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Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/final responses/East Riding 9 Wind Turbines May 07

17 May 2007

Philip Parker
Head of Planning and Development Control
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
County Hall
Beverly
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU17 9BA

Dear Philip

Planning Application Number: DC/07/02271/STPLFE/STRAT/DC

Erection of 9 No. wind turbines, substation and construction of vehicular access and ancillary works at Land South North and North East Homer House, Aldbrough Road, Withernwick, East Riding of Yorkshire.

The Assembly is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed development. The Assembly, as the Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS for Yorkshire and Humber (based on the Selective Review of RPG12) was issued by the Secretary of State in December 2004. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Circular 08/2005 make it clear that a draft RSS submitted to the Secretary of State is a relevant regional policy against which strategic applications can be considered. This Assembly response therefore also highlights relevant issues that arise from the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (draft RSS) December 2005 – the RSS submitted to the Secretary of State.

Both the existing and draft regional spatial strategies aim to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development, investment and activity across the region, putting a greater emphasis on matching needs across the region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource. Within the detailed policies of current and draft RSS, the value of developing renewable energy resources is recognised in policies S6 and R12 of current RSS and policies YH2A and ENV5 of draft RSS.

In seeking the implementation of these policies across the region, the Assembly therefore offers the following comments on the proposed wind farm.

Renewable Energy

The Humber Estuary sub-area has been identified in the current and draft RSS as having a major role to play in terms of the Region's renewable energy generation requirement. Current RSS Policy R12 states that development plans should include measures that help secure a target installed renewable energy generation capacity of 674 MW for the Yorkshire and Humber region. Current information at a regional level suggests that 130 MW is being generated from renewable resources. It also sets the Humber sub-region a target of 146MW of energy by 2010, equating to 22% of the total regional target and the draft RSS sets the East Riding local authority a target of 40.7MW by 2010.

The application will help to meet these challenging targets and therefore supports the implementation of the RSS.

Location

Current RSS (Policy R12c) states that development plans should include locational and environmental criteria to be applied in securing the sub-regional targets, maximising the use of renewable energy resources. The draft RSS builds on this and states that it is a local authority's role to identify the preferred type, scale and locations for renewable energy and to also provide supplementary locational and environmental criteria to be used in assessing such development as needed. The Landscape Character Assessment in the East Riding has started this process ahead of the preparation of a Core Strategy.

The local authority will have to take this (and the assessment of the applicant) into account in reaching its decision.

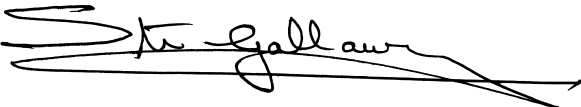
Conclusion

Given the comments set out above, it is concluded that:

- This development is supported in principle by the Assembly as helping to implement the RSS by providing renewable energy generation.
- Local landscape assessments will have to be taken into account by the local authority in reaching its decision.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Poxon on 01924 331555.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Galloway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Galloway
Chair, Regional Planning Board
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly