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Agenda Item 3

Dear Mr Cashmore,

Thank you for your question at the Scrutiny Committee meeting of Monday 8th November.

With regards to your question on planning enforcement and conditions, I have been informed by Officers that the Council is looking at all conditions with regards to Anaerobic Digester plants. Officers will collect evidence to help monitor conditions, although the monitoring of conditions will also be reliant on the capacity within the team. As such managers will need to agree what conditions should be monitored more formally. With regards the wider issue of planning enforcement, you may also be interested to read the recent Scrutiny Committee report on Planning Enforcement, attached with this email, published in September.

In terms of business rates, Officers inform me that the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are responsible for calculating the 'rateable value' of anaerobic digester plants. Officers will report what could be considered to be a 'material change of circumstances' and the VOA will review as required.

In terms of production reports, anaerobic digesters supply information as and when required by conditions set out in the planning application.

As you may be aware, at the Scrutiny Committee meeting the Committee voted in favour of a review of the bio-energy industry. (Please see the minutes and agreement [here](#)). I will now write to my Scrutiny counterparts in the District to seek their involvement in this inquiry, which will examine the business structure, funding, history and impacts of the Bio Energy Industry in Devon including the history of Planning applications.

Thank you for your question, and please do let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cllr Barry Warren,

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