

APPENDIX 1 - PLANNING POLICY BACKGROUND

Introduction

- A1 The Statutory Development Plan is indicated to be of paramount importance under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In terms of this proposal, Barnsley's current Statutory Development Plan consists of the Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and the remaining saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan along with other Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The Core Strategy and DPDs both form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) that will gradually replace the UDP and related Supplementary Planning Guidance as the Statutory Development Plan. The Regional Spatial Strategy, published 2008 (RSS) for Yorkshire and Humberside remains part of the statutory development plan for the district following a recent ruling by the High Court and despite its earlier revocation on 6th July 2010 by Rt. Hon, Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It will continue in force for the time being until such time that it is legally revoked under new legislation. Material contained in the RSS in particular policies relating to renewable energy targets and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are important material planning considerations and local planning authorities should continue to attach significant weight to these matters when considering planning application
- A.2 The most relevant national planning policy and guidance is **PPS22 "Renewable Energy"** and its companion guide, "Planning for Renewable Energy". However, consideration has also been given to other policy and guidance that is relevant to certain aspects of this proposal. This includes:
- PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development;
 - PPS1 Supplement – Planning and Climate Change;
 - PPG2 Green Belts;
 - PPS4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth;
 - PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment;
 - PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas;
 - PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation;
 - PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control;
 - PPG24 Planning and Noise

Energy Policy

- A3 It is also important to stress that there are also other material policy considerations relevant to this application found in various national energy policy documents. These indicate a strong positive policy favouring wind power and other forms of renewable energy in the UK. This is largely motivated by the Government's international agreements on the reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases,

and the national and local targets that have been identified for achievement by 2010 and 2020.

- A4 The Energy White Paper (2007) confirms the requirement for 10% of UK electricity to come from renewable energy by 2010 with an aspiration to double this by 2020. The new PPS 1 supplement on Climate Change builds on this and challenged Regional Spatial Strategies to set targets for renewable energy capacity in line with national targets (see paragraph 2.3.3 below).
- A5 In April 2011 the Renewable Energy Foundation published a report entitled Renewable Output in 2010. The report uses data provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and data made available as part of Ofgem's reporting of subsidy claims under the Renewable Obligation. It concludes that the UK failed to reach its 10% renewable electricity target for 2010 producing only 6.5% of electricity from renewable sources – a major shortfall of 35% and putting extreme pressure on the delivery of targets for 2021.
- A6 In 2009 the British Wind Energy Association (BEWA) compiled a detailed review of the state of progress towards the 2010 renewable energy targets adopted by the English regions and the aggregate 'English' target. It found that with the exception of London all the English regions were unlikely to meet their onshore wind targets by 2010. In fact at the time the report was completed in April 2009 only half of the aggregate onshore target had been achieved. This failure to meet the 2010 target puts great pressure on all parties concerned including electricity generating companies, landowners and developers, Central Government and Local Planning Authorities to deliver more renewable capacity more effectively and more efficiently.
- A7 Wind energy has the potential to be delivered in a shorter timescale than other forms of clean or renewable energy such as biomass, hydroelectric and combined heat and power. Traditionally, these have a much longer lead in time and as such are unlikely to have a significant impact on reducing emissions in the short term. Therefore it is of paramount importance that every opportunity is taken to accelerate the development of wind energy projects over the next few years to maximise benefits and help ease the pressure on the delivery of the 2020 targets.
- A8 Delivery of these targets will lead to wider economic and environmental benefits, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, provision of a secure and diverse energy supply for businesses and residents and reduced instances of fuel poverty.
- A9 On 1st April 2010 the Government introduced new Feed in Tariffs (FITs) to encourage more individuals and small business to invest in small to medium scale renewable technologies such as wind turbines and solar electricity. The aim being to accelerate the delivery of energy from renewable sources and speed up the delivery of national and regional targets.

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humberside May 2008 (RSS)

- A10 Currently the regions energy needs are predominantly met by burning fossil fuels. However, the Yorkshire and Humberside Region has some of the most extensive

possibilities for renewable energy generation in the UK, including electricity generation from wind power

- A11 The Region has a history of providing power and although there is a limited installed renewable energy supply, Policy ENV5 (Energy) of the RSS states that it has the potential to generate more and that most of this renewable energy targeted at regional, sub regional and Local Authority level would come from wind turbines and biomass for co-firing in the power stations. The purpose of policy EN5 is to increase energy efficiency through passive design, better use of existing power sources and other measures and to increase installed renewable energy in the Region so that renewable energy supplies contribute to the Government targets for energy generation from these sources. These targets include installed renewable energy capacity and their delivery will lead to wider economic and environmental benefits, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, provision of a scarce and diverse energy supply for business and residents and reduced instances of fuel poverty.

- A12 The regional and local targets for onshore renewable energy are as follows:

	2010			2021
	Target	Actual*1	%	Target
YH Region	468MW	183MW	39.10%	1862MW
Barnsley	15MW	n/a	n/a	34MW

Table1 : RSS Onshore Renewable Energy Targets Note 1: Actual figures at are at April 2009 from BEWA's England Regional Renewable Energy Targets: Progress Report.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

- A13 The Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2006-2015 provides strong support for the development of renewable energy and has set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It specifically promotes "energy security and reduced fossil fuel dependency by more energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy generation." It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20-25% by 2015 promoting and supporting a wide range of initiatives including increasing the regions capacity for generating electricity from wind and biomass. It is anticipated that the regional renewable energy targets contained in the RSS shall continue to be viewed as a material planning consideration when determining planning applications.
- A14 The RES also supports the development and diversification of the rural economy and recognises that a strong rural economy can only be achieved through targeted investment and by "helping rural businesses to prosper and grow". Investment in renewable energy is an important part of this process. The introduction of successful initiatives such as the Low Carbon Building Programme and the Farm Resource Efficiency Programme show the region's commitment in this respect.

National Planning Policy and Guidance

- A15 PPS22 is the key national policy document to be taken into account in the consideration of this proposed development. Indeed, together with its companion guide, "Planning for Renewable Energy", PPS22 sets out clearly the Government's approach to renewable energy.
- A16 It represents the Government's most recent guide on renewable energy and provides considerable support to the greater harnessing of renewable energy sources, particularly wind energy, indicating that it is vital to facilitating the delivery of the Government's international commitments on both climate change and renewable energy. Considerable emphasis is placed on the need for renewable energy development and in most cases this national need should take precedence over local factors that may weigh against a proposal.
- A17 Paragraph 1 of PPS22 identifies the key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities are expected to adhere to in their approach to planning for renewable energy:
- Renewable energy development should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and the environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.
 - The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.
 - Regional planning bodies and Local Planning Authorities should not make assumptions about the technical and commercial viability of renewable energy projects. Development proposals should demonstrate that any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental, economic or social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

Ministerial Guidance

- A18 On 23rd March 2011 the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP issued a ministerial statement entitled 'Planning for Growth'. The statement outlines the Government's proposal to reform the planning system to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs. It introduces a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development and requires local planning authorities to plan positively for new development and to deal promptly and favourably with planning applications that comply with up to date national planning policy. When determining applications local planning authorities are obliged to have regard to all relevant considerations to support economic recovery including energy, environmental, transport and heritage consents. They should support enterprise and give appropriate weight to economic, environmental and social benefits of proposals; including long term or indirect benefits such as increased consumer choice, more viable communities and more robust economies (which may where relevant include matters such as job creation and business productivity. This statement is highly relevant to renewable energy developments.

Local Development Plan

- A19 The Core Strategy (adopted September 2011) forms part of The Local Development Plan. This sets out the council's vision for the future development of Barnsley over the next 15 to 20 years and is the principal, overarching document in the LDF. with particularly relevance to renewable energy. CSP 1(Cimate Change) states that development will be expected to reduce and mitigate the impact of growth on the environment and carbon emissions through sustainable construction techniques and the use of renewable energy.
- A20 CSP6(Development that Produces Renewable Energy) states that the council will allow development that produces renewable energy as long as there is no significantly harmful effect on biodiversity,geodiversity and water quality;historical and cultural features and areas; infrastructure including radar; highway safety and the character of the landscape and appearance of the area. Undulating landscapes,such as those in the West of the Borough, can increase the prominence of turbines.Careful consideration will need to be given to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate turbines,the ability to mitigate visual intrusion and the cumulative impacts of individual sites when they are grouped rather than dispersed.
- A21 CSP21(Rural Economy) will encourage a viable rural economy by allowing development in rural areas if this supports the sustainable diversification and development of the rural economy; or results in the growth and support of existing businesses.Development in these rural areas will be expected to be of a scale proportionate to the size and role of the settlement and not have a harmful impact on the countryside,biodiversity,green belt, landscape or local character of the area.
- A22 CSP29 (Design) states that high quality development will be expected that respects topography,Green infrastructure network,important habitats and other natural features such as views and vistas to key buildings,landmarks,skylines and gateways into Barnsley town centre development.This policy sets design principles to ensure that development is appropriate to its context and that good design can play a vital role in supporting economic and physical regeneration.
- A23 CSP34 (Protection of Green Belt) adheres to national policy guidance PPG2 that requires very special circumstances to justify setting aside local and national policy
- A24 CSP36 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) expects developments to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the Borough by protecting habitats,species,sites of ecological value and geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and sites of international and national and local significance , ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance . Development that may harm a biodiversity or geological feature will not be permitted unless effective mitigation measures can be ensured
- A25 CSP37.(Landscape Character). Development will be expected to retain the character and distinctiveness of the individual landscape character area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002) All new development should be in keeping with the surrounding landscape and reflect the character,materials and details of the local area.Particular attention will be paid to development in prominent positions, for example, by waterside

locations, within Conservation Areas and on the edge of towns and villages where it is important to maintain a clear distinction between urban area and the countryside and to ensure that development is not obtrusive in the skyline.

- A26 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are currently being prepared to supplement some of the Core strategy policies and provide guidance for planning applications.