Waste Policy Statement

Application Reference	**P/2024/1554**
Application Description	Proposed Metal Recycling Sorting Facility, Soil Heap Removal, Concrete Yard Extension, Landscaping And Associated Works At Existing Business Premises
Application Address	Hydro Aluminium Deeside Ltd, Bridge Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, Ll13 9ps

Document Purpose

This statement provides the Local Planning Authority with sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with TAN 21 and MW6. It addresses clarification points raised by the specialist consultee identified during the planning process (in black), with Applicant responses, in blue text.

- **Contributions to the relevant provisions of 'TowardsZero Waste' and the Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan.**

This project is a key contributor towards achieving netzero. Aluminium scrap can be recycled and used over and over again with deteriation in its core properties. To recycle and remelt aluminium scrap takes only 5% of the energy required to smelt new aluminium from mining. Increasing the volume of aluminium scrap that is recycled, replacing virgin smelted metal is therefore a key contributor towards Netzero and this is recognised internationally. IN the UK there is currently limited capacity to recycle low grade aluminium scrap and as a result the vast majority is exported outside of the UK. The project would build additional UK capacity and keep the processing and end use of this scrap within the UK, avoiding the need to import aluminium scrap. This reduce the CO2 footprint of the aluminium that is produced in the UK.

Aluminium as a product is a lightweight and strong material and is a key enabler for the develop of low carbon transport. Producing more low carbon aluminium will support decarbonisation by the consumers of aluminium and reduce the global energy demand

- **Statement of compliance with policy related to need & location requirements.**

This is an existing facility which has been operating at the Bridge Road North site, within the Wrexham Industrial Estate, for over 10 years. Current business demand necessitates an increase of capacity turnover.

Policy MW6 of the LDP (2013-2028) states :

> *'Proposals for the management of waste will generally be supported on existing or allocated employment sites for B2 uses subject to meeting the criteria below. Sites which are considered suitable for waste management uses include Wrexham Industrial Estate'*

Policy MW6 also states proposals for waste management will be supported provided:

i. The proposal would move the management of waste up the waste hierarchy; or
ii. There is an identified need for the facility type at the regional level, in accordance with Technical Advice Note 21; and
iii. There would be no adverse impact on residential amenity by virtue of noise, dust or odour; and
iv. There would be no adverse impact on air quality; and
v. The proposal would not have an adverse impact on areas designated for their landscape value; and
vi. Any visual impacts would be minimised through the storage of wastes within buildings or height limits on stockpiles; and
vii. There would be no adverse impact on water quality; and
viii. The highway is capable of accommodating the size and type of vehicles which would access the site or can be sufficiently improved prior to the development being brought into use.

The proposals address these requirements by:

i. Actively process waste aluminium that would otherwise be destined for landfill.
ii. The identified need is justified by the business demand for expansion.
iii. The Applicant has engaged with the local resident groups through meetings and events to assure and receive comment from the community. Noise Impact was a concern and an Impact Assessment was completed and the design subsequently adjusted, along with operational procedures to minimise disturbance.
iv. There will be no impact on air quality. The site already has various filtration measures in place which are required by regulation to be checked periodically. In addition, a community comment noted the dust tracking onto Bridge Road, from the existing unsealed yard. The proposals intend to concrete the yard which will dramatically reduce dust to the highway.
v. There will be no impact on landscape, in fact enhancements are proposed which will embellish biodiversity.
vi. The site is secluded with operational yard space not visible from the public domain.
vii. Water quality will not be affected. Surface water will run through the existing site system.
viii. A transport assessment has been completed and highway consultee response raises no concerns with the proposals due to good site access and on-site parking provisions. Another community comment drew attention to HGVs parking on Bridge Road whilst awaiting site access. The proposals now cater for increased HGV waiting on site.

- **Calculation of existing and projected future demand.**

The plant will target a sorting capacity of around 30,000mts of low grade aluminium scrap. There is significantly more scrap available to recycle (estimated up to 600,000mt in the UK). There are a range of customers that will take the scrap once sorted.

There is no comparable facility. This would be the first wall to wall recycling plant with scrap sorting and EI casting facility in the UK

- **Identify the markets that will be served by the proposed development.**

The product will support a range of aluminium producer entities in the UK

Suppliers & customers are located around UK with future customers depend on commercial agreements signed when operation. Around 30% - 40% will be consumed on site

Supplies are spread across England. As above around 30% - 40% of the output will be consumed on this site, the remainder is subject to commercial agreements that will not be agreed until the plant is closer to starting operations

- **Calculation to identify the current shortfall in treatment capacity.**

There is estimated to be up to 600,000mts of low grade aluminium scrap in the UK, this facility will look to target 30,000mt of this for recycling and sorting

- **A description of the consultation undertaken by the applicant. Development Time-scale**

A consultation with local stakeholder was performed in 2024 and feedback reflected in this planning application.

A Pre-Application Consultation prior to the submission of this application was undertaken. The time scale is anticipated to be construction commencement within 1 year of planning approval.

• Lifespan of the operation, including any proposed measures for future proofing

We propose a permanent establishment. There is some flexibility on how we operate the equipment but current plans for future expansion on the site.

• Days and hours of operation. Types and quantities of waste to be managed

The operations will mirror those currently in place for the existing site operations (24/7)

• Estimated annual quantity of each waste type to be received and estimated total capacity where relevant.

We estimate 30,000mts of shredded aluminium scrap will be received which will be realistic capacity for this site operation.

• The destination of any end product (residues and any hazardous materials) from the site should be submitted.

This will be subject to commercial agreements once the facility has commenced operations, Some sorted scrap may be exported with the majority to be sold or consumed within the UK.

• The minimum and maximum quantities that the facility could process and remain operational.

We aim to process 30,000mts of scrap aluminium through the full sorting process. We have limited potential to increase beyond this level, minimum levels would depend on the economic conditions at the time

• The amount of waste (in tonnes) the facility is designed to treat.

30,000mts annually at capacity.

- **Design, layout, buildings and plant**
  - **a full description of the proposed development including:**
    - **the processes involved, including transportation to and from the site.**

Shredded aluminium scrap is delivered to site, the material is then polished and sorted into different sized fractions. The material is then sorted to remove any plastic and none aluminium present. The final stage is to sort the aluminium into 2 quality grades. One of these grades will be consumed on site the other grades as well as the majority of the residuals from the process will be sold

• layout and design of buildings, plant, operational areas, haul roads and external lighting.

Please refer to planning application documents.

Amenity and Nuisance

• The compatibility of the proposed development with existing or neighbouring land uses.

The development takes places on the current operational site on an industrial estate. A full environmental assessment has been performed as part of the application.

• **Measures to prevent and control land contamination, light pollution, noise, smell, dust, birds and vermin, litter**,

These have been addressed in the environmental management plan, Air Quality Assessment, External Lighting Design and other submitted reports and assessments.

• **Any emissions associated with the proposed operations.**

There is no melting, chemical or heating associated with this process and is therefore inert. Dust and noise have been assessed and will be controlled.

• **The impact of emissions to atmosphere of any product gasses resulting from specialist treatment/recovery processes.**

There are no emissions as a result of the process and not specialist treatment will be required.

Energy Efficiency (if relevant)

• **Explanation of how energy recovered from the incineration process will be maximised (e.g. through combined heat and power, district heating or the supply of steam / hot water to neighbouring industrial users).**

There is no incineration, melting or heating connected to this process. It is a cold sorting process and does not involve any water in the process. However, the equipment is best class technology and will be the most advanced in the UK.

• **Evidence that the proposal would or would not meet the R1 energy efficiency calculation. Resources:**

The proposals will not have any energy recovery.