

MAYOR REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO NORTH SOUTH INTERCONNECTOR

The SDLP Mayor of Armagh City and District Council Councillor Thomas O'Hanlon has reaffirmed his opposition to the proposed North South Interconnector by Northern Ireland Electricity and Eirgrid. The Mayor met with representatives of the SEAT Pressure group in the Council Offices this week.

Speaking after the meeting, Mayor O'Hanlon said, 'The proposal by Northern Ireland Electricity and Eirgrid to construct the North South Electricity Interconnector must and will be fought by every community along the proposed route, from Moy to Meath. Armagh City and District Council have placed on record their complete opposition to these proposals and we will continue to do so. We have called on Northern Ireland Electricity and Eirgrid to listen to the calls of local communities and underground these cables.'

'SEAT have been doing a tremendous job from they took the battle to NIE and Eirgrid and in recent weeks we have seen the formation of more localised action groups to ensure that every voice is heard. On taking office as Mayor, I contacted the group to offer my continued support and hope that we can work together in the year ahead to defeat NIE and Eirgrid.'

'I have attended meetings across the area over the last number of months and would support the continued formation of the smaller action groups. NIE are on the verge of lodging their planning application for this ludicrous project and we need to ensure that everyone has the chance to have their voices heard. People need to make their official objections when the process begins and the local action groups are vital to coordinating this major public effort.'

'I want to commend the SEAT Action for their works to date and look forward to working with them and their outreach groups in the year ahead.'