



Council – 28 February 2019

Notice of Motion from Councillors R C Stewart, A S Lewis, C E Lloyd, J E Burtonshaw, M C Child, W Evans, R Francis-Davies, D H Hopkins, E J King, J A Raynor, M Sherwood, M Thomas & C A Holley.

Notice of Motion on Government Proposals for two Geological Disposal Facilities (GDF) to bury Nuclear and Radioactive Waste.

This Council has a proud record of standing up to those who would seek to damage our environment. In 2016 this Council unanimously supported a Notice of Motion to oppose any proposals for “Unconventional” Gas Development (Fracking) within the City & County of Swansea. This was in response to growing public concern that any unconventional gas extraction methods would entail significant harm to the environment and to the health and wellbeing of local communities.

In addition, Council has recently added to its Corporate Plan a well-being objective that commits to 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity'; dumping nuclear and radioactive waste runs completely counter to this objective.

Recently the UK government department for Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), is proposing to find two suitable locations for “Geological Disposal Facilities” in the UK, to bury highly dangerous nuclear and radioactive materials accumulated over the past 60 years, to be stored hundreds of metres below ground. Potentially both sites could be located in Wales.

Whilst Swansea has not been identified as a potential site, widespread public concern has quite rightly emerged with the announcement of a consultation session in our City.

This council takes its responsibility to preserve and protect the City & County of Swansea against any threats to our local natural marine and urban environment very seriously. Swansea was extremely proud to be the first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and it is of critical importance that we protect this legacy for future generations.

Swansea will continue to uphold its commitment to support a cleaner greener energy future.

Council resolves therefore that:

The Council strongly objects to the proposal from Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), to hold a consultation event in Swansea. The Council is disappointed that this decision was made without consulting or informing Swansea Council of its intent and feel it is very wrong not to inform the elected representatives of the City of Swansea of their intentions before going to the media with a press statement.

The Council objects to the establishment of any Geological Disposal Facility within the City & County of Swansea.

The Council will also strongly support any other Welsh or UK local authorities that object to these proposals.

The Council requests that the Leader writes to the Prime Minister, the First Minister for Wales and to the UK Government department for Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), to express the views of this Council.