### Key Issues –

- Design of a significant structure in close proximity to key regeneration, leisure, and tourism focus areas;
- Local consultation in terms of the proposed development itself and its important in the context of general and local waste management issues;
- Socio-economic significance in an area (Splott) characterised by high levels of unemployment and deprivation based on Welsh Assembly Government statistics. Many neighbouring wards have similar issues.

### Purpose of the project

In 2007, Viridor Waste Management Limited identified a requirement for a regional waste management facility in south-east Wales. After considering some 30 locations, SLR and Viridor decided to progress a planning application for an Energy from Waste (EfW) and recycling facility at Trident Park, Cardiff. The energy generated from the combustion process has the potential to produce electricity for export into the National Grid and/or as part of a District Heating Network.

### Description of the project

The site of the 350,000 tonne per annum Energy from Waste regional facility is located in the heart of the regeneration area of Cardiff, just 1km from the Senedd (the seat of the National Assembly for Wales), the Millennium cultural hub and the Cardiff Bay redevelopment area.

Planning permission was granted in June 2010 with construction due to start in 2012.
Lessons learnt

The key to the successful approach at Trident Park was an open and integrated involvement with all interested parties. From the outset, the intention of the client and the consultant was to establish a team that interacted regularly to ensure consistency of approach for a development that presented a wide-ranging number of issues. During preparation of the EIA, no information was treated as confidential: everything was either placed in the public domain or could be requested by any interested parties.

The EIA process brought the technical issues to bear within the context of the planning regime in terms of policy, legislation, client requirements and local stakeholders. Clearly, operational requirements were also key – a planning permission of this nature is worthless if the scheme is unable to be operated in a manner that is appropriate to client requirements.

The issues raised during the consultation exercise contributed to the EIA process and were reflected in the ES.

Lessons learnt cont. -

The planning application was accompanied by a comprehensive Statement of Community Involvement that set out in detail each of the tasks undertaken, the output received and the actions taken in response.

The application was based firmly on the commercial requirements of the client yet addressed all issues robustly and effectively.

When the planning application was submitted there were no surprises: each consultee was familiar with the application as it was relevant to them. The low number of public objections (less than 50) was testament to this approach.

The resulting planning application and ES was an exemplar of a comprehensive yet succinct submission, a fact acknowledged at the resultant planning committee.

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