A.2 – APPENDIX D

<u>Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee</u>

Visit to Haltermann Carless – Oil Refinery – 19 August 2025

Haltermann Carless:

Keith Mead – Sustainibility Manager
Cathy Theobald – HR Business Partner
Sean Beaumont – Site Manager

TDC:

Councillor Graham Steady – Chairman of Community Leadership O&S Committee
Bill Davidson – Member of the Community Leadership O&S Committee and Chairman of the Council
Keith Simmons – Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support)
Katie Koppenaal – Democratic Services Officer

Overview

In operation since 1964, the Haltermann Carless manufacturing centre in Harwich specialises in hydrocarbon-based products. The facility plays a vital role in producing solvents, fuel additives, and high-performance fuels tailored for niche applications such as racing, engine development, and historic vehicles. One of the unique qualities of this particular site is that they are accessible via water (jetty), rail and road, meaning they can offer flexibility in their services.

The manufacturing centre is equipped with advanced distillation and blending technologies, enabling both large-scale and precision production:

- **Batch Distillation Units**: Two units that can operate independently or in tandem, offering flexible processing modes (continuous or semi-continuous) with capacities of $45m^3$ and $90m^3$ respectively.
- **Continuous Condensate Distillation**: A four-column system designed to fractionate North Sea gas condensates and similar hydrocarbon streams, with throughput up to 30 metric tons per hour.
- **High Vacuum Distillation**: A specialized three-column plant for processing heavy aromatic feedstocks and specialty gas oils at low temperatures to minimize degradation.
- **Blending Facilities**: Tailored blending for high-performance fuels and custom formulations based on client specifications.

- **Laboratory Services**: On-site analytical labs ensure quality control and compliance with industry standards and can analyse virtually anything.

Operation and staffing:

- **Staff:** The Harwich Centre employs a dedicated team of 115 site-based personnel.
- **Apprenticeships:** The organisation maintains a robust apprenticeship programme, with a strong track record of retaining apprentices upon completion.
- **Education:** Strategic partnerships with higher education institutions, including Colchester Sixth Form College, support ongoing investment in developing future industry professionals.
- **Location:** The Harwich site is adjacent to Freeport East, a UK government-backed economic zone supporting green transition and job creation.

Haltermann Carless is actively advancing its sustainability agenda through several innovative projects, one of which includes the development of biocrude and green hydrogen technologies.

While the term "Biocrude" isn't explicitly detailed in public sources, Haltermann Carless is clearly focused on low-carbon fuel innovation, and the biocrude effort appears to be part of a broader strategy that includes:

Green Hydrogen Collaboration:

- **Partnership with RWE**: Haltermann Carless signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RWE to develop a green hydrogen plant at the Harwich facility.
- **Electrolyser Development**: The plant will use electrolysis to produce clean hydrogen, helping decarbonize fuel production and industrial processes.
- **Site Integration**: The hydrogen plant will be built on Haltermann Carless's existing industrial site, supporting its fuel additives and agrochemical production.

Sustainable Fuels & Biocrude Potential:

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)**: The Harwich site is being positioned to produce SAF, which often involves biocrude as a feedstock.
- **Carbon Reduction Goals**: The company aims to reduce CO_2 emissions and shift its product portfolio toward renewable and sustainable hydrocarbons.

Impact:

- The project is expected to generate local employment, supply chain opportunities, and regional economic growth.