

## **MARGAM OPENCAST COAL SITE (OCCS)**

### Background

Members will recall that the issues surrounding the above site were discussed at previous meeting of the Development Control Committee.

For information, the previous reports may be accessed here:-

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=2138>

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=164&MIId=2179&Ver=4>

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=2351>

The purpose of this report is to provide members with a further update on the current position regarding the site.

Since the last update report, a planning application for an alternative restoration has been received (P/16/128/FUL). Full details may be found by entering the application reference number here:-

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/planning/planning-search.aspx>

A corresponding application has been submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.. Consultation with the affected communities has been undertaken and officers from both authorities are in discussion with the applicant and statutory consultees.

In view of the complexity of the application and the strict timescales for implementation of the scheme should it be approved, the Chair has agreed to hold a special meeting of the Development Control Committee on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 2.00pm. The meeting will be preceded by a site visit to the Bridgend element of the site at 10.00 am.

Members will also be aware the public speaking protocol allows for extended public speaking rights for extraordinary planning applications. Due to the history of the site and the significant impact on the communities nearby it is considered that extended speaking be appropriate in this case. This will allow an objector and the applicant 10 mins to address the Committee with the local members and the Community Councils being allocated 3 minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Committee agree that the extended public speaking protocol for extraordinary planning applications be invoked for consideration of planning application P/16/128/FUL.