

**LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT
DRAFT REVISION TO WIND POWER SPD 2006
(REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek comments on the draft revision of the Wind Power SPD originally adopted in February 2006.

2. ABOUT THE REVISION

- 2.1 The draft SPD is a revision of the February 2006 SPD: Wind Power. The SPD has been revised in the light of -
- the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
 - the evolving assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind turbine development;
 - certain inconsistencies that have been identified between the SPD and Wind Turbine Development in Huntingdonshire (2005), the study undertaken by Land Use Consultants that underpinned the SPD (described in the SPD as the LUC study);and
 - the need for guidance on the siting and design of smaller turbines.
- 2.2 The SPD is split into sixteen chapters. An introduction then continues with a brief overview of recent trends involving wind power development, and explains the basis for the guidance. Chapter 2 then sets out the principles that have informed the work, and provides an overview of the potential capacity of each landscape character area [LCA]. This is followed by ten chapters that provide detailed guidance for each of the nine character areas, and additionally for proposals located at the edge of urban areas. There has been no revision to the guidance for proposals located at the edge of urban areas. Chapter 13 and 14 are new; chapter 13 contains advice on the siting of single or small groups of turbines below 100m, chapter 14 list the criteria on which the landscape sensitivity assessments are based, chapter 15 provides links to relevant policies and chapter 16 contains a glossary of terms used in the SPD.
- 2.3 The revision does not question or rewrite the conclusions of the LUC study. This was not felt to be necessary or appropriate in the light of both the NPPF and Appeal Decisions relating to proposed Wind Turbine Developments.
- 2.4 An all member briefing on the draft SPD was held on the 10th December, and there is extensive public and stakeholder consultation via the usual processes. The consultation process began on Friday 16th November 2012 and will run until 4.30pm on Friday 4th January 2013.

- 2.5 There is an interactive version of the draft SPD, which enables comments to be submitted online. These documents can be accessed via the Council's website at <http://consult.huntsdc.gov.uk/portal>.
- 2.6 Following the consultation period the SPD will be revised in light of the representations received. This statement of consultation will also be revised and made available prior to adoption of the SPD with details of:
1. the persons that have been consulted during preparation of the supplementary planning document;
 2. a summary of the main issues raised in representations received; and
 3. how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 2.7 Once adopted the SPD will assist in the interpretation and application of those policies concerned with landscape character and the location of renewable energy schemes.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Comments are requested on the draft revised SPD as part of the consultation for reporting to Cabinet with all other comments received.

Background Papers:

Draft Revised SPD: Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development

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