

Report to: **Economy Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **19 November 2014**

By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title of report: **Presentation on Shale Gas and Oil Exploration Impacts**

Purpose of report: **To enable the Committee to develop a factual information base on the impacts of shale oil and gas exploration.**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS: The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

- (1) Note the information provided on the impacts of shale oil and gas exploration.**
  - (2) Identify any further areas of information required by the Committee.**
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**1. Financial implications**

1.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this information gathering exercise.

**2. Background**

2.1 The public debate on the impacts of shale gas and oil exploration has been highlighted by a recent planning application and exploration in West Sussex. East Sussex shares some of the same geological conditions as West Sussex as it is also part of the Weald Basin. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish some factual information about the impacts of shale oil and gas exploration and the regulatory framework.

2.2 Representatives from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have been invited to come and give presentations to the Committee to give an overview of shale gas and oil exploration, the impacts, and the regulatory framework.

**3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Committee is requested to note the information provided and to identify any further areas of information that it requires.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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Local Member: All

Background Documents

- Review of the potential public health impacts of exposure to chemical and radioactive pollutants as a result of the shale gas extraction process. Public Health England. June 2014.
- Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing. The Royal Society. June 2012.
- The Jurassic Shales of the Weald Basin: geology and shale oil and shale gas resources estimation. British Geological Survey (BGS). 2014.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/providing-regulation-and-licensing-of-energy-industries-and-infrastructure/supporting-pages/developing-shale-gas-and-oil-in-the-uk>