#  19th May 2017

**LATEST STEP FOR HARTHILL SHALE PROJECT**

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has today ruled that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will not be required for INEOS’ proposed vertical exploration core well at its Common Road site near Harthill.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has today confirmed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will not be required for INEOS’ proposed vertical exploration core well at its Common Road site. Located near the village of Harthill, the site will now be subject to a full planning application for a vertical coring well to evaluate the local geology.

The decision by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is consistent with the rules and regulations for temporary developments of this nature.

INEOS Shale will submit a detailed planning application for the coring well which will include an Environmental Report addressing, among other topics, the aspects of water environment, ecology, noise, landscape and visual effects, and cultural heritage.

Tom Pickering, INEOS Shale Operations Director said in response:

**“We are very pleased that the latest step in the process has now been completed. While we are not required to complete a formal EIA, all relative environmental concerns will be addressed as part of the application and we are looking forward to continuing to work with the Council and community to discuss these as the project moves forward.”**

**ENDS**

Notes:

INEOS believes that energy provision is currently a key issue for the UK as we close our coal and nuclear power stations. Tackling climate change will require a move away from burning fossil fuels to meet our electricity, heat, and transport needs, Renewable energy sources, improved energy efficiency are all part of the solution. With appropriate regulation and best practice, shale gas is not only compatible with tackling climate change but can be a key enabler of the transition to a low-carbon society. Extracting shale gas is not about using more fossil fuels, but displacing coal, and using our own gas rather than imports, to deliver decarbonisation in the most effective manner available. Indigenous gas has a 10% lower GHG impact than imported gas, whether via ship-borne LNG or via pipeline (MacKay and Stone 2013).

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