

Selby District Council
Core Strategy Examination in Public

Position Statement

Selby District Low Carbon and Renewable
Energy Study

28 September 2011



Update on Emerging Evidence Base for Implementation of Policies CP12, CP13 and CP14

1. This paper provides an updated position on Matter 7 Sustainable Development, Energy and the Environment. In particular it provides further information in relation to Matters 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6
2. The need for further locally based evidence is referred to in the Council's Written Statement No 13.
3. In particular the Council directs parties to following paragraphs of the Statement:
 - 7.4.2 Energy Efficiency (site thresholds and 10% requirement)
 - 7.5.7 – 7.5.8 Majority of energy needs (site thresholds and identification of 'key' sites)
 - 7.6.3 – 7.6.6 Energy statements and assessment of viability
4. The Core Strategy sets out the strategic policy framework for climate changes issues in Policies CP12, CP13 and CP14 and contains reference in the text that more detailed policies will be developed through future DPDs.
5. The Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) has funding available through the Climate Change Skills Fund (CCSF). The CCSF was announced by Central Government as part of a climate change policy package to deliver actions on climate change. In the Yorkshire and Humber region it aims to:
 - build skills and capacity across the range of local authority responsibilities needed to tackle climate change
 - enhance the skills and knowledge planners have to deal with climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
 - encourage communities to take positive action on climate change.
6. As part of the CCSF there is funding available for Technical Support on Planning and Climate Change and the CCSF will fund pilot local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Potential Studies to help to assist local authorities in their preparation of targets, policies and strategies for renewable energy at a local level.
7. On the 14 September 2011, Selby District Council submitted a Proposal for Funding for Local Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Potential Studies. A copy of the form is attached (although the Bid appendices are not included for brevity).
8. The LGYH has now confirmed that the bid was successful and Selby, Doncaster, Richmondshire & Hambleton and Rotherham Councils will

have £15-18k each for the Study. Doncaster Core Strategy is at submission stage and their EIP is programmed for November, so there may be opportunities for collaborative working on the study. LGYH propose to develop 3 briefs and put out to tender. Work is due to commence with LGYH mid October with a study complete by spring/summer 2012.

9. It is envisaged that the results of the studies will provide further evidence base upon which to develop more detailed policies through future DPDs.
10. It is considered that this should provide some comfort to the Inspector that the strategic policies contained in the Core Strategy are a sound and reasonable approach to take in the light of local circumstances.
11. This documentation will be referred to by the Council at the discussion at the morning session of the Hearing on Thursday 29 September.

Protocol Form for Funding for a Local Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Potential Study

Part 1 – to be filled out by LPA.

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1. Can you please state why you feel that your Local Renewable and Low Carbon Potential Study should be funded by the Climate Change Skills Fund?

Renewable Energy and Low Carbon is a key strength of Selby District; 20% of the local workforce work in this sector which is unsurprising given the large scale production of renewable, decentralised and low-carbon energy (RDLCE) already within the District. This includes;

- Biomass co-firing at Drax Power Station, now the largest biomass co-firing facility in the world. Drax power also has plans to develop a 290 MW biomass power station at Drax and is investing in a wood chipping plant. In addition, there are plans for a carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration plant on the Drax site.
- Biomass co-firing at Eggborough Power Station (EDF Energy) based on imported palm kernels. There are also plans for a biomass energy plant on site.
- Dalkia Bioenergy's wood pellet mill at Pollington (the biggest in the UK) and plans for a biomass energy plant.
- Whites Renewable Energy's plans for a large anaerobic digestion facility at Selby Renewable Energy Park.

The recent Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity Study in Yorkshire and Humber (AECOM for LGYH March 2011) covers the electricity resource projections which show a total of 254 MWe for Selby in 2020 (26% of the York and North Yorkshire total). Nearly all of this is in commercial wind which accounts for a third of the Y&NY total. There is one operating wind farm 912MW Marr Wind Farm), 24MW Rusholme Wind Farm and three other applications totalling 64.8MW.

There is already demonstrable developer interest in investing in renewable energy in the District and future opportunities for growth.

Selby District Core Strategy sets out local policies and targets for renewable energy on all future development in policies CP12, CP13 and CP14. These are set out in Appendix 1 of this proposal.

The supporting background paper for these policies is also set out in Appendix 2. In summary the local targets set out in the Core Strategy are taken directly from the RSS.

Furthermore, the regional and sub-regional policy establishes a 10% requirement for energy from decentralised, and renewable or low-carbon sources on developments meeting a size threshold, and subject to type of development, design and feasibility/viability. This requirement is carried in the Selby District Submission Draft Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy has taken this a step further, and the Olympia Park Strategic Development Site and key sites allocated in future DPDs will be expected to derive the majority of their energy needs from such sources in the light of local circumstances (see also Written Statement for EIP at Appendix 3).

The Core Strategy also states that wherever possible, developments will be encouraged to meet national standards and best practice schemes, which seek to improve environmental standards, moving towards the Governments target of zero carbon development (Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM).

In view of national expectations the Core Strategy policies encourage developers to achieve the highest viable/practical nationally recognised standards for new building in advance of further detailed work as part of future DPDs.

The supporting evidence of the Core Strategy is largely based on secondary national, regional and sub regional evidence and a further local assessment is required to support the implementation of the Core Strategy strategic policies and guide subsequent DPD's. Therefore further work in partnership with the Climate Change Skills Fund Team would provide an opportunity to develop these policies to identify local opportunities for implementation and derive more locally reflective guidance in a potential SPD in order to provide guidance for developers and local communities and assist SDC assessing planning applications for RDLCE schemes; and to inform the development of future DPDs.

In order to do this a number of proposed areas of technical research are proposed to inform the development of a brief. These are as follows;

- Demonstrate that Policy CP13a is deliverable locally.
- Provide guidance for: planning officers to assess planning applications for schemes to comply with the 10% requirement; and assist developers in identifying ways to achieve the 10%
- Establish practical opportunities for Policy CP13b and the appropriateness of a site size threshold for 'other key sites'
- Investigate whether establishing a local 'highest viable level' can be defined within the national regulatory requirements for Policy CP13c and investigate if a local minimum site threshold is-definable and appropriate.
- Establish protocols for energy statements and viability assessments which the Council will

<p>require of developers when submitting schemes (under Policy CP13).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To review the Core Strategy target (based on RSS) in Policy CP14a of 32 mega watts by 2021 in the light of updated evidence base (e.g. AECOM March 2011 study¹) and to test local deliverability. ➤ Detailed local development management guidance on siting and design (Para 7.56 of Core Strategy, Policy CP14) which could further develop the work currently being undertaken at sub-regional level².
<p>2. Can you please state what stage you have reached in terms of preparation of your Core Strategy and development of your Development Management Policies?</p>
<p>Selby District Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 5th May 2011, and is due to be examined over a two week period commencing on the 22nd September 2011. The Inspector's report is expected in December 2011 and the Council plans to adopt early in 2012.</p> <p>The Core Strategy sets out Strategic Development Management Issues, and that future DPDs and guidance will consider setting local targets and requirements and tackle detailed issues such as siting and design.</p> <p>The Local Development Scheme, timetables work to start on the Development Management DPD in 2011, however due to a major restructure this work has not yet commenced.</p>
<p>3. Do you have the resources and capacity currently in house to project manage this piece of work? If so who in your authority would be project managing and working on the study?</p>
<p>There is currently capacity (post completion of the Core Strategy EIP in October) within the team to oversee and project manage this piece of work for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a brief and tender in partnership with the Climate Change Skills Fund Team. ➤ Meet with appointed consultants to manage the study to ensure the results are to brief. <p>Helen Gregory is the Lead Officer for the Core Strategy and wider Climate Change Policy across the Council and would be project managing and working on the study with support from Jessica Morris Policy Officer.</p> <p>The Policy officers would liaise with Development Management officers and an internal Climate Change Officer Working Group, drawing in relevant colleagues from across the Council.</p>
<p>4. Would you require additional support from the CCSF project team to assist you in developing your project brief, support in the tendering process and support in project meetings with the chosen consultants?</p>
<p>Yes.</p>

¹ It should be noted that Councillors have not yet considered the AECOM study and so the Council has not taken a view on its implications at this stage.

² Managing Landscape Change: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments – A Sensitivity Framework for North Yorkshire and York

5. Would you be prepared to write up a case study to share with others?

Officers involved in the project would write up a Best Practice Case Study to be used in supporting other Core Strategy policy development within this topic area.

NB: Funding is unlikely to be forthcoming without a commitment to shared learning. A Best Practice Case Study will be required as a minimum.

6. What would be your timescales for delivery of this study?

The Core Strategy is timetabled for adoption in 2012. In order to support the delivery of Policies CP12, CP13 and CP14 this work would need to be complete by Spring/Summer 2012.

7. Would you be seeking full or part funding for your Local Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Potential Study through the Climate Change Skills Fund?

Full funding.