

Wind Turbines Consultation Statement

Prepared in accordance with Regulation 17(1)(b) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Background

This consultation statement sets out the process for the preparation and formal consultation of the draft SPD and emerging policy. It also sets out how the Council will comply with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the requirements of Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

Preparation of the Draft SPD and Emerging Policy

The initial request for an update of wind turbines planning policy came from Parish Councillors. A report was taken to Development Control Committee on 16 June 2011 which recommended that it was not necessary to produce any additional guidance. The item was deferred at the request of the Members of the Committee, so that the report could be sent to Parish Councillors for information. The report was sent to all Parish Councils on 21 June 2011; they were given until 8 August 2011 to respond with any comments. Comments received were reported to the Cabinet Member, along with officer responses.

A further report was taken to the Development Control Committee on 13 October 2011 (including details of the comments received, together with the Officer responses). It recommended that, due to the government's intention to replace all National Planning Policy Statements and Guidance notes (PPSs and PPGs) with the National Planning Policy Framework, an SPD be produced to prevent the loss of the relevant information contained within the PPSs/PPGs and their associated guidance documents. The Development Control Committee resolved to produce an SPD based on a model SPD submitted by a Castlethorpe Parish Councillor and that it be taken to the next available Cabinet meeting (December 2011).

Evidence was gathered and an SPD and interim policy were produced for a meeting of the Cabinet on 20 December 2011. The cabinet report recommended that a separation distance of 800m from settlements be carried forward into the interim policy within the SPD. However, the Council resolved to carry forward a separation distance of 1000m from all dwellings into the interim policy (together with some changes to the document).

Following the December Cabinet meeting, the decision was called in by a group of 20 residents. This resulted in the item being taken back to a further meeting of the Cabinet on 17 January 2012. Further representations were received from a Castlethorpe Parish Councillor prior to the January meeting. The policy within the SPD was reconsidered and revised as a result of these representations. It is this version that has been issued for consultation as a result of the resolution made by Cabinet in January 2012.

Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal

A Screening Report was produced and sent to the statutory bodies to assess the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft SPD. Assessment showed that SEA was required, so a Scoping Report was produced and sent to the statutory bodies. Comments received at the scoping stage were incorporated and the Scoping Report amended. Following the consultation, it was decided to undertake a full Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD. A full Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements for

Strategic Environmental Assessment, was carried out and made available at the meeting of the Cabinet on 20 December 2011.

Regulation 17 Consultation

The draft SPD will be subject to the following consultation arrangements:

- a) The Draft SPD and supporting documents paper (Evidence Paper, Sustainability Appraisal, SPD Matters and Consultation Statement) are available for inspection:
 - at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Office, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ
 - at all libraries in the Borough. Library locations and opening hours are available from:
http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/library_services/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=21971
 - on the council's website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/wind-turbines and: <http://miltonkeynes-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>
- b) An advertisement has been placed in the local newspaper MKNews, stating where a copy of the documents can be obtained, and when and where the documents can be inspected.
- c) A covering letter or email has been sent to consultees on the Limehouse consultation database, notifying them of the publication of the draft SPD. The following groups have been contacted directly:
 - Specific Consultation Bodies
 - General Consultation Bodies with an interest in the draft SPD
- d) The consultation runs from Thursday 2 February until Wednesday 28 March 2012

All comments must be received no later than 5pm Wednesday 28 March 2012

Next Steps

Following consultation, all comments will be reported to the Council for consideration and the SPD will be amended accordingly, prior to adoption. This Consultation Statement will be updated with a summary of responses.