

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **REGENERATION & DEVOLUTION CABINET MEMBER**

#### **DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – PLANNING FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) DEVELOPMENT**

#### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 The council is seeking to introduce a Supplementary Planning Document – Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development.
- 1.2 To seek approval to publish this Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation.
- 1.3 That the outcomes of the public consultation are reported to the Cabinet Member, prior to adoption by Full Council.

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. They form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) that sets out the Spatial Strategy for a council's area. Whilst SPDs do not have the status of the statutory development plan they do have material weight in the consideration of planning applications. Their purpose is to expand or supplement policies within development plan policies where necessary.
- 2.2 Officers have prepared the Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development SPD in order to set out the planning policy considerations that would be taken into account when assessing proposals for solar PV arrays in North Lincolnshire. It also ensures that the recent changes in government policy set out in the Planning Practice Guidance - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy are properly addressed in the North Lincolnshire context. It should be read alongside existing national and local planning policy, include the existing SPD, *Planning for Renewable Energy Development (November 2011)*.
- 2.3 Under the 2012 Regulations, the council is required publish the draft SPD for public consultation. A public consultation lasting four weeks is required.

#### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the draft SPD for public consultation and subsequent adoption.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Adopting the recommendation will allow the council to provide clear policy guidance for applicants and communities on key planning issues. It will set out the key issues for future consideration as part of proposals for Solar PV developments. It will also provide guidance for officers and elected members in assessing planning applications, as part of the decision making process.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no resource implications.

#### **6. OUTCOME OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 An integrated impact assessment was completed. It raised no significant issues of concern.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED**

7.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant council officers and comments included as appropriate.

7.2 The outcome of the consultation exercise will be reported back to the Cabinet Member.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the draft SPD for public consultation and subsequent adoption.

8.2 That the Supplementary Planning Document – Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development is published for public consultation.

#### **DIRECTOR OF PLACES**

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB

Author: Chris Barwell  
Date: 29.09.2015

**Background papers used in the preparation of this report:       None**