



News Release

MR 51

April 10, 2017

LDP Update

Immediate Release

Results of a revised Renewable Energy Assessment needed as part of the Powys Local Development Plan will be published next month, a seminar of Powys County Councillors has been told.

Extra work on the Local Development Plan was called for by the council's cabinet in January for submission to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Examination process. This decision was taken following the consideration of the comments received on the LDP's Further Focussed Changes.

The additional work has been reviewing a range of issues that would impact on the renewable energy assessment, in particular the elements that relate to renewable wind and solar energy production. The work has included the following considerations:

- The Royal Air Force's (RAF) low-flying tactical training area over a large part of western Powys.
- A buffer around the Sennybridge training area.
- Appropriate buffers for special protection areas to protect bird species, requested by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- A visual impact buffer placed around existing and proposed windfarms to take account of cumulative impact.
- A buffer to all designated landscapes which include two national parks and two areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- Consideration of grid connection and landscape impact.

Powys County Council, Strategic Director Place, Paul Griffiths said: "The LDP is the most important planning document we have and it is essential that we have a robust plan in place. It is a policy for the future and it is vital that it is fit for purpose.

"Although the work is still in progress, initial findings show that applying the constraints has resulted in a significant decrease in the number and extent of proposed local search areas in the county that are available for both wind and solar energy development. The council will publish the results of this additional evidence on its LDP webpages on May 12th 2017".

"The finalised results will be submitted to the Inspector as part of the LDP planning examination in advance of the deadline for hearing statements. It is likely that the council will be recommending changes to the LDP's renewable energy policies to the Inspector so that these can be discussed at the hearing session. If the Inspector considers changes to the LDP are necessary, these will be subject to further public consultation so that the Inspector can decide whether the changes are acceptable," he added.

Key LDP dates:

12th May 2017 – publication of the revised Renewable Energy Assessment and its accompanying landscape assessment.

5th June 2017 – Deadline for Hearing Statements for LDP Hearing Sessions 15 & 16 on Renewable Energy

28th and 29th June – Hearing Sessions 15 and 16 on Renewable Energy

Further information about the LDP and the Examination process including hearings can be found on the Council's LDP webpages at:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/>

ENDS

John Evans
Rheolwr Cyfathrebu
Communications Manager
01597 826377
07884 234711