

The Lord de Mauley
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR



6th November 2013

Dear *Lord de Mauley,*

PFI Grant: Willows Power & Recycling Centre, Norfolk

At last week's meeting of the New Anglia LEP I was asked by all those present to write to you to raise an issue arising from the withdrawal of the PFI grant for this project? It is not to get into the local politics of this, from which the LEP stays determinedly clear. Our focus is on driving and supporting economic development across New Anglia, and when we feel there may be unintended consequences to a decision, we like to seek reassurances that all factors have been taken into account. Such is the case with this energy infrastructure project, and I would be grateful for your advice.

At £500m, this is one of the biggest ever local infrastructure projects and our interest is in the 1,000 jobs it will attract during the 3-year construction period and for the 40 permanent jobs thereafter. Also, for the jobs and investment in the project's supply chain that are estimated to be worth around £7 million; and for the loss of between £15m and £20m in the local supply of goods and services.

As we continue to attract inward investment to New Anglia we look to projects like this to help encourage others from the UK and around the world to bring their business to our area, and to help underpin investor confidence. This project brings together an Anglo American company with Japanese finance. We fear that the unintended consequence of the recent announcement, and the longer term impact it will have, may deter future investors and businesses from placing their faith in the New Anglia economy.

Are you able to reassure me about the extent to which these key economic considerations were part of the decision-making process?

I would be pleased to come and see you to discuss this further, if that would help.

With my good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Wood", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Andy Wood OBE
Chairman

