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# Craven Local Plan Examination

## Matter 18

### Statement by Craven District Council

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**Matter 18** – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Policy ENV9)

**Hearing Day 9**–Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Week 3)

September 2018

## **Issue 1 – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change – Policy SD2**

**Q1. Does the Local Plan seek to identify potentially suitable areas for wind energy development? How have the effects of wind energy been considered in the preparation of the Plan?**

### **Council's Response**

1. No, the Local Plan does not seek to identify potentially suitable areas for wind energy development. Whilst policy SD2 supports renewable and low carbon technologies, it does not identify potentially suitable areas for wind energy development. The part of Policy ENV9 that relates to commercial Scale Wind Turbines/Farms clearly states that the council does not identify suitable areas for commercial scale wind turbines or farms for the purpose of providing power into the National Grid within Craven.
2. The effects of wind energy have been considered through the evidence base for policy ENV9, which includes low carbon and renewable energy capacity in Yorkshire and Humber Final Report, March 2011 (AECOM) (In007) and Managing Landscape Change: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Developments – a Landscape Sensitivity framework for North Yorkshire and York February 2012 (AECOM) (La008). Report In007 assesses the resource for low carbon and renewable energy generation across the Yorkshire and Humber Region, which shows that Craven has relatively low potential for generating renewable and low carbon energy, particularly from wind, biomass and anaerobic digestion. Part 5 of the report concludes that given the significant landscape sensitivity that exists in Craven, due to the national landscape designations of Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Forest of Bowland AONB, the potential for deployment of larger scale renewable energy technologies is severely restricted.

**Q2. Is it clear to decision-makers, developers and local communities what constitutes a small scale wind turbine? In order to be effective should this be more clearly set out in Policy ENV9?**

### **Council's Response**

1. The last part of Policy ENV9 relates to small scale wind turbines and states that they are generally 30m or under in tower height but considered on a case by case basis. Paragraph 5.85 goes on to state that the definition of small scale will be determined on a case by case basis but normally with a tower height of up to 30m.

2. Managing Landscape Change: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Developments – a Landscape Sensitivity framework for North Yorkshire and York February 2012 (AECOM) (La008) sets out (in table 1 page 49) suggested typologies for wind development by scale (height) of turbines which include the height (to tip) for small domestic scale turbines of between 12-20m and the height (to tip) for small/medium scale community turbines of between 20-50m. Given the height range set out in this evidence, the Council considers it appropriate to define small scale turbines, which require planning permission as being generally 30m or under in tower height, however they will be considered on a case by case basis. This is clearly set out in policy ENV9.

## Issue 2 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy – Policy ENV9

**Q1. What is a “well-conceived” project for the purposes of Policy ENV9(a)? Is this clear to decision-makers, developers and local communities? Is the policy effective in this regard?**

### Council’s Response

1. Criterion a) of the Policy ENV9 explains that a ‘well-conceived’ project is one that offers a good balance of economic, environmental and social benefits. The use of the phrase “well-conceived” expresses the expectation that projects and proposals will have been carefully thought through to achieve that balance. However, it may provide greater clarity to decision makers, developers and local communities, and ensure that the policy is effective in this regard , if the phrase “well-conceived” is deleted from policy ENV9 a). The following modification is therefore proposed:

Proposed Modification
Page 150, policy ENV9, criterion a) of the submission local plan: Supporting <del>well-conceived</del> projects and infrastructure proposals that offer a good balance of economic, environmental and social benefits, and are not outweighed on balance by one or more negative impacts;

**Q2. How has the threshold for small-scale wind turbines been defined? What is this based on and is it appropriate for Craven District?**

### Council’s Response

1. The threshold for small scale wind turbines has been defined by the evidence base document Managing Landscape Change: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Developments – a Landscape Sensitivity framework for North Yorkshire and York February 2012 (AECOM) (La008), which sets out a range of turbine

heights (to tip) for small domestic scale turbines of between 12-20m and for small/medium scale community turbines of between 20-50m. Given the height range set out in this evidence, the Council considers it appropriate to define small scale turbines, which require planning permission as being generally 30m or under in tower height, however they will be considered on a case by case basis. This is clearly set out in policy ENV9.

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## Craven District Council

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If you would like to have this information in a way that's better for you, please telephone **01756 700600**.

