



Planning Policy Committee – 16 September 2013

Development of Energy Policy : Update

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the work to develop energy policy, including the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document relating to energy

1.0 Information

- 1.1 On 22nd October 2012, Planning Policy Committee gave approval for consultants to be appointed to undertake some landscape sensitivity work for the District relating to wind energy. In early 2013, consultants were appointed to investigate this and also to consider solar energy. This work was primarily aimed at helping to facilitate the determination of the increasing number of energy-related planning applications for wind and solar. In addition, the work was to potentially lead to the preparation of an energy supplementary planning document (SPD).
- 1.2 Members considered the draft work of the landscape sensitivity study at a workshop earlier this year; and there was then a further informal member workshop to consider the matters to be covered by a possible energy policy.
- 1.3 The aim for the proposed SPD will be to set out considerations that developers would be expected to adhere to when submitting applications for energy-related development. Following the discussions about the matters to be covered by an energy policy central government issued new planning guidance on low carbon energy. The Planning Practice Guidance Note for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy was published by DCLG on the 29th July 2013. This can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-practice-guidance-for-renewable-energy> This document will play an important part towards informing the SPD and it is anticipated that the SPD could now cover a variety of potential energy-related development, rather than focusing solely on wind and solar energy. It may, for example cover such issues as energy from biomass and water..
- 1.4 Members are therefore now requested to consider whether they want the SPD to cover a wider range of energy related development. If so, it is proposed to appoint a consultant (using the existing approved budget) to finalise this work, due to current officer commitments/ officer resource issues.
- 1.5 In order to ensure that the drafting of the SPD progresses with member input, it is proposed that consideration be given to establishing a specific working group. It is envisaged that an initial meeting will be held, once further research has been undertaken by the consultant, in order to agree the detailed scope of the SPD. Any follow-up meetings would then be held, as required. The following sets out the envisaged timescale for SPD preparation:

Appointment of consultant	September 2013
Prepare consultation draft SPD	October – Dec. 2013
Planning Policy Committee	December 2013 or January 2014
Consult on draft SPD	January 2013 (6 weeks)
Consider responses/amend SPD	March 2014
SPD approved by Planning Policy Committee	April 2014

2.0 Conclusion

This report is presented for Members' information and to seek support for the continued work on the SPD preparation. In addition, a decision is required about establishing a specific working group.

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.0 Risk Management

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Funding for a consultant is already contained within existing budget.

7.0 Corporate Outcomes

7.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:

- Good quality of life: Sustainable development, Strong communities, High quality built environment
- Effective partnership working
- Strong community leadership
- Effective management

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Members are requested to support:

- the continued preparation of an SPD on energy requirements and to broaden the scope of the energy developments covered by the SPD and
- to establish a working group to assist with this work.

(Reason – to provide a planning guidance document for potential energy developers)

Legal	Power: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767)				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers:					
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Date: 27 August 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	