



Castle Cement Limited

Carbon Capture and Storage Project – Padeswood, North Wales

Socio-Economic Statement

663575

RSK

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 RSK Environment Limited (hereafter referred to as 'RSK') has been commissioned by Castle Cement Limited (hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant') to produce a Socio-Economic Statement for a new Carbon Capture and Storage Project proposed at the Applicant's Padeswood Cement Works, Flintshire, North Wales (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 This Socio-Economic Statement outlines the main socio-economic elements of the Proposed Development, firstly considers these against national and local planning policy and secondly, the socio-economic elements of the Proposed Development are considered in relation to the likely impacts on the local and wider economy, society and communities.

1.2 Project background

- 1.2.1 Padeswood Cement Works is located to the south of Buckley, near Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4HB. The cement works is owned by Castle Cement Limited, part of the Heidelberg Materials group of companies, and operates under the trading name of Heidelberg Materials UK. Heidelberg Materials, one of the largest building materials manufacturers in the world, is the global market leader in aggregates and has leading positions in asphalt, cement, concrete and other downstream activities. Heidelberg Materials UK is a leading supplier of low carbon heavy building materials to the UK construction industry including aggregates (crushed rock, sand and gravel), ready-mixed concrete, asphalt, cement and cement related materials.
- 1.2.2 The cement produced at Padeswood Cement Works is used primarily in bulk for ready mix concrete, production of concrete products and bagged cement sold through builders' merchants. The Applicant is a national supplier and Padeswood Cement Works is connected to the rail network, enabling cement to be delivered to rail depots located in London, Glasgow and Avonmouth. Bulk and packed cements are also delivered to regional customers by road. The plant currently employs approximately 175 people.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development aims to capture up to 800,000t of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year from Padeswood Cement Works and will comprise the following main project components:
- A Carbon Capture Plant comprising;
 - A Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant with 15MWe (minimum) and 83MW (minimum) thermal of installed capacity, to produce electricity and heat to power the carbon capture equipment; and
 - A Post Combustion Carbon Capture and Compression (PCCCC) plant, to extract CO₂ from waste gases and compress it for transport and storage.



- 1.2.4 The aim of the Proposed Development is to integrate into the HyNet North West network through the capture of CO₂ from the cement works for transportation and subsequent storage in the Liverpool Bay storage facilities.
- 1.2.5 The Applicant intends to commence construction of the Proposed Development in 2025 with commercial operation achieved by 2029.

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2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE

2.1.1 This section outlines the socio-economic context of Flintshire County and presents a comparison against national trends, to provide an overview of the demographic background of the local area.

2.2 Population and labour force overview

2.2.1 The population of Flintshire has slightly increased within the past 10 years. According to [Census 2011 Data](#)¹, the population of Flintshire was 152,500, which increased by 1.6% in 2021 to 155,000. The regional population growth rate is slightly higher than the national population growth in Wales which has seen a 1.4% increase in the past 10 years ([Office for National Statistics, 2022](#)²).

2.2.2 In 2021 the population of working age people (aged 16-64) in Flintshire was 94,400, representing 60.9% of the local population. The percentage of the working age population is the same as the Welsh national average of 60.9%. Economically inactive residents aged 65 years and over constitute 21.4% of the local population in Flintshire and 21.3% nationally. [2021 Census Data](#)³ presents that there has been an increase of 23.7% in the over 65 population in Flintshire, which is greater than the national average of an 17.7% increase.

Educational Attainment

2.2.3 **Table 1** illustrates the level of educational attainment in Flintshire compared with the national average. Those with the highest level of educational attainment (Level 4 or above) contribute to the largest proportion of the workforce locally at 29.2%, which is lower than the national average of 31.5%. Locally, the working population with no qualifications is however lower (18.3%) than the national average (19.9%). Other educational attainment levels generally show Flintshire as having slightly higher level of qualification at each educational level when compared with the national average.

Table 1 Educational Attainment of the Workforce

Level of Qualification	Flintshire	Wales
Level 4 or above	29.2%	31.5%
Level 3	17.8%	17.2%
Apprenticeship	6.6%	5.6%
Level 2	15.3%	14.4%
Level 1	9.9%	8.7%

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/W06000005/>

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

Level of Qualification	Flintshire	Wales
No Qualifications	18.3%	19.9%
Other Qualifications	2.9%	2.7%

Existing local levels of employment

- 2.2.4 There is a large range of employment sectors within the local area, as depicted in **Table 2**. Over a quarter of the workforce contribute to the *manufacturing* sector (26.4%) which is considerably larger than the national average (10.8%). The second largest sector is *Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles* which makes up 12.5% of local employment compared with 13.2 nationally. Locally, the *human health and social work activities* sector is significantly lower (6.9%) than the national average (15.4%). However, the other sectors broadly align with the national averages.
- 2.2.5 From July 2022 to June 2023, 7.2% of those in employment were self-employed, this aligns with the national average of 8.3%. In the year ending September 2023, the percentage of the working population in employment was 81%, the employment rate in Flintshire is higher than the national average of 74.1% ([Office for National Statistics, 2024](#)⁴).
- 2.2.6 The [ONS Job Densities Report 2021](#)⁵ provides a local-authority and national indication of the availability of employment and labour demand. The [NOMIS Job Density Report](#)⁶ provides a ratio of total jobs against the working age population. As of 2021, the job-density level in Flintshire was 0.86, which was higher than the level for Wales at 0.77, presenting a higher job availability in the local area.

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/labourmarketlocal/W06000005/#employment-rate>

⁵

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/regionalonlabourmarket/august2021>

⁶ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/1324.aspx>

Table 2 Employment sectors in Flintshire and Wales ([ONS, 2022⁷](#))

Industry	Flintshire	Wales
Manufacturing	26.4%	10.8%
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	12.5%	13.2%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	9.7%	6.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	6.9%	5.2%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	6.9%	15.4%
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	6.2%	8.8%
Education	6.2%	9.1%
Transportation And Storage	5.6%	4.2%
Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security.	5.6%	8.2%
Construction	4.9%	4.9%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1.7%	2.7%
Information and Communication	1.4%	2.4%
Other Service Activities.	1.4%	2.0%
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.8%	1.0%
Financial And Insurance Activities	0.8%	3.0%
Real Estate Activities	0.7%	1.5%
Mining and Quarrying	0.4%	0.2%
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply.	0.3%	0.5%

⁷ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157387/report.aspx>

2.3 Local area transport links

- 2.3.1 The Proposed Development is located near the town of Mold directly off the A5118. The Site provides good connections for car users, with links to Chester (8.3 miles) and surrounding settlements such as Buckly, Penymynydd, Penyffordd and Mold Town centre.
- 2.3.2 The nearest railway station is 1.7 miles north of the Proposed Development at Buckley Railway Station with Transport for Wales services providing direct trains across north Wales and the Wirral from Wrexham General to Bidston. Rail links are also available to Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Holyhead, Birmingham and Cardiff.
- 2.3.3 As the Site is situated on a major A road, the ability for safe pedestrian and cycle access and movement into the Site is limited. There is also a lack of continuous pavements on the A5118 to offer a safe route when travelling on foot to Buckley Railway Station.
- 2.3.4 Bus links in the area are provided by local and national public services. Local Bus Company M&H Coaches offer services that are directly located on the A5118 in close proximity to the Site, Service 29 operates from Mold to Wrexham and T8 offers connections from Chester to Corwen running every hour from 8am to 5.54pm. Other larger national bus services are available from Mold Bus Station in Mold Town Centre.

3 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

3.1.1 The Proposed Development has been designed to align with and contribute to national and local policy objectives. Relevant plans and policies for the purpose of this Socio-Economic Statement comprise:

- [Planning Policy Wales Edition 12- Chapter 5: Productive and Enterprising Places](#)⁸;
- [Future Wales: The National Plan 2040](#)⁹ – ‘Outcome 5: work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth’;
- [The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015](#)¹⁰ - Provides 7 Well-being Goals that recognise social, economic and environmental interactions contributing to the wellbeing of Wales, with a focus on ensuring sustainability for future generations. The 7 Well-being Goals are often referenced as a baseline for other policy developments;
- [North Wales Regional Economic Framework 2022](#)¹¹ - The framework aims to enhance the regional economy whilst retaining place identity and inclusivity. The Framework references the balance of economic growth against social and wellbeing initiatives;
- [Flintshire Local Development Plan 2023](#)¹² – The plan identifies policies that will assist in the development of the local area for the coming years. The overall aim relates to; enhancing people and places whilst retaining cultural identity; and
- [Mold Town Plan 2017-2030](#)¹³ - The town plan provides four main themes that aim to assist the direction and development of the local area in the lead up to 2030.

3.1.2 The primary issues for consideration in relation to the Proposed Development are outlined below.

3.2 Need for the Proposed Development

3.2.1 The policy review provides the political context that is relevant for the Proposed Development, recognising the need to create and enhance the economy whilst

⁸ https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-12_1.pdf

⁹ <https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0>

¹⁰ <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/north-wales-regional-economic-framework.pdf>

¹² <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Examination-Library-Documents/LDP-Version-8.pdf>

¹³ http://www.moldtowncouncil.org.uk/Mold-TC/UserFiles/Files/Mold%20Town/170320_Final%20Mold%20Town%20Plan_emailable.pdf

retaining place identities and contributing to the creation of sustainable jobs and practices more widely.

- 3.2.2 This summary is a high level overview. The detailed assessment of relevant policy guidance for the Proposed Development is included in the planning statement that accompanies the Development of National Significance Application.
- 3.2.3 [Planning Policy Wales](#)¹⁴ sets out land use policies which contribute to the broader policy goal of the sustainable development of Wales. As a strategic policy document, the policies aim to support and contribute to the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Planning Policy Wales uses a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development across Wales by focusing on overarching goals and areas for development, rather than focusing on fragmented policies. Combating climate change through the decarbonisation of developments, society and practices is reiterated and embedded throughout the policy document.
- 3.2.4 [The Future Wales Strategic Plan 2040](#)¹⁵ provides a spatial approach to contribute to the growth of the nation with a particular focus on learning from past behaviours and building a sustainable future that is responsive to the climate emergency. The Plan references the interdependence between environmental, social and economic interactions. The Future Wales Outcomes 6 and 11 propose the importance of development innovation and decarbonised and climate resilient places.
- 3.2.5 [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)¹⁶ aims to inform the planning process to recognise and identify ways in which proposed plans assist in the contribution and development to the wider society. The Well-Being goals, should be addressed by plans to ensure due diligence is given to social and cultural dimensions of planning applications. The 'Prosperous Wales' goal aims to lead to an economy that is innovative, respecting of planetary resource boundaries and has an economy that generates wealth and provides employment opportunities.
- 3.2.6 [The North Wales Regional Framework](#)¹⁷ provides guidance on the development of North Wales from an economic perspective. The Framework identifies region specific opportunities and at its core aims to guide economic enhancement in a sustainable way whilst specifically referencing that all aims are encompassed in an approach that facilitates decarbonisation of the economy.

3.3 Site specific considerations and contribution to local targets

¹⁴ https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/working-draft-national-development-framework-document-september-2020.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/north-wales-regional-economic-framework.pdf>

Diversification into new markets and job opportunities

- 3.3.1 The Proposed Development is providing innovative solutions to address the cement industry's carbon emissions in the UK. This form of innovation will present the local area as a national leader in new technology and offers benefits for the image of the local area, possible subsequent investment and job creation.
- 3.3.2 [Planning Policy Wales](#)¹⁸ promotes planning that contributes to sustainable development and specifically the decarbonisation of national industry and the energy sector. 'Chapter 5- Productive and Enterprising Places' states; *'growth in innovative, emerging technology and high value added sectors... are strongly supported... development plans should consider the role these sectors may play in terms of investment and job creation in the area'*¹⁹ (page 83). The Proposed Development will provide benefits such as:
- Investment into the local area;
 - Job creation; and
 - Growth in new innovative industries.
- 3.3.3 [Future Wales 2040](#)²⁰ proposes two outcomes that highlight the importance of diversification into new and innovative markets to promote the sustainable development of communities. The diversification into new sustainable markets help to assist against the wider climate crisis which has benefits for all individuals but also offers job opportunities and knowledge of sustainable industries. The two outcomes include:
- Outcome 5** - *'Work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth'* (page 55); and
- Outcome 6** - *'in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted'* (page 55).
- 3.3.4 The Proposed Development will provide new employment opportunities during construction and operation phases. This will lead to direct and indirect benefits for the local and regional economy and thus will contribute to the attainment of both Outcomes 5 and 6 of Future Wales 2040.
- 3.3.5 [The Well-being of Future Generations Act](#)²¹ presents the benefits of diversifying into new markets and presents benefits for society as well as through the economic lens. This Act notes that planning proposals must contribute to *A Prosperous Wales* that provides socio-economic benefits which include:

¹⁸ https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

¹⁹ See note 6

²⁰ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/working-draft-national-development-framework-document-september-2020.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

- Creating an innovative society that recognise and react to climate related issues; and
- Produce a skilled workforce in well-maintained and secure industries.

3.3.6 The Proposed Development will introduce a carbon reduction technology to the area thus directly reacting to climate change related issues. The work needed to install and maintain the carbon capture and storage technology requires skilled staff, and as such the Proposed Development will contribute towards increasing the well-being of future generations.

3.3.7 [The North Wales Regional Economic Framework](#)²² recognises the interactions between the lived experiences of individuals in the region, their wellbeing and the contribution to the low carbon economy. The Framework suggests developments must contribute to the:

- *‘Investment in magnets, research and development innovation’* (page 6).
- *Skills and Workforce*
- *Well-being Economy- ‘Influence the shift in our thinking from growth alone towards a wider set of metrics’* (page 9).

3.3.8 The Proposed Development will lead to the deployment of a new and therefore innovative carbon capture and storage technology which, as described above, will require skilled workers to install and maintain. The use of this technology also aligns with a wellbeing economy as the main driver of the use of carbon capture and storage is carbon reduction in the ongoing processes at the existing cement works.

3.3.9 [The Flintshire Local Development Plan 2023](#)²³, Policy STR7 emphasises the importance of Flintshire for contributing to the wider economic success of Wales. The plan supports developments that offer a range of employment opportunities and allow for the innovation, expansion and growth of economic sectors, whilst utilising the strategic location of the area. The Proposed Development builds on the existing and established cement works, by providing an innovative solution to reducing carbon emissions and its climate impact

²² <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/north-wales-regional-economic-framework.pdf>

²³ <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Key-Stage-Documents-Policy/LDP-KSD-KM1-KeyMessages-LDP-WithAppendices-Final.pdf>

4 ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Supporting local jobs

Construction phase jobs

- 4.1.1 The Proposed Development will provide job opportunities during the construction phase of the development. It is estimated that the project will create up to a maximum of 350 additional jobs during construction phase.
- 4.1.2 The Proposed Development aims to provide opportunities for local construction and manufacturing businesses during the construction phase of the Carbon Capture Plant, where possible, which would help support the creation of new direct employment for local people. Should it not be possible to source construction staff locally, there may be a need to bring in construction staff from the wider regions.
- 4.1.3 Where possible, materials for the construction works will be sourced from local suppliers which has the potential for an increase in the number of jobs indirectly resulting from the Proposed Development. Should it not be possible to source materials locally, there may be a need to bring in materials from the wider regions.
- 4.1.4 The manufacturing industry contributes to the largest proportion of Flintshire County Council's employment sectoral spread. There may be opportunities for local manufacturers to supply services during the construction and operation phase. The Applicant will encourage tenders from local businesses in order for them to become involved in the Proposed Development. Subsequently, it may follow that these businesses may then need to upskill their staff as part of any future works.
- 4.1.5 In this way, the Applicant will utilise local suppliers and manufacturing services to create job opportunities in the local area and support local supply chains where possible.
- 4.1.6 Through utilising the local workforce directly as a result of the Proposed Development, the workforce will reinvest their wage into the local economy and services, helping to sustain jobs across a range of sectors.

Operational phase jobs

- 4.1.7 The Proposed Development will also create an additional 54 direct, long-term operational employment opportunities in addition to supporting the existing directly employed workforce of 175 employees. It is recognised these roles are likely to be specialised positions and therefore would be expected to appeal to candidates both locally and from a wider geographical area.

- 4.1.8 Due to the life-span of the operational phase of the Proposed Development, these skills can be passed through generations of the local workforce, creating future job security.

4.2 Regional and national job creation

- 4.2.1 Beyond direct employment, a small number of additional employment opportunities at a national and regional level may arise due to the requirement for construction staff, carbon capture and storage specific technology and materials. The procurement of staff or these select technologies and materials may be unavailable locally and therefore will be outsourced at a regional or national level to provide job opportunities for communities regionally and nationally.

Linkages to Hynet job creation

- 4.2.2 The Hynet Pipeline Socio-Economic Impact Statement (December 2023), states that the Proposed Development will see an approximate total 256 jobs sustained per annum during construction and a further total of 88 jobs during operation for the development and integration of the Proposed Development into the Hynet CO₂ pipeline.

4.3 Local and regional regeneration of the area

Regeneration as a result of the Proposed Development

- 4.3.1 The Proposed Project is a national first in Carbon Capture and Storage for the Cement Industry in the UK. Employment and upskilling opportunities in the local area may provide a positive impact in relation to place perception. Aligning with the UK Government's Net Zero Strategy, the requirement for skilled individuals in this industry is likely to grow. These skills present the opportunity for the local area to take on the role as a country-wide leader in the decarbonisation sector and draw further inward investment.

Regeneration as a result of the wider Hynet scheme

- 4.3.2 The Proposed Development will feed into the Hynet North West network. The Hynet North West Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (published in December 2023) predicts that 50% of the proposed CO₂ transport capital and operational expenditure will be focused in Flintshire. The involvement of the Proposed Development with the greater Hynet Network, suggests there will be investment into the area by acquiring land and material assets as well as supporting the operational, day to day costs. The combined impact of these investments are anticipated to support Flintshire as a hub for skills and development, assisting in the wider regeneration of the area.

4.4 Wider impacts to the economy

Construction phase

- 4.4.1 As described in **Section 4.1**, the Proposed Development will provide direct and indirect job opportunities in the local area. In this way, there may be benefits for the economy more widely due to the increase in disposable income as a result of greater job provision. A greater amount of disposable income or an increase in the number of people spending time in the area is likely to see an increase in the amount of money spent in local shops, car parks, general facilities and other services.
- 4.4.2 Construction employment opportunities generated as a result of the Proposed Development will produce an economic output which can be measured through the generation of Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA in this context is an economic measure of the contribution of value added as a result of construction workers working at a site.
- 4.4.3 The most recent [Priority Sector Statistics, 2018](#)²⁴ - Revised document published by the Welsh Government, estimates around £21 of GVA per hour worked in the construction industry across Wales. A proportion of GVA within the Standard Industrial Classification section was calculated using the Annual Business Survey data, the construction industry GVA proportion was taken and multiplied by the regional accounts GVA SIC section total. It must be noted the number produced by the Welsh government is an estimate and represents the whole of Wales.
- 4.4.4 It is anticipated that the construction period will last approximately three to four years. There will be a total of approximately 350 construction staff required for varying durations throughout this time.
- 4.4.5 During the construction phase, the Proposed Development is likely to influence local expenditure due to an increase in temporary employment levels. The induced effect suggests that income is reinvested into the local economy by employees through the increased use of restaurants, cafés and local shops, this will benefit the local economy due to greater local expenditure and reach of customers.
- 4.4.6 It is possible that the construction phase will lead to an increase in the number of people staying in the area overnight and therefore using local accommodation services – potentially for an extended period of time. However, as noted above, it is expected that where possible local construction services will be used and therefore the expectation would be that some or most of these construction staff will not likely stay in the area overnight. As such, the construction phase of the development is not likely to see a significant reduction in the availability of accommodation that would otherwise be used for other purposes.

Operational phase

- 4.4.7 During the operational phase, more people will be employed at the Site due to the presence of the new carbon capture and storage technology. This will mean that there is a long term minor increase in the amount of money being spent within the local area across services of all types. It is likely that some local businesses will see a minor increase in the amount of income as a result.

²⁴ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-02/priority-sector-statistics-2018-revised.pdf>

4.4.8 GVA during the operation of the Proposed Development is expected to be approximately £8m per annum and as such some of this will be spent and realised locally and within the wider region.

4.5 The Hynet scheme and the impacts to the national economy

4.5.1 Per the HyNet North West Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (published in December 2023); the Proposed Development's association with the HyNet Pipeline is also estimated to contribute £181 million of GVA to the UK at the construction phase of development. The Proposed Development is a crucial asset of the HyNet CO₂ pipeline and it will provide economic benefits for the national economy.

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5 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

5.1.1 The Proposed Development will aim to create benefits for local people and communities in various ways. An overview of the initiatives proposed is given below.

5.2 Community infrastructure and providing opportunities for local people

5.2.1 The Proposed Development will provide benefits or improvements to the wider community infrastructure in Flintshire, through the provision of services and infrastructure such as:

- Additional local financial support and donation of materials available to charities/groups within a three-mile radius of the existing Site or beyond in some instances. Previously, such a fund has helped with a local community restoration project (John Summers Clock Tower at the former steelworks in Connah's Quay) and various charitable donations to Wales Air Ambulance, Action for Children, Northop Brass band and Gwernaffieldd;
- The continuation of engagement with the existing community liaison group led by Heidelberg Materials UK. This group brings together several key stakeholders and members of the local community and is expected to continue to discuss and understand the needs of local groups and communities and any potential assistance that could be offered;
- Supporting local community initiatives such as volunteer groups to increase sense of community in the local area; and
- Continue to work with Flintshire County Council to support the Site eco-centre and explore educational opportunities relating to the Carbon Capture Storage Project and the net zero strategy.

5.3 Sustainable development

5.3.1 The Proposed Development will facilitate sustainable development by supporting a decarbonising industry, providing new infrastructure and further opportunities at the construction and operational phase. Sustainable development opportunities are as follows:

- Reductions in the volume of CO₂ released through Site operations;
- Biodiversity provision and enhancement as a result of the Proposed Development which will allow a greater opportunity for biodiversity and quality of habitat for local species than at present;
- Utilising local businesses, where practicable, during the construction phase to minimise the carbon footprint of the Proposed Development's construction;

- Development of new and leading infrastructure that contributes to the UK Government's Net Zero transition;
- Where possible, any spoil material taken from the Site will be reused on Site therefore minimising the number of HGV movements to remove material from Site, thus providing CO₂ emissions reductions; and
- Transport CO₂ emissions will also be minimised through investments in electric vehicle charging stations on-site for company staff use.

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6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The Proposed Development would provide economic, regenerative and job benefits for Flintshire and the wider region. It will elevate job opportunities in an emerging sector and improve wider place perception for Flintshire and North Wales as a pioneer and skilled workforce in the net zero industry. The Proposed Development also aims to utilise and enhance the local workforce where possible in order to offer employment and economic benefits to local people.
- 6.1.2 In addition, there may be associated benefits for the wider community as a result of improved an increase in spend in the local area and financial assistance for local community groups.
- 6.1.3 The Proposed Development offers the opportunity to generate socio-economic benefits at the construction and operation phase. Through utilising the experience and specialities of the current work force and enhancing local skill sets for the operation of the development. The key socio-economic benefits of the Proposed Development include:
- The development of skills relevant for an emerging low carbon sector that at present would be unique to the local community;
 - Providing job opportunities in low and high skilled sectors;
 - Increased spend into the local community through the increased use of retail and hospitality services; and
 - Continued provision of funding to enhance and improve the delivery of community initiatives, improving local sense of community and pride of place.

7 REFERENCES

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