

18th March, 2015.

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Site Visit of Gasification Facility - Morcenx, France - 11th/12th March, 2015.
Proposed Lease of Lands at Gortadroma Landfill for a
Waste Gasification Plant.**

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A Site Visit took place on 11th/12th March, 2015, to a Gasification Facility at Morcenx, France, in connection with the proposed lease of lands at Gortadroma Landfill for a Waste Gasification Plant. The following were present at this Site Visit:

Councillors: Tom Neville, Stephen Keary, Ciara McMahon and Richard O'Donoghue.

Council Staff: Tom Gillgan, Gerrard Doherty.

Local Residents' Representatives: Tim Mullane, Mike Costello.

Background and Purpose of the Visit:

Gortadroma Landfill has been operating under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Licence since 1999. The landfill ceased accepting waste for disposal in May 2014 and all the waste cells are now fully capped. Aftercare operations to manage the waste as it decays, including landfill gas and leachate generated, will still be required throughout the aftercare phase. This period typically lasts for 30 years after which the waste licence can be surrendered back to the EPA.

The landfill represents a major infrastructure asset for Limerick City and County Council and, as part of a process to maximise the use of this resource, bidders were invited to express an interest and submit options to the Council on potential future uses. A preferred bidder was selected as part of this process and their proposal is to use approximately 14Ha of the landfill to site a Gasification Plant for the processing of municipal waste and the generation of electricity.

This proposal was presented to a meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale in September 2014. A further Presentation by the Bidder was given to a Meeting of the Municipal District in December 2014.

The Members requested at their District Meeting on 10th February, 2015, that in order to be able to better understand the implications of such a proposal, they and local resident representatives should visit an operational plant. The visit was therefore arranged for that purpose.

The Visit was divided into three information gathering sessions:

- 1) Wednesday Evening – Open discussions with Leonardo Reira, (CEO of Environpower and Bidder Representative).
- 2) Thursday Morning – Site visit of the Gasification Plant in Morcenx. Tour given by Marc Lefour (Director of CHO Power) accompanied by Leonardo Riera and Ron Bailey (Prm Energy Systems Inc).
- 3) Thursday Afternoon – Post-Visit discussion with Leonardo Riera and Ron Bailey on any issue or clarifications arising.

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**Tom Gilligan,
Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT.**