

**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for  
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy**

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<b>Ref</b>	<b>Direct Line:</b>	<b>Please Ask For</b>
JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen  
Elected Member

Via email: [taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

**Council Meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. I have set out your question and my response below.

***Given Whitestone's electricity will be sold at gas linked market rates, offering no reduction to residents in household bills while profits flow to overseas investors, what concrete local benefits such as guaranteed jobs, business rates retention, or ring-fenced community funding will the council demand for residents to justify supporting the scheme in any form?***

I can advise that the applicant has suggested that there will be a community fund available should the Development Consent Order (DCO) be approved. No details of this have been submitted to date and the local planning authority cannot demand any form of community funding to enable support for the scheme as it is not considered necessary in planning terms.

The local planning authorities' role in considering a National Significant Infrastructure Project is limited to that as a statutory consultee and the submission of a local impact report.

The Planning Inspectorate, as the decision maker, will consider any proposal put forward by the developer as part of a legal agreement or the DCO.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams  
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**