

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	6 November 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Supplementary Guidance: Wind Turbine Development in Aberdeen City
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/12/217

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 paragraph 22 (1) states that a planning authority may adopt and issue guidance in connection with a local development plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval to consult on Supplementary Guidance to provide further detail on applications for Wind Turbines. A copy of the Supplementary Guidance is contained in Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - (a) Approve the draft Wind Turbines Supplementary Guidance document for a six week public consultation.
  - (b) Agree that following completion of the relevant consultation, any comments received and subsequent amendments to the draft Guidance be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, other than costs incurred through consultation and publicity related to the proposed guidance. Any such expenses incurred can be met through existing budgets. The implication for the priority based budgeting is positive. Detailed topic-based guidance has value in reducing officer time spent on pre-application discussions, and will therefore prove beneficial in reducing costs. This relates to PBB option EPI PSD02 - Rationalise planning application management.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no known legal or equipment implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 As a major landowner in the city, proposals for the development of land and assets owned by Aberdeen City Council will be subject to assessment in line with the principles and standards set out in the guidance, where applicable.
- 4.3 The progression of the guidance document will provide a clear framework for decision making, allowing comprehensive guidance for both applicants and officers, thereby making a significant contribution towards the Council's aim of promoting and achieving sustainable development.
- 4.4 The proposed Supplementary Guidance on Wind Turbines will provide clear instruction on the level of information that is required with planning applications for wind turbines. The document also gives map based guidance on the known environmental and safety constraints to the development of wind turbines. This does not guarantee that planning permission will be refused within these areas, or that planning permission will be approved out with these areas. The guidance will work towards helping to achieve the Scottish Government's target of for 40% of Scotland's electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2020. This will help to mitigate the impact of Climate Change, and provide long term environmental benefits to Aberdeen City and beyond.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 This Supplementary Guidance was reported to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 15 November 2011 for public consultation. At this point in time it was considered that there would be no requirement to undertake a full strategic environmental assessment of the Supplementary Guidance. However, following consultation with the consultation authorities it was recommended that a strategic environmental assessment would be required. This process, to-date, has involved consultation on a Scoping Report and carrying out a strategic environmental assessment of the Guidance and producing an Environmental Report. Through this assessment three specific impacts on the environment have been identified and mitigation measures are required to be incorporated into the Supplementary Guidance. The changes made to the guidance are the reason that it is being reported to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure for a second time.
- 5.2 Through the environmental assessment it was identified that there is the potential for the Guidance to:
  - impact on birds from designated sites close to Aberdeen, namely, Loch of Skene and the Ythan
  - impact on bats, a European Protected Species
  - impact on peat land and the loss of carbon as a result of development

5.3 Mitigation measures have been incorporated into a revised Supplementary Guidance to minimise the environmental impact. A copy of the full Environmental Report is available

5.4 A copy of the Environmental Report can be viewed online at: [http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/local\\_development\\_plan/pla\\_aldp\\_committee\\_reports.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/local_development_plan/pla_aldp_committee_reports.asp)

## 6. IMPACT

6.1 The Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance contribute to the following Single Outcome Priorities: 1 – We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe; 2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people; 10. We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need; 12 – We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations.

6.2 The Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance supports the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular the aim of delivering high levels of design from all development, maintaining an up to date planning framework, promoting sustainable development.

6.3 The Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance contribute to "Aberdeen – A Smarter City" and the Smarter Environment by maximising the use of low carbon technology and materials and increase energy efficiency and introduce carbon reduction measures in our processes and our housing and non housing assets to reduce our carbon footprint, save money and to bring people out of fuel poverty.

6.4 The proposal is consistent with the Planning and Sustainable Development Service Plan, in particular Adoption of Supplementary Guidance to Local Development Plan and production of Technical Advice Notes

6.1 An equalities and human rights impact assessment (EHRIA) has been carried out in relation to the proposed Supplementary Guidance documents, with the results included as Appendix 3 to this report.

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Aberdeen Local Development Plan – Proposed Plan  
[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/ldp/pla\\_aldp\\_document\\_map.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/ldp/pla_aldp_document_map.asp)
- Appendix 1 - Supplementary Guidance: Wind Turbine Development in Aberdeen City

- Appendix 2 – Environmental Report (available online at: [http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/local\\_development\\_plan/pla\\_aldp\\_committee\\_reports.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/local_development_plan/pla_aldp_committee_reports.asp))
- Appendix 3 – Equalities and human rights impact assessment

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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