad locations identified in the RSS; and allocate sites and areas suitable for new and enhanced waste management facilities to support the apportionment in the RSS.
- 8.7 The Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan (CWLP) acknowledges that due to the transitional period where new waste management practices and technologies are being developed, it is not possible to predict exactly how many waste management facilities will be needed. However it recognises that a range

of facilities will be required to drive waste up the waste hierarchy and away from landfill.

- 8.8 The CWLP estimates the total capacity requirements to manage Cheshire's waste; this is set out in Table 8.1 below. Although the exact number of facilities is not known, the need assessment provides an indication of the annual capacity requirements of a range of facilities which may come forward for the management of non hazardous waste during the Plan period.

	Composting	Recycling	MBT (for Municipal Solid Waste only)	Energy Recovery	Landfill
Indicative Capacity (tonnes)	149,000	647,000	264,000	387,000	609,000
Indicative no. of facilities	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	2-3

- 8.9 The North West Regional Technical Advisory Body Report (July 2001) also provides an indication of the typical annual capacity of different waste management facilities needed for composting, recycling, treatment and energy recovery. It includes the following:
- Recycling facility: 50,000 tonnes annually
 - Compost facility: 20,000 tonnes annually
 - Energy Recovery facility: 200,000 tonnes annually
- 8.10 The Waste Local Plan identifies that built facilities are key to the implementation of sustainable waste management, by providing the recycling and recovery capacity to move waste management up the waste hierarchy.
- 8.11 In relation to existing waste management facilities in Cheshire the Local Plan identifies that the landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste principally takes place at three landfill sites within Cheshire.
- 8.12 The Policy requirement to drive waste management up the waste hierarchy by focusing on the reduction and re-use of waste produced, recovering value from the waste, with disposal as the final option, is embodied within national, regional and local policy.

- 8.13 In this respect, the proposed development is integral to providing a means of moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and ensuring that Cheshire meets its targets in relation to waste recycling, recovery and diversion from landfill disposal. The strategy adopted has been designed to enable the Waste Collection Authorities to increase their recycling, ensuring that the management of waste is driven up the waste hierarchy and diverted away from further landfill, with the recovery of energy from waste, in preference to disposal to landfill.
- 8.14 The Waste Local Plan recognises that in 2004 the Cheshire Waste Partnership carried out a major public consultation on the need for energy from waste in line with the Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy. Following this the Partnership agreed to the following:
- Reduce waste growth to a maximum of 1% growth;
 - Increase recycling to 40% by 2009/2010 and 50% by 2020;
 - Use an MBT process to treat Cheshire's residual waste and produce a refuse derived fuel; and
 - Dispose of the fuel either at an existing third party outlet or a purpose built thermal treatment plant.
- 8.15 On the basis of the figures outlined above Cheshire requires a significant number of new waste management facilities to recycle and recover value from waste. Although landfill sites are required, they are expected to deal with a diminishing proportion of the waste produced. Therefore, there is a proven need for the strategy proposed by Viridor which includes the MBT proposed; this is supported by the Replacement Waste Local Plan which seeks to provide suitable potential sites throughout Cheshire.
- 8.16 The strategy proposed by Viridor which includes a WTP and incorporates MBT, with the SRF being transported by rail direct to the INEOS power station in Runcorn, is entirely in accordance with the principles outlined in the Waste Local Plan.

The Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (CCJMWMS) 2007 to 2020 – Headline Strategy Document (October 2007)

- 8.17 This Strategy covers the arrangements for the sustainable management of municipal solid waste (MSW) that is collected by Cheshire Waste Partnership Authorities (CWP). It sets the framework for addressing reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy and covers collection,

treatment and disposal of MSW. The six key themes of the Strategy are set out in Chapter 6 of this Supporting Statement.

- 8.18 The strategy proposed by Viridor is entirely consistent with the preferred approach set out within the CCJMWMS, in that it will ensure that the targets for recycling are met; landfilling is minimised and; a network of facilities are provided across Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. The strategy proposed by Viridor will also ensure the pre-treatment of residual waste, maximise recycling and the production of SRF which will provide renewable energy to the chemical industry. The approach proposed by Viridor has been designed to ensure that the identified need is satisfied and there is full compliance with the principles outlined in the CCJMWMS and the statutory development plan.

Viridor's Overall Proposals

- 8.19 Viridor's proposals must deliver the requirements of the specification for the PFI Contract, which involve not just meeting the targets outlined above but also wider considerations such as using proven technology and having secure outlets for treatment products.
- 8.20 Viridor has developed proposals for a central Waste Treatment Plant which will be fed by three Waste Transfer Stations, spread across the Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East areas, so as to accord with the proximity and locational principles, minimise waste transport and, where possible, maximise the use of rail transport. The proposal at Lostock Gralam is the central component of this network.

The Role of the Waste Treatment Plant

- 8.21 The Waste Treatment Plant will accept kerbside collected and HWRC derived residual waste from across the Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East areas, separating out recyclates such as metals and aggregate, and producing a Solid Recovered Fuel that will be sent to a power station in Runcorn, now under construction.

Alternatives Considered

- 8.22 The scope for consideration of alternatives must be seen in the context of the JMWMS and the requirements of the PFI Contract. The JMWMS proposes methods for waste management which are considered to be the most effective options for meeting the required targets. Alternative options have been considered as part of a strategic environmental assessment of the JMWMS,

along with any associated advantages and drawbacks of adopting these methods.

- 8.23 The JMWMS has identified Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) at one or two locations, as the most suitable option for the treatment of residual municipal waste, in combination with a secure industrial market for the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF, also known as Solid Recovered Fuel, SRF) if possible.
- 8.24 Based on the identification of MBT as the most suitable option for residual waste treatment in the Cheshire area, Viridor have evaluated the following four main types of combined MBT technology:
- Mechanical separation combined with Anaerobic Digestion (MBT-AD);
 - Mechanical separation combined with Biodrying (Biodrying);
 - Mechanical separation combined with Aerobic stabilisation/drying;
 - Mechanical separation combined with Heat Treatment (MHT).
- 8.25 In simple terms MBT-AD technology includes a front end mechanical separation plant (which produces a high calorific value SRF fraction, an organic fraction for anaerobic digestion, a metals fraction for recycling and a reject fraction for landfill) and a back end AD process.
- 8.26 Biodrying technology operates in one of two ways by either utilising a front end (tunnel) drying plant and a back end mechanical separation plant or alternatively, as is proposed for the Waste Treatment Plant at Lostock Gralam, a front end mechanical plant followed by tunnel drying with further fuel refinement if required.
- 8.27 In simple terms the Aerobic Stabilisation/Drying process comprises a front end aerobic composting process and back end mechanical separation plant.
- 8.28 The MHT process comprises a front end heat treatment/stabilisation process and back end mechanical separation plant.
- 8.29 Due to the requirements of the Contract, both the Aerobic Stabilisation/Drying and MHT solutions were discounted as suitable options for the treatment of residual waste from the Cheshire region. This left MBT-AD and Biodrying as the two MBT options considered by Viridor as two possible alternative solutions for residual waste treatment in the Cheshire area.
- 8.30 An analysis of the MBT-AD and Biodrying options has shown that while they are both similar, there are some clear advantages to the Biodrying option including:
- Recycling rates of up to 9.1% compared to 8.3% for MBT-AD;

- Only one waste stream to landfill (residue from mechanical separation process) compared to two from the MBT-AD (residue from mechanical separation process and residue from the wet pre-treatment process that alternatively could be dried and burnt which is an energy intensive process);
 - A diversion rate from landfill of up to 89% compared to 86.8% for MBT-AD;
 - A greater tonnage of Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) with a higher calorific value produced compared to the MBT-AD process.
- 8.31 In addition to the above, the Biodrying option has less of a visual impact on its surroundings as it is contained within a building with a smaller footprint than the MBT-AD process buildings, which include large digester tanks external to the main process building.
- 8.32 While the MBT-AD appears to have the advantage of energy self-sufficiency by gaining its energy requirements from on site electricity generation, the Biodrying option is a net producer of more energy due to the high tonnage and calorific value of the SRF produced. At Lostock, the electricity requirements of the Biodrying facility will be met by electricity supplied at a fixed rate from the Runcorn Power Station which will be partly fuelled by SRF produced at the Biodrying facility.
- 8.33 An additional advantage of the Biodrying option is that as no electricity is produced on site, there will be no emissions of the Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide and particulates associated with electricity generation. Biodrying therefore has an air quality advantage over the MBT-AD option.
- 8.34 Based on the above, and on additional economic advantages of the Biodrying option, Viridor has chosen it as their preferred residual waste treatment solution.

Summary

- 8.35 The proposed facility will contribute to the Government's requirements to increase recycling and resource recovery and to divert waste from landfill. The facility will meet the requirements of the Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan, and is part of an integrated network developed by Viridor to serve Cheshire.
- 8.36 Viridor has carefully assessed the sites already in use for waste management or allocated within the WLP, and other potentially available land in Cheshire. There are no other rail linked sites capable of accommodating the facility for Lostock Gralam that would be consistent with the proximity or locational principles and the overall integrated network (encouraged and supported by PPS10).

- 8.37 It is also considered that the proposed design which includes the demolition of all existing structures on site and the construction of a modern, purpose-built facility, would provide a more cohesive and visually less complex appearance compared with present site structures, offering a beneficial impact on the wider area.
- 8.38 The proposed development will have a positive social and economic impact on the surrounding local area, with both temporary and permanent jobs being created, while causing no detrimental impacts on the local environment or amenities.

9 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Introduction

- 9.1 An Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2008. The ES considers the potential impacts to the local and wider environment and incorporates appropriate mitigation measures within the overall design of the scheme. The ES is included as Volume 2 of the application documents.

Principal Environmental Impacts

- 9.2 The principal environmental issues addressed in the Environmental Statement are summarised below. A number of benefits will result from the proposals at Lostock Gralam, including the regeneration of a derelict, former chemical works, job creation, diversion of waste from landfill and the minimisation of waste transport. In addition, the development proposals provide the opportunity to reduce the overall environmental impact of the treatment of residual waste.

Landscape and Visual Impact

- 9.3 The landscape and visual assessment has considered the site and its surrounding area, assessing the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development.
- 9.4 There will be beneficial improvements to the visual impact of the site as a result of the development proposals. The site currently comprises derelict buildings, tanks, pipework, stacks and other structures associated with its former use as a chlorine works. The proposals for the site will include the demolition of all existing structures on site and the construction of modern, purpose-built facility. The location and scale of the proposed building will be appropriate to the site and the surrounding land uses and will not compromise the wider landscape character.
- 9.5 The site is generally well screened, with views of the development from the surrounding areas being limited to filtered distant views above or between vegetation and existing development.
- 9.6 The proposed built form and layout presents a more cohesive and visually less complex appearance compared with present site structures, offering a beneficial impact.

Ecology and Nature Conservation

- 9.7 An assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEU) Guidance. The assessment has identified and evaluated the elements that make up the local ecosystems and has considered how the impacts of the development may affect each of these.
- 9.8 The clearance of buildings and vegetation within the bird breeding season could potentially cause harm to birds, however clearance works will be scheduled outside of the bird breeding season.
- 9.9 Bat surveys of the site have found no roosts present, although bats do forage within the site. The adoption of mitigation measures will result in a non-significant impact.
- 9.10 No works are planned to take place within 10m of Wade Brook. As such it is not anticipated that water voles will be adversely affected by the development of the site.
- 9.11 Surveys for great crested newts have identified no great crested newt within the site or Zone of Influence.
- 9.12 The level of noise and other emissions associated with both the construction and operational phases will be mitigated, and are considered to be not significant in the context of the surrounding area.
- 9.13 Following the management and avoidance methods and implementing the mitigation measures set out in the Environmental Statement (Volume 2), the development will have an overall impact which is not significant.

Geology, Mining, Ground Conditions and Land Quality

- 9.14 The assessment describes the geology, geotechnical, mining and contamination issues relating to the proposed development. Historically, the site has been used for industrial uses since around the 1890s. These industrial uses have included a Bleach Works, and since 1977 the Lostock Chlorine Works, which closed by 2001. Development has taken place around the site, with the Brunner Mond and Solvay Chemical Works to the east of the site.
- 9.15 The site currently comprises disused and derelict buildings associated with its former uses, with concrete hardstanding covering the remainder.
- 9.16 A site investigation has been undertaken to assess the ground conditions at the site. Made ground was identified across the site. The underlying natural superficial deposits will be suitable in places to support shallow strip footings/trench fill/pad foundations in some areas. However, across the majority of the site these deposits are at such depths that it will be necessary to consider a

deeper foundation solution such as re-engineering of Made Ground, vibro-compaction and/or piled foundations.

- 9.17 Detailed risk assessments of the soils, gases and waters beneath the site demonstrate that the near surface deposits do not pose significant risk to human health and are not currently impacting significantly on water quality within Wade Brook or the underlying groundwater. Additionally, the development of the site with large areas of hardstanding will reduce the volume of water infiltration through the soils.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Drainage and Flood Risk

- 9.18 A detailed review of baseline conditions has taken place and this has been used as the basis to determine the potential unmitigated impacts of the proposed development. The significance of impact of all unmitigated risks to the water environment has been identified as being of low to zero significance. However, a limited number of activities (generation of suspended solids; alteration of groundwater flow, and accidental spillage of oil, fuels and cement and an increase in the quantity of surface water run-off) have been identified as requiring mitigation. Mitigation measures have therefore been proposed to prevent impacts to groundwater and surface water resources as far as practicable during construction and operational phases.
- 9.19 The implementation of appropriate preventative measures and mitigation will appropriately limit the potential impacts to acceptable levels and there will be no significant environmental effects associated with the proposed development.
- 9.20 A Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out. The proposed development area is located within Flood Zone 1 as defined by PPS25, and the vulnerability class of the proposed development is 'less vulnerable'. Table D.1 of PPS25 indicates that the development proposals are suitable for all Flood Zones.
- 9.21 There are no local site specific risks that would adversely affect this categorisation. Similarly there are no significant increased offsite flooding risks as a result of the development. The site is therefore considered suitable for this type of development.
- 9.22 Surface water discharge from the site will be restricted to the existing 1 in 100 year run-off rate, and the existing connection to the Wade Brook will be retained.
- 9.23 Flows in excess of the existing surface water discharge rate will be attenuated on site. Attenuation will be designed to cater for the 1 in 100 year + 20% climate change rainfall event.

- 9.24 There will be no foul connection from the site into existing public sewers. Effluent from the site will be connected to the existing private drainage network serving the site.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- 9.25 The archaeological and historic background of the site has been investigated for the Environment Statement.
- 9.26 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the boundary of the site or within 500m of the site boundary. A Grade II listed cast iron canal milepost dated 1819 is located approximately 500m east of the site boundary. The site is not within a Conservation Area, however, part of the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area is located approximately 350m to the east of the site boundary.
- 9.27 There are two non-statutory designated sites within the site boundary recorded as Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) entries. One relates to the projected line of King Street, a Roman road (CHER 436/1/0) which passes through the eastern half of the site and one relates to the Brunner, Mond and Co. chemical works (CHER 4238). The site is situated in an area which is largely characterised by 19th and 20th industrial activity and the CHER contains a number of entries in the search area which relate to industrial sites. In addition, CHER entries record structures and buildings associated with the railway.
- 9.28 There is the potential that archaeological remains of the Roman Road and 19th century chemical works exist beneath the site. Therefore, during pre-construction demolition and preparation works, trial trenching will be undertaken targeted on the projected location of the Roman Road and 19th century Bleach Works.
- 9.29 Archaeological deposits of the Roman road would be considered of up to regional significance as would remains of the Lostock Bleach Works, given Cheshire's key role as a producer of chemicals during the 19th and early 20th centuries. However, any adverse impacts on this archaeological resource could be adequately mitigated by a programme of archaeological recording. It has been established in discussion with the Cheshire County Historic Environment Archaeologist that the archaeological trial-trenching will not be required prior to determination of the application but would be implemented as a condition of consent.
- 9.30 The Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area to the east of the site is susceptible to visual impacts from the proposed development but this is unlikely to make any appreciable difference to the current settings of the conservation area or Grade II listed milepost.

Traffic and Transport

- 9.31 A Transport Assessment was carried out by transport planners Waterman Boreham Ltd. The assessment demonstrates that the traffic generation associated with the development proposals will have no significant effect on the local road network.
- 9.32 It is noted that the King Street/Middlewich Road/Penny's Lane/Griffiths Road junction to the south of the site, currently suffers from queuing and delay along the Middlewich Road arm, and is currently operating above theoretical capacity. This is predicted to worsen by 2019, taking into account the committed developments in the area. However, analysis has shown that there will be only minor increases in vehicles queuing at this junction with the addition of the vehicles predicted from the proposed Waste Treatment Plant. Modelled as a signalised junction, it is demonstrated that the King Street/Middlewich Road/Penny's Lane/Griffiths Road junction would operate well within capacity in the 2019 assessment year.
- 9.33 The transport assessment concludes that there are no transportation, highway or safety reasons that should prevent the granting of planning permission.

Noise Assessment

- 9.34 The potential noise impact of the construction and operation of the proposed WTP, on existing noise sensitive receptors, has been assessed.
- 9.35 During the construction phases, mitigation measures, which include the implementation of best working practice and restriction of working hours, will ensure minimal noise impacts on noise sensitive receptors.
- 9.36 The results of the BS4142 assessment for daytime and night-time operations indicate that the predicted rating noise levels likely to be generated by the proposed development are less than the background noise levels at the existing and proposed receptor locations. The noise levels generated by the proposed development are therefore unlikely to have an adverse impact on these receptors.

Air Quality and Public Health

- 9.37 An air quality assessment was undertaken to determine the effect of the proposed WTP and associated vehicle movements on nearby receptors to the site, during construction and operation of the facility.

- 9.38 It is recognised that the implementation of effective mitigation measures substantially reduce the potential for nuisance dust and particulate matter to be generated during the construction phase of the development.
- 9.39 The appropriate implementation of these mitigation measures, detailed with the Environmental Statement, Volume 2, will ensure that the residual dust impacts are negligible. The overall impact during the construction phase will in turn be negligible at sensitive receptor locations near to the site.
- 9.40 Road traffic emissions during the operation of the WTP were found to be negligible, and therefore no mitigation measures are required.
- 9.41 The air quality assessment demonstrates that the generation of odour, ammonia, bioaerosols, dust and particulates will be mitigated by control measures, such as the robust air collection and treatment systems proposed, and the 27m high stack. The impacts to receptors will be not significant.

Consideration of Amenity

- 9.42 Site construction works and the operation of the proposed WTP have the potential to generate amenity impacts associated with odour, dust, pests, litter and lighting. A detailed and comprehensive set of design, management and mitigation procedures will be implemented to limit and negate the potential adverse effects.
- 9.43 The proposed development will have a positive social and economic impact on the surrounding local area, with both temporary and permanent jobs being created. The education centre will provide the opportunity for local groups and school children to visit and learn about recycling and waste reduction issues.

10 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 Viridor is seeking planning consent for the development of a Waste Treatment Plant at the former INEOS chemical works at Lostock Gralam. The development will be in a strategic location for the treatment of all kerbside collected and Household Waste Recycling Centre derived residual municipal waste from across the areas of Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East.
- 10.2 The proposed development will form an important part of the overall strategy to ensure that the majority of wastes generated within Cheshire can be managed within the region. In doing so, the location of the proposed site will accord with locational principles and will minimise waste transport.
- 10.3 The development will contribute to the Government's requirements to increase recycling and resource recovery and to divert waste from landfill. The Waste Treatment Plant will meet the requirements of the Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.
- 10.4 The proposed development will bring derelict, brownfield land back into beneficial use. It will renovate, and utilise existing rail infrastructure to transport solid recovered fuel direct to a purpose built power station in Runcorn.
- 10.5 This statement describes the location and setting of the site at Lostock Gralam, the processes that will be carried out at the facility and the operational periods. Further details of the design of the plant are discussed in the Design and Access Statement included as Volume 3 of this application.
- 10.6 A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out and the findings are detailed in the Environmental Statement, Volume 2, as part of this application. The EIA has driven the site design changes proposed in the planning application to ensure the potential for impact is minimised or removed.
- 10.7 The Environmental Statement has investigated a wide range of potential impacts that the proposed development might cause. The results of the assessments show that, with the implementation of suitable mitigation measures, the development of a Waste Treatment Plant at Lostock Gralam will have no adverse impacts on the site and surrounding area.