

COVANTA ENERGY for a cleaner world



Green flag for the Middlewich Eastern Bypass

Following continued consultation with the local community and negotiations with Cheshire East Council, Covanta is pleased to announce a further major addition to the comprehensive package of community benefits linked to its proposal at Middlewich. As part of Covanta's proposals we can now confirm a contribution of approximately £2.5 million will be made available to help fund the completion of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass, a key aspiration of the Middlewich community.

This contribution, together with funding from Pochin, the lead developer for Midpoint 18, and public sector support from the North West Development Agency and Cheshire East Council, means that funding for the bypass (which, until now, has been at risk) is now identified subject to Covanta's

scheme going ahead. Cheshire East Highways Authority could then start work on the long awaited bypass, which already has planning permission.

Malcolm Chilton, Managing Director of Covanta, said: "This is a very important step towards delivering the complete bypass. Our contribution would ensure that Middlewich finally gets the new road scheme that it has wanted for such a long time.

"Although our own proposals can be adequately accommodated on the existing road network with a few local improvements, it is clear that the long term needs of Middlewich would be best served by having the bypass in place so that congestion in the town itself is relieved.

"Recognising concerns that have been expressed over traffic conditions, and the

importance of the road scheme to the local community and businesses in the town, we have decided to make this significant financial contribution, as part of our planning application proposal which, if approved, would allow the bypass to be completed by the Council.

"Completion of the final section of the bypass will enhance the accessibility of the site for Covanta's own operational purposes, minimising delay and assisting the efficient operation of the plant, which will benefit the company operationally. As a consequence of delivering the bypass, the development of Midpoint 18 also means that Covanta can explore further opportunities for providing combined heat and power to the new Phase 3 units. This would provide environmental, sustainable, carbon reducing and economic benefits."

3,500 new jobs for Middlewich



As well as easing congestion, improving road safety and improving air quality in Middlewich, Covanta's contribution towards the bypass will ensure that work can now begin on the third and final phase of the Midpoint 18 Business Park, which would itself unlock the potential for approximately 3,500 new jobs.

Midpoint 18 Phase 3 consists of approximately 43 hectares of development land, which already has planning permission for a full range of employment and leisure uses. Brian Reay, Property Director at Pochin, said: "We have been working closely with Covanta to help bring forward the final phase of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass. The bypass will unlock and enable Phase 3 of Midpoint 18 to contribute

Continued overleaf...

