

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy (Introduced by the Executive Member from LDF and Planning)	Executive Cabinet	13 February 2014

RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek Member endorsement of the attached draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- It is recommended that:
 - Executive Cabinet endorses the draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Planning Document, as detailed in Appendix 1, and approves it for consultation.
 - Authority be delegated to the Executive Member for Partnerships, Planning and Policy to approve minor changes and amendments prior to the consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This report explains the purposes and objectives of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD, the broad timetable and mechanism for its approval, and the intended route to its adoption and use.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. To ensure that guidance is produced to provide advice on how the climate change and renewable and low carbon energy scheme policies as set out in the Core Strategy are to be implemented.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

BACKGROUND

7. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) offer local planning authorities the opportunity to add guidance in specific policy areas. They are documents that must be prepared in consultation with interested parties, and must be subject to a screening process to discover whether a sustainability appraisal would be required. Unlike Development Plan Documents (DPDs) SPDs do not require independent examination before they are adopted.
8. Core Strategy Policy 28 promotes the development of renewable and low carbon energy schemes whilst directing it to locations where the environmental impacts such as landscape and visual effects and noise will be minimised.
9. The SPD expands upon Core Strategy Policy 28 and provides further guidance on the implementation of this policy. Details are provided on various renewable and low carbon energy technologies, their requirements and the planning issues associated with each technology that will need to be addressed as part of any planning application. The technologies covered by the SPD are:
 - Wind turbines
 - Solar power
 - Hydropower
 - Biomass
 - Heat pumps
 - Combined heat and power
10. Guidance on each of the technologies has been brought together from a variety of sources in accordance with the NPPF and the guidance set out in Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, DCLG, July 2013.
11. In accordance with both of these documents, buffer zones or separation distances have not generally been applied as many factors need to be taken into consideration when determining whether the impact of a proposal is acceptable, not just distance though there are separation guidelines associated with the safety of wind turbines.

RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

12. Wind power has a great deal of potential in Chorley Borough. The SPD includes guidance on wind turbines ranging from small domestic turbines to large turbines up to around 150 metres in height and gives details on how applications will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection, noise, safety, ecology, air traffic and radar, electromagnetic interference and shadow flicker.
13. Solar power systems utilise light and heat from the sun to produce electricity and heat buildings. Systems range from roof mounted panels to free standing structures which can be grouped together to form solar farms. The SPD includes guidance on all sizes of solar power systems and gives details on how applications will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection, impact on agricultural land, ecology, flood risk and light reflection.
14. Hydropower uses flowing water to generate electricity and can be utilised in the Borough but there is only potential for small scale schemes. The SPD includes guidance on how applications for hydropower schemes will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection, noise, ecology and flood risk.
15. Biomass systems are used to heat homes as well as larger buildings such as schools, offices and industrial premises. On a larger scale biomass plants can be developed to produce electricity. The SPD includes guidance on how applications for biomass schemes will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection, noise, odour and transport.
16. Heat pumps are used to heat buildings by transferring heat from the ground, water or the air. The SPD includes guidance on how applications for heat pumps will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection, noise and ecology.
17. Combined Heat and Power is used to heat buildings by using the heat that is a by-product of electricity generation. Systems can range from domestic scale to large plants that are used to provide electricity and heat large developments such as universities and hospitals but there are not likely to be any developments in the Borough of this scale. The SPD includes guidance on how applications for Combined Heat and Power will be considered in terms of their landscape and visual impact, impact on sites with statutory protection and noise.
18. The SPD also highlights supplementary information that it will be necessary to submit with a planning application for any of the technologies listed above such as an Environmental Impact Assessment.

NEXT STEPS

19. Following approval for consultation, the SPD will be consulted on for a 6 week period between 31st March and 12th May 2014.
20. Following consultation, all comments and suggestions will be evaluated prior to the preparation of the final version which is intended to be placed before Members for approval at the 22nd July Council meeting for adoption.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

21. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

22. There are no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

23. There are no comments.

LESLEY-ANN FENTON

DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING AND POLICY

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Central Lancashire Core Strategy	July 2012		www.centrallancashire.com
Chorley Local Plan 2012-2026: Publication version	September 2012		www.chorley.gov.uk
Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	July 2013		www.gov.uk

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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