



Report No: CAI.04 11/12

Challenge and Improvement
Committee

21 June 2011

Subject: Development of A Renewable Energy Policy

Report by:

Manjeet Gill, Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Manjeet Gill
Chief Executive
01427 676501
Manjeet.gill@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

The increase in renewable energy solutions and planning applications means we need to review the adequacies of our policies to encourage development of what is right for the District.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1) That Members approve that this committee reviews the current policies and their adequacy for renewable energy**
- 2) That Members agree the scope for this review**
- 3) That Members consider establishing a Task and Finish group to report back to the Committee on this matter.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None identified as a result of this report.

Financial : These would be identified once the scope of the review was determined.

Staffing : The impact on staff would depend on the scope of the review that was agreed.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : An impact assessment would need to be carried out if at a later date revised policies were produced.

Risk Assessment : if policies are not reviewed then there is a risk that they may not be fit for purpose.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : Reviewing the topic of renewable energy will identify the opportunities for reducing CO2 emissions.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council agreed at the meeting on 7 March 2011 the Corporate Plan framework and within this framework five themes were outlined. The topic of renewable energy has clear links with some of the themes and consideration of these themes helps to set the context for members to consider this topic.
- 1.2 One of these themes is “A green District where people want to work, live and visit”. This theme covers the Council’s ambition to be the greenest District and refers to our policies and how we help businesses and communities to be green. The priority that is being developed is that businesses and communities in West Lindsey operate and develop in a sustainable and responsible manner and that our environment is conserved or enhanced.
- 1.3 A second theme in the draft Corporate Plan relates to a Prosperous and Enterprising District. A priority in this theme is the creation of an environment where an increased number of businesses and enterprises can grow and prosper.
- 1.4 A third theme relates to the Entrepreneurial Council and key priorities will be transforming innovation into economic goals and to produce an income trading and Investment Strategy, and also to create a sustainable financial position.

2.0 Renewable Energy

- 2.1 The use of renewable energy sources/solutions such as ground source heat pumps, wind power, solar power, bio-fuel boilers, anaerobic digesters all have a place to play not only locally but also nationally in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and in increasing energy security.
- 2.2 Renewable energy developments in the district may create opportunities for businesses to develop. There are a range of businesses and enterprises that are associated with renewable energy.
- 2.3 In addition renewable energy presents opportunities for the Council to demonstrate community leadership, reduce its own carbon footprint, to address energy security concerns and could be part of an income, trading and investment strategy.
- 2.4 The development of renewable energy solutions presents a range of challenges including those relating to preservation of the natural environment and planning policies.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 It is against the above background that the Committee is recommended to agree to review policies relating to this topic and specifically that Members agree the scope of the review and that consideration is given to establishing a Task and Finish group.