**Aurora Energy Resources – Proposed Great Altcar Exploration site – Press release**

Aurora Energy Resources have applied to Lancashire County Council for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion relating to their proposals to develop an exploration wellsite for hydrocarbons (oil and gas) on a site off Sutton's Lane, Great Altcar.

A scoping opinion request is made in order to obtain a formal opinion from the local planning authority (in this case Lancashire County Council) as to the topic areas that should be included within any Environmental Impact Assessment that may be undertaken by Aurora as part of a future planning application for an exploration wellsite at Great Altcar. The scoping opinion will assist Aurora in ensuring that any Environmental Impact Assessment covers all relevant environmental issues. Carrying out of an Environmental Impact Assessment is a requirement of many major development proposals to ensure that sufficient information is submitted with planning applications for such development to allow their likely impacts to be properly assessed.

The proposed development for which the scoping request is made is for the construction of a drilling compound, drilling and coring of two boreholes, hydraulic fracturing and flow testing of each borehole. The first borehole would be vertical with the second including a horizontal section approximately 1500 metres long in its lower part. The works would take approximately 2 years from commencement to site restoration.

As part of the scoping process, the County Council have to consult a range of consultees, the responses from which are collated to inform the scoping opinion provided by the County Council. The County Council have five weeks to issue the scoping opinion unless a longer period is agreed with Aurora.

There is no requirement to consult the public on scoping requests. Full consultation including advertising the proposal in the local press would be undertaken should a planning application be made for the site.

Aurora Energy Resources hold a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL 164) covering this area of Lancashire. The licence, issued by the Oil and Gas Authority grants general rights to explore for and extract oil and gas within the licence area. However, planning permission is still required from the County Council for specific drilling sites. Aurora undertook a 3D seismic survey of part of PEDL 164 in summer 2016 as part of their licence requirements .