

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Letters-Consider-options-for-power.6217629.jp>

PORT of Leith Housing Association is the largest provider of affordable housing in Leith and a full supporter of the plans to regenerate Leith Docks as a place where people will be proud to live, work and enjoy themselves in the future. We also support the principle of more renewable energy being provided for our customers in future.

However, we do have real concerns about the current proposal being put forward by Forth Energy to build a large-scale energy plant in the middle of the Docks. The sheer scale as we understand it is likely to overwhelm and dominate much around it.

Other European cities which have operated biomass power plants very successfully have found that these tend to work best where the scale is somewhat smaller (i.e. no greater than about half the size of the current proposal).

For these reasons, the proposal as it stands raises a number of questions. For example, has consideration been given to alternative locations within Leith? We would like to know why there is a need for a plant on this scale, which must not be allowed to dominate the spectacular Edinburgh waterfront setting.

Finally, we would be interested in understanding more about the financial case for siting this plant here and to understand the evidence to demonstrate that there would be no adverse impacts on the health of local residents from the potential noise and emissions from the power plant.

Once we have this information, we can form a clearer and more definitive view of the proposal. In the meantime, we look forward to working with our community planning partners, including Forth Ports and the council.

*Keith Anderson, chief executive, Port of Leith Housing Association, Constitution Street, Edinburgh*