



<b>PRCC. 24 11/12</b>
<b>Prosperous Communities Committee</b>
<b>4 January 2012</b>

**B**

**Subject: Renewable Energy Statement**

Report by:	Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
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Purpose / Summary:	To ask the Committee to consider a Renewable Energy Statement from the Challenge and Improvement Committee and to consider proposed actions and agree a way forward.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1. That Members consider the draft Renewable Energy Statement from the Challenge and Improvement Committee and amend as appropriate for recommendation to Council for formal adoption in 2012.**
- 2. That Members consider the proposed future actions referred to in the report and agree to report back to the Challenge and Improvement Committee in April 2012 on the proposals.**
- 3. Subject to the Committee agreeing to explore future actions that nominations are made for Members to work with officers on scoping the possible projects.**

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

**None identified as a result of this report.**

### **Financial:**

**These would be identified once any actions to support the statement were agreed and an implementation plan agreed.**

### **Staffing:**

**The impact on staff would depend on the agreement to an action plan to contribute to the deliver of the statement.**

### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

**An impact assessment would need to be carried out if at a later date revised policies were produced as part of the action plan.**

### **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:**

**Deliver of actions on renewable energy will have as a key aim the reduction CO2 emissions.**

### **Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Report CAI.04 11/12 to 21 June 2011 meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee. Accessed through WLDC website "Meetings, agendas, minutes and reports" <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making-and-council-meetings/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/>

Report CAI.20 11/12 to 25 October 2011 meeting of the Challenge and Improvement Committee. Accessed through WLDC website "Meetings, agendas, minutes and reports".

Report DM12 11/12 to 21 September 2011 meeting of the Development Management Committee. Accessed through WLDC website "Meetings, agendas, minutes and reports".

Report CAI.27 11/12 to 29 November 2011 meeting of Challenge and Improvement Committee. Accessed through WLDC website "Meetings, agendas, minutes and reports".

Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group meeting agendas and minutes. West Lindsey website link to renewable energy page <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making-and-council-meetings/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/committee-information-post-april-2011/challenge-and-improvement-committee/renewable-energy-task-and-finish-group/107623.article>

Draft report on Climate Change and Renewable Energy – Stephen Cirell Consultancy Limited. West Lindsey website link to renewable energy page <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making-and-council-meetings/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/committee-information-post-april-2011/challenge-and-improvement-committee/renewable-energy-task-and-finish-group/107623.article>

Centre for Sustainable Energy report on "Common Concerns about wind power". [www.cse.org.uk](http://www.cse.org.uk)  
[http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/common\\_concerns\\_about\\_wind\\_power.pdf](http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/common_concerns_about_wind_power.pdf)

**Call in and Urgency:**

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

Yes  No

**Key Decision:**

Yes  No

**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 This report asks the Prosperous Communities Committee and Policy and Resources Committee to consider a renewable energy statement which has been referred from the Challenge and Improvement Committee. The intention is that after both Committees i.e. Prosperous Communities and Policy and Resources have considered the statement that it is then recommended to Council for final agreement. The statement referred to in section 3 of the report has been arrived at following work done by a Renewable Energy Task & Finish Group.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In June 2011 the Challenge and Improvement Committee commissioned a task and finish group of Members (Councillors Bierley, Howitt-Cowan and Patterson) to look into the subject of renewable energy and specifically to look to produce a document that would set out “a design for the district in regard to renewable energy”.
- 2.2 The task and finish group reported back to the Challenge and Improvement Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 on a renewable energy statement. Within the report that was before the committee information was provided on the council’s current position on climate change and carbon management and on why the renewable energy task and finish group was established. The report also covered the work the group had undertaken including information gathering, various visits and evidence gathering, and some work that had been done in exploring the opportunity green waste presented. The report made reference to climate change, some details on renewable energy technologies and the links to affordable warmth and fuel poverty.
- 2.3 Section 9 of the report provided a renewable energy statement and the reasons why the statement had been put forward.
- 2.4 Section 10 of the report referred to a range of actions. Section 9 and 10 of the Challenge and Improvement committee report are covered in this report in sections 3 and 4.

## **3.0 Renewable Energy Statement**

- 3.1 The statement that the Renewable Energy Task and Finish group had given consideration to and was agreed by the Challenge and Improvement Committee is as follows:-

### **3.2 Aim of the statement**

**The aim of this statement is for West Lindsey to clearly state what its vision and position is on renewable energy. This would then allow the community to clearly understand what WLDC thinks about renewable energy. The statement will then allow consistent messages to be communicated.**

### **3.3 The Statement**

**“West Lindsey supports the use and application of renewable energy technology within the District, provided that any adverse impacts are made acceptable. The Council will use its best endeavours to encourage both individuals and businesses to consider and use renewable energy technology to reduce the carbon emissions from the activities that take place in the district.**

**The Council will consider in its own use of energy using energy from renewable sources.**

**The Council will consider installing renewable energy generation systems on its own assets.**

**In supporting renewable energy the Council will ensure the principle of the right technology and renewable energy solution is applied in the right location.”**

#### **3.4 Reasons for the statement**

The reasons why the Council supports renewable energy generation and use is for the following reasons:-

1. to demonstrate that the Council is committed to it's aspiration to be the greenest council
2. to demonstrate the links to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee work on developing a core strategy that includes the potential for the expansion of renewable energy and low carbon technologies
3. to help achieve the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy renewable energy and low carbon targets once these are agreed
4. to support the deliver of the green council theme in the corporate plan
5. to support communities and individuals that are concerned about renewable energy and to support increased sustainability and the Councils approach to localism
6. to support those who experience fuel poverty
7. to reduce the carbon emissions in the area and to reduce the potential adverse impact on climate change
8. to support the Government's target for a greater contribution of renewable sources in energy generation and usage
9. to reduce the reliance on energy that is produced from sources and locations where there is a risk that energy security could be compromised
10. to encourage land and property owners to make the most of their assets and the financial opportunities that renewable energy creates
11. to support businesses in the district that are being encouraged by their customers to demonstrate their reduced carbon footprint
12. to encourage new businesses that are involved in renewable technology to develop in the area so that job opportunities are created.
13. to make the most of the Council assets and to generate income from renewable sources where the business case supports this
14. to ensure that recognition is given that not all locations in the district are suitable for each and every type of renewable energy generation project, it has to be the right technology in the right location

- 3.5 For clarity this statement is not intended to be used to predetermine any individual planning applications that may be submitted for renewable energy generation in any specific locations for different

technologies. Every planning application will be considered on its merits and take into account the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Policies which include Renewable and Low Carbon Energy solutions. The acceptability of locations where developments will take place are planning decisions and the Development Management Committee are aware of the need to consider the impact on local communities and the environment.

- 3.6 The statement would need to be subject to regular review and monitoring of the agreed actions would need to take place to ensure that the delivery took place.

#### **4.0 Actions**

- 4.1 The report that the Challenge and Improvement Committee considered identified a range of actions that the Council is already taking that relate to renewable energy and these are summarised below:-

- The Development Management Committee agreed to publicity procedures for development proposals received by West Lindsey for wind farms.
- Proposals for photovoltaic cells to be installed at West Lindsey Leisure Centre and other locations are to be considered by the Policy and resources Task and Finish group.
- The council has in place a carbon management plan which deals with the reduction in CO2 emissions from Council activities. The Council has reduced emissions from 2,111 tonnes in 2008/9 down to 1,658 tonnes in 2010/11 and is continuing to reduce emissions. With West Lindsey having the lowest carbon emissions of all the Lincolnshire District Councils.

#### **4.2 Proposed future actions**

Included within the report that the Challenge and Improvement Committee considered was a section on proposed future actions and this is reproduced below.

Renewable energy is a key aspect of the Council's overall approach to the green agenda. The Council is working on a green programme with topics such as agile working, energy efficiency, carbon management, action to address fuel poverty and the opportunities to improve the housing stock all being considered. As part of this development of a green programme projects will be considered which could include:-

- how new build can have a low/zero carbon impact,
- how we can encourage businesses to come into the district because of our approach to energy generation and usage,
- how we could establish a zero fossil fuel target in the way we use our buildings and land etc.

- 4.3 Over the next 12 months it is intended that as part of delivery of the Green council a range of projects be scoped and developed. In addition to the above ideas there are a range of actions that the Council could consider taking that could contribute to delivering the renewable energy statement. However it would be necessary for both the Prosperous Communities Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the proposed actions. These two Committees may wish to ask a Member or number of Members to work with officers on the proposed actions or on other actions that the Committees may feel are possible that would contribute to the delivery of the vision presented in the statement. The committees could then receive a report back from the Member for consideration and agreement. It is suggested that these committees report back on their intended actions to the Challenge and Improvement Committee in April 2012.

The table below details a number of proposed actions.

<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Proposed Timescale</b>	<b>Council Operation or Community/ District wide and Partners to be involved</b>	<b>Expected outcome</b>	<b>Deliverability and possible barriers to overcome</b>
<p><b>1.</b> Business cases need to be developed and considered for renewable energy to be generated on the Councils assets and or on others assets. Include business case for anaerobic digesters and a crematorium</p>	ongoing	<p>Council Operation -Renewable energy suppliers - Third party asset owners</p>	<p>More renewable energy generated on Council assets and others assets in the District. Consideration by WLDC of establishing an energy services company</p>	<p>Community concerns Planning issues for specific developments, Finance available Availability of suitable partners</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Work on an aspirational target for future years that sets an aim of zero fossil fuel usage on WLDC land and buildings</p>	6 months	<p>Council, Occupiers of Council assets</p>	<p>Reduced carbon emissions from WLDC operations</p>	<p>Practicalities of changing Technology and energy generation, financial implications of change, lack of opportunities to offset carbon emissions</p>
<p><b>3.</b> A communications and education – promotion plan needs to be agreed to ensure the Councils approach to renewable energy is explained and developed. Include website development, possible renewable energy awards scheme, regular features in West Lindsey News, the scope for providing advice and information</p>	3 Months	<p>Council operation - Local media</p>	<p>More Community knowledge and interest and development of renewable energy projects, increased media interest and coverage</p>	



4. Engagement with Communities to understand local needs and interest, through - Area Manager working, area profile development to include information on local generation of renewable energy	Commence with Area summits Jan 2012	District wide - Parish Councils Community Groups	Communities more involved and engaged and influencing what happens in their areas.	Area Manager time, lack of interest from communities
5. In the decision making process renewable energy aspects and impact assessment be taken into account- Council Committee reports including Development Management determinations on Planning Applications	3 months	Council	Renewable energy demonstrated at the heart of Council decisions	
6. Explore the opportunities for funding and contributions to be used to increase the generation and use of renewable energy in the District e.g. section 106 contributions/ the Community Infrastructure Levy, localism funds	6 months	Council in Partnership with Central Lincolnshire authorities through the work of the JPU	More funding to renewable energy projects	Restrictions on use of funds for this purpose, other demands on the funds
7. Explore the opportunities for Communities to benefit from any funding that Renewable Energy Developers provide.	6 months	Energy developers Local community	Communities receiving benefit from renewable energy	Communities not interested, lack of interest from Energy Developers in WL area
8. Detailed work needs to be done to identify the actions that the Council can take to link renewable energy with helping address the issue of fuel	9 months	Council, Owners and tenants of properties, Housing	Fewer households in fuel poverty	Funding availability

poverty in the District. Explore the options of retrofitting houses to improve energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. Explore options for new build neighbourhoods to be low carbon		improvement Organisations. County Council		
<b>10.</b> Annual review of the statement and regular reporting on performance in delivering the agreed actions.	Jan 2013	Council	Demonstration to the Community of Council Commitment	

## **5. Considerations**

- 5.1 Both the Prosperous Communities and Policy and Resource Committees need to consider the aims of the statements, the statement itself and be satisfied that the reasons for the statement are clear. If Members are in agreement with this statement, its aims and reasons then consideration could be given to proposed actions referred to in section 4. There are 10 proposed actions and it is suggested that a small number of members from both the Prosperous Communities Committees and Policy and Resources Committee be nominated to work with officers in scoping and exploring these. It is suggested that a project brief is produced for each of the proposed actions following the Sharepoint programme office format which would cover outcomes, stakeholders, deliverables, milestones, risks, resources monitoring and key actions.
- 5.2 Once work had taken place on these, a further report would need to be produced for the committees on recommended actions and timescales with a view to information then being reported back to the Challenge and Improvement Committee.