



**CABINET - 10 MAY 2010**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/2464/02:  
SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES - ERECTION OF FOUR 126.5M  
HIGH WIND TURBINES AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A  
PERIOD OF 25 YEARS - LAND OFF RIDGMERE LANE, SOUTH EAST  
OF QUENIBOROUGH (CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL)**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of the Development Control and Regulatory Board's recommended response to a planning application on which the County Planning Authority (CPA) has been consulted by Charnwood Borough Council.
2. The Board considered the planning application at its meeting on 22 April 2010. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.

**Views of the Development Control and Regulatory Board**

3. The Board noted that on the basis of present adopted targets there was little need for the development, and considered that it would have a significant adverse effect on the surrounding countryside and several historic assets.
4. The local member, Prof. M. E. Preston CC, said that whilst he supported the provision of renewable energy, the proposed location for the development was unsuitable. It was too close to Queniborough and South Croxton and would have a detrimental effect on the local landscape. He was also concerned that the roads in the locality were unsuitable for the size and number of vehicles needed for the construction of the turbines.
5. The Board agreed to a minor change to the wording of the recommendation in the report, for clarity, and recommended that detailed comments be forwarded to Charnwood Borough Council in the terms set out in paragraph 6 below.

**Recommendations**

6. The Board made the following recommendation -

That the Cabinet be recommended to forward to Charnwood Borough Council the views of the County Planning Authority as follows -

"Charnwood Borough Council be advised that the CPA objects to the proposed development on the following grounds -

The County Planning Authority acknowledges that there is general support for the principle of development for renewable energy projects set out in national and regional policy guidance, particularly PPS1 (Supplement on Climate Change) and PPS22. However, the East Midlands Region has a significant capacity of operational projects, and consented projects which exceed the approved targets in the East Midlands Regional Plan. It is likely that there will be increased significance given to renewable energy generation in future government guidance, and an increase in targets for on-shore wind energy in the future through the partial review of the EMRP. However, the future definitive distribution of the draft EMRP figures across the renewable energy sector are yet to be determined.

In light of the present operational and consented capacity within the region, the need does not outweigh the harm to nearby significant historic assets and the harm to local landscape character and the wider open countryside, which is in conflict with Policy CT/7 of the Charnwood Borough local Plan.

Unless certain details are agreed with the Highways Authority on the precise improvements to facilitate the development, there appears to be some doubt about the suitability of the local road network to accommodate the additional trip generations to/from the site, including significant numbers of HGVs in the construction period. Therefore unless suitable details are provided by the applicant to the Highway Authority, at the present time the application is contrary to Policy TR/6 of the Charnwood Borough Local Plan."

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

7. To comply with Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000. Reasons for the recommendations on this particular application are set out in the appendix to this report.

### **Timetable for decisions**

8. A response to the application is required by the Borough Council within a short timescale.

### **Members advised under the Local Issues Alert Procedure when the matter was considered by the Development Control and Regulatory Board**

Prof. M.E. Preston CC

### **Officer to contact**

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

9. As a consequence of regulations passed under the Local Government Act 2000 relating to the respective roles of the executive and non-executive bodies, the Executive is required to respond to consultation exercises relating to planning applications referred by District Councils or other agencies.
10. There are three circumstances in which the County Council may be asked for a response relating to an application being dealt with by another body: -
  - (i) Applications referred to the County Council for comment by the district councils within the County.
  - (ii) Applications referred by authorities outside the County area for consent to major mineral and waste applications or other applications of significant interest, for example, construction of an airport.
  - (iii) Applications submitted under other legislation, e.g. Crown development, or under the Electricity Act for developments at power stations or for overhead transmission lines.
11. In accordance with arrangements agreed by the Cabinet on 3 July 2001, the application was considered by the Development Control and Regulatory Board on 22 April 2010 and now needs to be considered by the Cabinet. The application is detailed in the appendix to this report.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

None.

### **Background documents**

Appendix to the report, attached.