

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**REGENERATION, MARKETING AND
STRATEGIC FINANCE CABINET
MEMBER**

PARTNERSHIP FOR RENEWABLES (PFR)

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authorisation to work with the Carbon Trust through the (PFR) initiative, to identify land within North Lincolnshire Council's property portfolio which might be suitable for commercial wind energy generation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The European Union has committed member states to a 20% renewable energy target by 2020. The UK government has admitted that it is starting from a low base (currently only 3.5% of the UK's energy comes from renewable sources) and has renegotiated the 20% target down to 15%. This is still a very challenging target.
- 2.2 The UK Government has also acknowledged that the Public Sector has substantial landholdings and that there is potential to deliver wind energy schemes is high.
- 2.3 Towards this end the Government has injected substantial funds to support Public Sector bodies in delivering renewables on their land. This will be coordinated through the Carbon Trust.
- 2.4 The Government has recently published a new policy statement on renewable energy and injected a further £30 million over the next 3 years for the public Sector. This will be delivered by the Salix finance scheme, which offers interest free loans for energy efficiency

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The partnership for renewables has developed a business model to ensure that projects can be developed without the public sector having to divert resources from its frontline services.
- 3.2 The partnership for renewables was established as part of the commercial area of the Carbon Trust and aims to provide a way for

Public bodies to access the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy. At present the scheme is only concentrating on commercial scale wind turbine projects. Currently 100 Public Sector bodies have enrolled for the scheme.

3.3 The process for developing schemes is outlined in Appendix 1.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Global energy demand is set to increase by well over 50% by 2030. Our current reliance on fossil fuels to make power and energy is changing the composition of the atmosphere and affecting our climate system.

4.2 The government has recognised the significance that Public Sector organisations have in combating Climate Change.

4.3 Such is the significance of climate change, that the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process includes it as one of the major components local authorities will be expected to deliver on. They will not only be required improve their own performance by reducing their CO2, but also to show strong community leadership on the topic.

4.4 Against this background and the regions poor performance against the per Capita Natural Indicator (NI 186) it is suggested that North Lincolnshire Council lead by example and begin identifying where its land holdings could be used.

4.5 The alternative approach of not entering into the partnership for renewables initiative would send out the wrong message locally and regionally. Most local authorities already involved in the initiative are either beacon councils or aspiring towards beacon status on the issue of Climate Change.

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

5.1 IT

5.1.1 There are no IT implications from this report.

5.2 Financial

5.2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2.2 Once sites have been identified the Carbon Trust bears all the costs.

5.2.3 If a suitable site was identified through this process and eventually constructed, the council would receive an annual income from it.

5.3 Staffing

5.3.1 There are no additional staffing requirements arising from this report.

5.3.2 It is expected that a small group of officers under the direction of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Planning will be responsible for identifying suitable sites.

5.3.3 The sites will be reported to Cabinet for final approval before being submitted to the Carbon Trust for future evaluation.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 Diversity

6.1.1 There are no diversity implications from this report.

6.2 Section 17

6.2.1 There are no Section 17 implications from this report.

6.3 Environmental

6.3.1 The development of wind turbines on council land will contribute to the implementation of the council's Climate Change Action plan and the Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

6.3.2 In addition the North Lincolnshire Area performs very badly in terms of its per capita CO2 outputs. Currently we are in the bottom 5% of all regions in the UK.

6.3.3 The development of wind energy in our area will help to reduce our per capita CO2 outputs.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Service Director for Asset Management and Culture has been consulted. No adverse comments have been received.

7.2 This report has been discussed at the Cabinet Member for Highways and Planning and received support to go forward for a decision at this meeting

7.3 The development of alternative energy sources is an emotive subject. Under the partnership for renewables any communities affected will be extensively consulted. In addition as part of the process the Carbon Trust offer a Market leading community benefit package which consists of a community fund receiving an annual payment.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Leader of the Council - Regeneration, Marketing and Finance Cabinet Member accepts the report and agrees to enter into the PFR initiative.

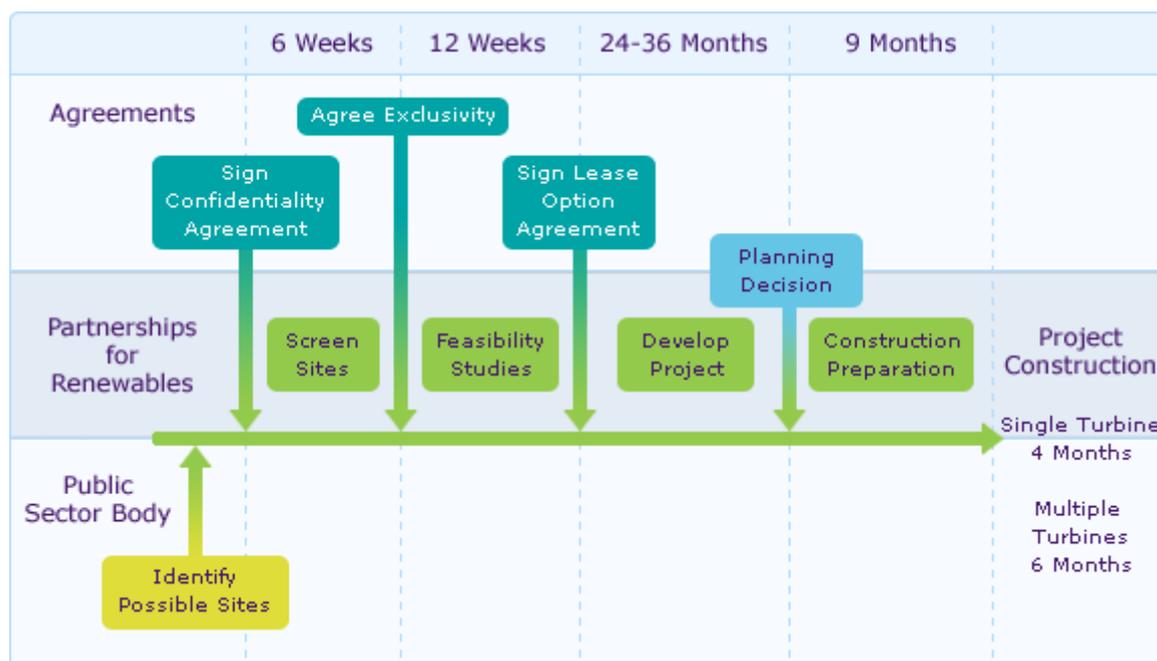
8.2 That the Climate Change Steering Group coordinates its implementation within the context of the Climate Change Action Plan and its remit in managing the council's carbon budget.

SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
None.

APPENDIX 1



Step 1: Identify possible sites

As soon as we start working with a public sector body we ask them to identify possible sites for development. The number of potential sites nominated can range from one site into the thousands. While the vast majority of sites are found to be inappropriate, having this number of options enables us to be selective with the sites we eventually pursue.

Step 2: Screen sites (carried out under confidentiality agreement)

At the beginning of the development process we screen sites using office-based assessments. Here we look into issues such as the proximity of housing and environmentally-designated areas. Many sites will be found to be inappropriate for development at this stage and eliminated from the process.

Step 3: Feasibility studies (carried out under exclusivity agreement)

We conduct feasibility studies on all sites that pass the initial screening process. These feasibility studies include initial assessments on radar, archaeology, radio communications and site access.

Step 4: Project development (carried out under lease option agreement)

If a site makes it through the screening and feasibility processes successfully it will enter the project development phase. It is at this stage that we start detailed environmental analysis of the area, including studies on wildlife and ecology. If the detailed work uncovers any issues then we will still remove a site at this stage. If the results of the detailed work remain positive then we will submit a planning application.

Consultation

The local community is central to our development process and we are committed to an open and honest consultation process. By using a variety of methods including public exhibitions, mail drops, local media and our website we keep an open dialogue with the local community throughout the development process.