



Socio-Economic Statement

Planning Application for the Development of Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park (comprising a Timber Resource Recovery Centre and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility) Including Associated Infrastructure

Land off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley

Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited



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Project:	CRM.066.001
Location:	Land off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley
For:	Peel Environmental Management (UK) Ltd
Status:	FINAL
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14.0 Introduction

Introduction

- 14.1 This Socio-Economic Statement accompanies a planning application made by Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited on behalf of Houghton Main Waste Limited (**Peel**) for the works necessary to develop a Renewable Energy Park (**REP**) on land off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley.
- 14.2 The proposed development represents an opportunity to implement a sustainable energy generation strategy which will contribute to reducing reliance on electricity from fossil fuels.
- 14.3 The site was historically part of the Houghton Main Colliery Site. The colliery was subsequently open cast mined by UK Coal in the late 1990s. Open casting was completed and the land was reclaimed and compacted to provide a platform suitable for industrial development.
- 14.4 The use of this brownfield site for a sustainable energy recovery park would be a sustainable development. The proposed development will contribute to reductions in CO2 emissions on previously developed land suitable for redevelopment.
- 14.5 The REP will accommodate two separate facilities which will generate energy from organic waste wood and food which otherwise may be sent to landfill for disposal. The facilities will together generate up to 23MW of electricity, which is enough to power up to 55,000 homes.
- 14.6 This Socio-Economic Statement assesses the potential socio-economic impacts arising as a result of the development. It is to consider the positive and negative effects resulting from the proposed development on the day to day life of communities in the surrounding area. For example, new employment would provide positive economic benefits.
- 14.7 The area covered by the planning application is shown on Drawing PL 002, Section 10 of the Planning Application.

Policy Context

- 14.8 This section of the Statement considers the relevant socio-economic policy framework. Firstly, it will examine the overall national energy policy, and then go on to discuss:
 - a) Economic policy and documents at national and local level; and
 - b) Social and community policy and documents at national and local level.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 14.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

“.....sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations”
- 14.10 The NPPF goes on to state that there are three dimensions to sustainable development. Two of which are relevant to the development proposals:

“contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time support

growth and innovation; and by identifying and co-ordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

14.11 A social role:

“Supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support is health, social and cultural well-being”

14.12 One of the main aims of the NPPF is to promote healthy communities. *“The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities”*. Involving local communities is pivotal in achieving this.

14.13 The proposed REP will create a secure low carbon energy development to make a direct contribution towards the Government’s Climate Change objectives. It is important to note that there is a need for renewable energy developments in relation to both demand and the achievement of the Governments Climate change objectives.

14.14 The Biomass Strategy acknowledges the important of fuels sourced from biomass in tackling climate change. Biomass will have a central role to play in meeting the EU target of 20% renewable energy by 2020.

Planning Practice Guidance

14.15 On the 6th March 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched planning practice guidance web-based resource. This is accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement which includes a list of the previous planning practice guidance documents cancelled when the site was launched.

14.16 Paragraph 1 of the planning practice guidance states that;

“Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses”

14.17 Paragraph 3 states;

“Local and neighbourhood plans are the key to delivering development that has the backing of local communities. When drawing up a Local Plan local planning authorities should first consider what the local potential is for renewable and low carbon energy generation. In considering that potential, the matters local planning authorities should think about include:

- *the range of technologies that could be accommodated and the policies needed to encourage their development in the right places;*
- *the costs of many renewable energy technologies are falling, potentially increasing their attractiveness and the number of proposals;*
- *different technologies have different impacts and the impacts can vary by place;*
- *the UK has legal commitments to cut greenhouse gases and meet increased energy demand from renewable sources. Whilst local authorities should design their policies*

to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development, there is no quota which the Local Plan has to deliver”

14.18 Paragraph 5 states;

“There are no hard and fast rules about how suitable areas for renewable energy should be identified, but in considering locations, local planning authorities will need to ensure they take into account the requirements of the technology and, critically, the potential impacts on the local environment, including from cumulative impacts. The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to”

Climate Change

14.19 Paragraph 1 states;

“In addition to supporting the delivery of appropriately sited green energy, effective spatial planning is an important part of a successful response to climate change as it can influence the emission of greenhouse gases. In doing so, local planning authorities should ensure that protecting the local environment is properly considered alongside the broader issues of protecting the global environment. Planning can also help increase resilience to climate change impact through the location, mix and design of development”

Local Economic Policy

14.20 The Core Strategy is a fundamental element of Barnsley’s Local Development Framework. The Barnsley Core Strategy was adopted in September 2011. It sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Barnsley. The document reflects the Council’s hopes and aims for the people who live, work, run businesses and enjoy leisure in Barnsley. It is the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

14.21 The Core Strategy states that the challenge for Barnsley is as follows;

- *“Developing the Barnsley economy to meet local needs and to provide local jobs opportunities;*
- *Reducing serious levels of worklessness and encouraging the transition from a low skill/low wage economy to a higher skill/higher wage economy;*
- *Maintaining sustainable rural communities and viable villages;*

The Current Position

- *85,000 jobs are currently based in the borough (not all of these jobs are filled by people from Barnsley)*
- *Barnsley’s Growth Plan described the position where Barnsley was (and is still believed to be) under performing economically in comparison with South Yorkshire and the wider region.*

Policy solutions

- *Ensure provision of a wide range of employment locations, land and premises*

- *Accommodating a range of employment generating use, including work from/ at home, within the fabric of settlements, particularly in or adjacent to the centre of the settlements”*

14.22 Policy CSP39 of the Barnsley Core Strategy is related to contaminated and unstable land. The proposed REP constitutes re-use of contaminated land. The proposals are designed to ensure that the risk of future pollution is minimised. The regeneration of a colliery site is a difficult task as it can result in pollutants and instability of land. Providing a waste to energy facility will provide a sustainable use on this previously developed land.

Methodology

Relevant Guidance

- 14.23 There is currently no formal guidance or regulation setting out the preferred method or content for an assessment of potential community and social impacts. This preliminary study has been prepared using specialist knowledge and professional experience gained from carrying out studies in respect of other projects.
- 14.24 This study has been informed primarily by the Census 2011, and supplemented by a range of additional data sources. The baseline conditions for the present proposal have partly been investigated through data from the 2011 Census, and partly from other sources such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- 14.25 The socio-economic statement is based broadly on the collection of available desk-based information, results of stakeholder feedback and a thorough qualitative assessment of a range of social and economic indicators.
- 14.26 The most relevant tables from the 2011 Census were identified in order to provide a comprehensive picture of current economic conditions within the study area. Relevant tables include those containing data outside the economic study area, for example on population, health and long-term illness, education, car ownership and mode of travel to work. These were considered either to provide appropriate background information or to detail further economic data.
- 14.27 A consideration of socio-economic impacts needs to clarify the type, duration, spatial extent and distribution of potential impacts. To this extent the methodology of the assessment is to establish:
- The assessment criteria;
 - The area of study;
 - The timescale over which the assessment will consider potential impacts;
 - Establish the baseline and assess changes resulting from the construction phases of the development; and
 - Establish and assess changes resulting from the operational phase of the development.
 - In defining the criteria or aspects that will be considered by the study, the socio-economic assessment covers the following aspects:
 - Population;

- Land-use;
- Employment;
- Economic activity;
- Unemployment;
- Transport and infrastructure; and
- Leisure and tourism.

Study Area

- 14.28 The boundary of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) constitutes the study area. BMBC has a population 231,221. The Houghton Main site lies on the former colliery land off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring, Houghton Main, Barnsley at National Grid Reference SE 41696, 06515.

Assessment of Significance

- 14.29 The potential and residual impacts are assessed in accordance with the following terminology:
- Neutral: No significant effects.
 - Minor: Noteworthy or material- impacts are of low magnitude and frequency and will not exceed relevant quality standards, residual effects will be negligible;
 - Moderate: Impacts are of moderate magnitude and frequency. Relevant quality standards may be exceeded to limited extent. Possible secondary impacts, residual effects will be minimal.
 - Major: Impacts are likely to be of a high magnitude and frequency with quality standards being exceeded, at times considerably. There may secondary impacts of some magnitude; residual effects will be some significance.
- 14.30 Substantial: Impacts will be of a consistently high magnitude and frequency with standards exceeded by a significant margin.
- 14.31 All levels of significance identified above apply to both adverse and beneficial effects. Where an effect is described as 'neutral' this means that there is no effect or that the significance of any effect is considered to be negligible.
- 14.32 The duration of an impact can affect its significance. For example, if an impact is permanent, the impact upon the local economy is more sustained and therefore likely to be more significant than a temporary impact. However, the duration and significance level are not always intrinsically linked. For example, an impact might be of major significance, even if its effect was only temporary.

Baseline

- 14.33 In order to consider the economic impacts resulting from the proposed development, it is first necessary to assemble the baseline information for the area in order for a comparison to be made.

Population Structure

- 14.34 Census data gathered in 2011 shows that, the Barnsley area has an estimated population of 231,221. Its working age population, at 59.1%, is marginally lower than the UK average at 62.1%.

	Barnsley	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Total Population	231,221	5,283,733	53, 012,456
Working Age Population (%)	59.1%	60.0%	62.1%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 census data

Economic Activity

- 14.35 In 2011 Barnsley also had a lower than England average economic activity rate in employment (66.5% are economically active and 33.5% economically inactive). The unemployment rate for Barnsley was higher than the UK average in 2011.

	Economically Active	In Employment	Employees	Self Employed	Unemployed
Barnsley	66.5%	59.1%	14.6%	7.7%	5.1%
Yorkshire and Humber	68.4%	60.0%	14.6%	8.4%	4.8%
England	69.9%	62.1%	13.7%	9.8%	4.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 census data

- 14.36 The latest release from the office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that the number of people claiming jobseekers allowance has risen by 291 (9.6%). It now means that there are 3, 032 people claiming benefits whilst looking for work in Barnsley.

General Health and Limiting Long Term Illness

- 14.37 Data in the Census on health is based on Census respondents' self-assessment of health, or of other people in their care. The results are therefore subjective. Nevertheless, on aggregate these data should provide a reasonably accurate picture of the relative health of different parts of the borough. The data should be read in the context of figures for economic activity and unemployment, which are dealt with below.
- 14.38 At the time of the Census, 34.2% of England enjoyed good health. Percentages are slightly lower for BMBC (33.6%), which again is higher than the trend for the Yorkshire & Humber

region (34.4%). 1.2% of the population in England described themselves as being in “not good health”, a figure which was higher for Barnsley (1.8%).

Industry

14.39 Data on employment by sector are taken from the 2011 Census. The table below shows the local authority areas industry profiles within the study area.

	Barnsley	Yorkshire and Humber	England
In Employment	59.1%	60.0%	62.1%
Employee: Part-time	14.6%	14.6%	13.7%
Employee: Full-time	36.9%	37.0%	38.6%
Self-employed	7.7%	8.4%	9.8%

	Barnsley	Yorkshire and Humber	England
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%
Mining and quarrying	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Manufacturing	12.6%	11.2%	8.8%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%
Construction	10.7%	8.0%	7.7%

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	17.5%	16.9%	15.9%
Transport and storage	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%
Accommodation and food service activities	4.5%	5.7%	5.6%
Information and communication	2.1%	2.5%	4.1%
Financial and insurance activities	2.3%	3.7%	4.4%
Real estate activities	1.1%	1.2%	1.5%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.7%	5.0%	6.7%
Administrative and support service activities	5.3%	4.6%	4.9%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5.7%	5.9%	5.9%
Education	9.1%	10.1%	9.9%
Human health and social work activities	13.7%	13.4%	12.4%
Other	4.1%	4.4%	5.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 census data

- 14.40 The table indicates that Barnsley has a high proportion of people working in manufacturing, construction, distribution hotel and restaurant, the public sector, and transport and communications industries.

Qualifications

- 14.41 Data for qualifications are taken from 2011 Census. Levels 1 and 2 represent GCSEs or equivalent, Level 3 'A' levels and Levels 4/5 degree level and above. The relatively small figures for Level 3 reflect the fact that many young people who have taken 'A' levels then go on to higher education of some kind.
- 14.42 Compared with the national average (13.3%), BMBC has a much higher proportion of residents with the highest level (level 4/5) of qualifications (17.4%). It also has a high level of residents without any qualifications (32.3%), compared to the English average (22.5%).

Travel to Work

- 14.43 Data on this topic are taken from 2011 Census. In England, approximately 36.9% of people travelled to work by car or van at the time of the 2011 Census. This figure is reflected in Barnsley, with 41.5% of people driving a car or van to work. Travel by train has a very low rate of 1.2% compared to England (3.5%). 3,516 people in Barnsley work from home or use the home as a base from which to work.

Summary of Baseline Conditions

- 14.44 The data discussed above show that on a number of significant indicators, particularly the economic activity rates, unemployment, occupational structures, and qualification, Barnsley is generally 'average' in terms of its economic status.
- 14.45 The local economy is made up of employment in manufacturing, education, health care and the retail sector. There is also a large proportion of small enterprises including freelance and consultancy. This is highlighted by the high percentage of the population who work within occupational groups 1-4 (Managers and Senior Officials, Professional Occupations, Associate Prof and Tech Occupations and Admin and Secretarial Occupations).
- 14.46 In addition, it is clear that the majority of those who are resident in Barnsley work within the local area. This is reflected by the very low numbers that travel by train and the short distances of travel to work.

Assessments of Effects

- 14.47 As is nearly always the case for major developments, impacts are considered at both the construction and operational stages.

Construction Phase

- 14.48 Construction of the proposed development is likely to take up to 24-30 months and will generate approximately 200 temporary jobs. It is expected that the majority of jobs are likely to be secured locally and Peel will work with technology contractors to achieve this. Due to the short term nature of this phase, the number of jobs generated is considered to have a minor benefit to employment levels and the local economy.

- 14.49 In terms of economic impacts, the sourcing and transportation of labour, materials and plant, to and from the plant site, is likely to lead to opportunities for local companies to capture sub-contractor roles.
- 14.50 There will also be a number of jobs created as an 'indirect' effect from the construction phase. The multiplier effect (indirect and induced employment) would include additional expenditure on local goods and services. This in turn will have an impact in terms of additional revenue brought into local businesses and potential employment creation that is likely to result from this extra trade and spending on accommodation, food, drink, and transport by employees.
- 14.51 The number of lorry movements generated during construction is unknown at this stage, however the Transport Assessment identifies that projects of a similar nature generate 140 (70 in, 70 out) lorry movements per day during peak construction. Any social impacts deriving from this activity will be considered and mitigated against. Mitigation measures may typically include limiting hours of operation, establishing the more appropriate vehicle route to and from the strategic road network and dust mitigation through wheel washing.

Operational Phase

- 14.52 The expected operational lifetime of the facility is 25 years. It is estimated that there will be a requirement for 30 full time staff to operate and maintain the two facilities. During the operational phase staff will be required at various levels, consisting of management, administration, technicians, labourers, and plant operators.
- 14.53 A variety of skills will be required to operate the plant effectively and to appropriate standards, however it is not the case that relevant skills will necessarily have to have been acquired in the waste industry. To a great extent, skills can be transferred from other industries where appropriate. It is therefore unlikely that the requirements of the proposed development, in terms of either numbers or skills required, will place the local labour market under any strain.

Energy Benefits

- 14.54 Manageable energy costs and improved energy resilience are key emerging requirements for the UK economy. Many businesses are becoming focused on meeting their energy demands on site or from local sources of sustainable energy supply. In this context, the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park has the clear potential to support important local businesses meet their energy needs and improve energy security.
- 14.55 As a key location near to other employment areas, the REP has the potential to act as an anchor energy development attractive in locational terms to energy intensive enterprises wishing to locate on attractive sites.
- 14.56 Another by-product is in providing local energy supply into the national grid capable of providing energy to up to 55,000 homes locally.

Mitigation

- 14.57 It is considered from the previous sections that the proposals are unlikely to have any adverse impacts on the community. Any mitigations are outlined below. Any amenity issues arising as a result of noise, odour and traffic will be fully assessed within the Environmental Statement.

Mitigation measures

- The use of local contractors for engineering services and related activities, where possible to do so;
- Careful planning of vehicle movements through a traffic management plan to minimise disruption to the local traffic during the construction period;
- Regular updates to the public and other interested parties;

Mitigation measures during the operational phase of the proposed development

- Employment of local people to fulfil long term employment roles, where possible;
- Active consideration of additional, follow-on developments to encourage wider renewable energy schemes.

- 14.58 The REP will enable long-term employment for the Houghton Main development site and will secure that the development being an important employer within the BMBC area.

Social Impacts

- 14.59 Social impacts identified for the operation phase include:

- Improved social inclusion through investment in local suppliers of organic materials such as wood and food waste;
- Related follow on developments in renewable energy schemes that could enhance follow on developments in renewable energy schemes that could enhance the socio-economic status of the region;
- Use of local labour to fill approximately 30 long-term jobs created by the development. This will therefore provide new job opportunities benefiting individuals through income and the potential to utilise local mining skills.
- Increased number of training opportunities to local people.

- 14.60 Peel has involved the public as part of the decision-making process. The proposed REP may have an economic and environmental impact to the local community, it is important to note that Peel will continue to work with the local community through consultation and participation in the project.

Community Benefits

- 14.61 The proposed REP will create long-term local jobs and also generate temporary employment, using local labour, during the construction and operational phase of the project.
- 14.62 The REP will create two distinct but compatible energy generation facilities with the potential to generate 23 megawatts (MW) of electricity 20MW from the Timber Resource Recovery

Centre (TRRC) and 3MW from the Anaerobic Digestion facility (AD) and to provide a direct heat and/or electrical supply to appropriate offtakers in the local area.

- 14.63 It is considered that the supply of organic materials such as wood and food waste from local suppliers will provide benefits to local businesses within the local community, it will also provide an overall economic benefit to the community of Barnsley and the surrounding area.
- 14.64 The AD facilities output material (digestate) can be used as a valuable bio-fertiliser rich in nitrogen and phosphorus. There may be opportunities in establishing business activities by selling material to local farmers, local energy suppliers and existing companies within the locality of Barnsley. This will therefore provide a community benefit to local businesses.

Summary and conclusions

- 14.65 It is considered that the overall impact on the REP is expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy and employment structure at a local level.
- 14.66 This Socio-economic Statement has demonstrated that the proposed development would bring a number of positive benefits to the local economy. These positive benefits include direct and indirect jobs created from the proposed development.
- 14.67 Community and social effects impacts are unlike most other topics addressed in that they deal to a great extent with matters of human behaviour where individual choice is exercised. It is not possible for example to predict with any degree of accuracy who will benefit the likely employment created by the proposed development at either the construction or operational stage- whether the jobs will be taken entirely by people in the local or whether the impact will be diffused within the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- 14.68 The overall conclusion from the study is that the Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park proposed development could have a positive economic and social impacts at both local and national levels. The Renewable Energy Park will create an up to 30 full-time jobs. This is addition to the creation of up to 200 jobs during the 2-3 years construction phase.
- 14.69 It is therefore likely that employment impact will in this case be spread over a wider area than the immediate locality. Nevertheless, in providing new employment in this part of Barnsley, any positive impact will be beneficial.



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