

	<h1>Report</h1>	Agenda Item <h1>19</h1>
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Report to:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 December 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Local Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- Inform Committee of the work undertaken to prepare the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy and the background technical reports
- Seek Committee approval of the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy
- Seek Committee approval of the South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment
- Seek Committee approval of the South Lanarkshire Local Landscape Designations.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) That Committee approve the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy.
- (2) Seek Committee approval to modify the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy to take account of minor drafting and technical matters.
- (3) That Committee approve the South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment.
- (4) That Committee approve the South Lanarkshire Local Landscape Designations.

3. Background

3.1 The adopted South Lanarkshire Local Plan contains policies in relation to wind farm developments under ENV 14, 15, 16 in Volume 1 and ENV 38 in Volume 2. Subsequent Scottish Government policy requires planning authorities to set out a spatial approach for considering wind farm proposals over 20 megawatts (MW) (equivalent to approximately 6 X 140m high turbines) and if considered appropriate for less than 20 megawatts. The Local Plan policy has therefore been developed further through this Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to address these requirements.

3.2 The preparation of the SPG has been informed by a series of background technical reports which were undertaken as a requirement of the adopted South Lanarkshire Local Plan (Policies ENV 9 and ENV 15). These are:-

- 1) South Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character Assessment
- 2) Validating Local Landscape Designations

3) Spatial Framework and Landscape Capacity for Wind Farms

- 3.3 This intervening period has also seen the publication of the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) by Scottish Government in February 2010. The consolidated SPP replaces the previous SPP and NPPG series, including SPP 6: Renewable Energy (2007).

4 Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy

- 4.1 A draft SPG was subject to a consultation period for 10 weeks, from 21 January until 31 March 2010. There were over 400 comments received from stakeholders, developers, community groups and individuals. These comments have been considered and where appropriate reflected in the SPG. A background paper to the Committee Report sets out in more detail the Council's response to the comments raised in consultation.
- 4.2 A small number of comments were received on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment associated with the SPG, and on the background technical reports. The comments have been taken into account and the necessary changes made to the documents. The Council's response to the comments is set out in more detail in a background paper to the Committee Report.
- 4.3 The final SPG contains policies to guide future renewable energy developments in South Lanarkshire. The aim of the SPG is "to accommodate renewable energy developments where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be addressed satisfactorily". With regard to wind farms it identifies broad areas of search for wind farms over 20 MW and areas of significant protection where further wind farm development will be limited. Other constraints affecting development are also identified. Furthermore the SPG sets out a comprehensive assessment checklist for renewable energy proposals.
- 4.4 The policy framework set out in the SPG was informed by the technical report Spatial Framework and Landscape Capacity for Wind Farms. The Spatial Framework applied the methodology set out in Scottish Government Guidance (PAN 45 Annex 2) which assesses in detail the constraints and opportunities for wind farm development in South Lanarkshire. This technical report is available as a background paper.
- 4.4 The SPG has been available for viewing in Members' areas prior to Committee.

5 South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment and Review of Local Landscape Designations

- 5.1 Policy ENV 9 in the adopted Local Plan states that the Council will undertake an assessment of the landscape character of the Council area and a review of related landscape designations. Two technical reports have therefore been prepared to fulfil this commitment.
- 5.2 The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) technical report provides a detailed description of the various landscape types in South Lanarkshire and sets out management guidelines for future development in these areas. The report updates and replaces the 1999 Glasgow and Clyde Valley LCA and will form the basis to inform future local planning policy and assessment of development proposals.
- 5.3 The Review of Local Landscape Designations technical report reassesses the existing landscape designations identified in the South Lanarkshire Local Plan (Regional Scenic Areas (RSA) and Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)). This was advocated in recent advice from Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland.

Six Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) have been identified which focus on the areas of highest landscape quality and value in South Lanarkshire. The SLAs supersede the RSA and AGLV designations and in due course shall be incorporated within the Local Development Plan for South Lanarkshire. In the meantime the document will provide a basis to inform assessment of development proposals. These documents were also the subject of a public consultation and review exercise along with the SPG.

6 Next Steps and Timescales

- 6.1 Following Committee approval the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy will be published. As it was prepared under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 a further period of public consultation is not required. The SPG will therefore become a material planning decision in deciding planning applications and appeals with immediate effect.
- 6.2 The Landscape Character Assessment and Local Landscape Designations also become Council policy following Committee approval.

7 Employee Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications for staff resources within this Service.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 All publications and staffing costs arising from the recommendations of this report are accounted for within established budgets.

9 Other Implications

- 9.1 The Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy has been assessed in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 for Strategic Environmental Assessment of Council plans, programmes, policies and strategies. An Environmental Report has been prepared and is available as a background document.

10 Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements

- 10.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out with respect to the SPG and does not require any modification. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any part of the community covered by equalities legislation, or on community relations.
- 10.2 The Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy and its supporting documents will be made available on the Council's web site. Copies will also be available for purchase.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

30 November, 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Improve the quality of the physical environment
- Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- Improve health and increase physical activity

Previous References

- Report to Planning Committee 18th November 2008, South Lanarkshire Local Plan, Local Plan Inquiry Report – Statement of Decisions and Pre Adoption Modifications

List of Background Papers

- Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy
- South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment
- Review of Local Landscape Designations
- Spatial Framework and Landscape Capacity for Wind Farms
- Environmental Report
- Habitats Regulations Appraisal
- SPG: Renewable Energy Consultation Summary and Responses
- Technical Reports Consultation Summary and Responses

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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