

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting11th March 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Wind Energy Generation - Capacity Study

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that presented the results of recent studies commissioned to determine the contribution that renewable energy generation from wind could make to both Regional and National targets for renewable energy. The three studies concerned were:

- Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain (2008);
- Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone & Tees Plain addendum study (2009);
- Stockton Renewables Study: Wind Study (2009), commissioned by Stockton Borough Council. Members were provided with the results of the studies and noted that they were intended to be an objective technical assessment of capacity of each identified area to accommodate wind energy development. It was intended that the studies would be used as a tool to assess planning applications and to inform the development of the Local Development Framework. The studies should therefore assist in securing a more planned, consistent and coherent approach to the decisions taken on onshore wind applications.

It was clear that wind energy alone could not deliver sufficient renewable energy for the needs for the borough or for the region and other new and existing technologies would need to be developed and delivered to meet current and future needs.

RESOLVED that:-

1.The content of the Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain (2008); Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone & Tees Plain addendum study (2009); and Stockton Renewables Study : Wind Study (2009) be noted.

2.The results of the above studies be considered when developing

planning policies in relation to the delivery of renewable energy generation targets.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1.The Government has committed to achieving 20% renewable energy generation by 2020 which will require a significant increase over the next 10 years from the position at 2005 which was 1.3%.

2.Planning policies need to be based on robust evidence and this study provides sufficient detail to suggest that wind energy generation will not be significant within the borough.

3.The heavily industrialised nature of the borough with chemical industries requiring large amounts of heat and electricity must be taken into account when considering both the capacity and the nature of renewable energy generation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a result of his employment within the energy field.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Friday, 19th March 2010

Proper Officer
15 March 2010