

Wind Energy Development Interim
Planning Guidance
11 March 2013

Equality Impact Assessment

Wind Energy Development Interim Planning Guidance (consultation draft)

Contact: Denise Shaw, Planning and Public Protection

Updated: 11/03/2013

1. What type of proposal is being assessed?

A new or revised policy

2. Please describe the purpose of this proposal

Denbighshire has a significant expanse of rural upland areas which have an abundant wind resource. Clocaenog Forest has been designated as one of seven Wales-wide Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), and Welsh Government's approach is to limit the development of large scale wind farms to within Strategic Search Areas, which have been independently and empirically assessed to be the most suitable areas for wind energy development. However, Welsh Government planning policy does not set out spatial limitations for wind energy development under 5 megawatts (MW); developments under 5MW are applicable to all parts of Wales subject to the assessment of localised impacts.

Denbighshire County Council has committed to produce a Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) following the adoption of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan (LDP), which is in an advanced stage of production.

However, in light of the increasing number of planning applications and enquiries being submitted to the Council for individual and clusters of wind turbine developments of varying scales across the county, it is necessary to introduce interim planning guidance in advance of the production and adoption of a Wind Energy SPG to provide clarification and guidance to applicants, Officers and Members.

The purpose of the Interim Planning Guidance is to:

- Provide guidance on the planning requirements for wind turbine developments.
- Clarify the guidelines the Council will apply when assessing planning applications for wind turbine developments which have been put forward as farm diversification or community driven energy schemes.
- Clarify the Council's approach to Community Benefit Schemes.

The IPG will be subject to a 9 week consultation period and English and Welsh versions of the consultation documents will be available to view on the Council's

website; bilingual hard copies will also be deposited in accessible locations such as local libraries, one-stop-shops and County Council offices.

The consultation process will involve writing to elected Members, Town and Community Councils and other interested parties such as renewable energy companies, farming bodies, local environmental organisations, community groups and members of the public. During the consultation, Officers can be contacted through a variety of mediums including writing, email, telephone and in person.

3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)

<p>No</p>	<p>It is not considered a full equality impact assessment is required for this document as it would not lead to unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) as specified in the previous section is to provide clarification and guidance to applicants, Officers and Members in relation to wind energy developments. The IPG contains information to assist applicants compile planning applications and provides clarity on the guidelines the Council will apply when assessing applications to ensure consistent and transparent planning decisions are made.</p> <p>Whilst the IPG clarifies how weight in support of planning applications will be apportioned to wind energy developments being progressed as a farm diversification or community driven energy scheme; it does not however, introduce any additional restrictions or limitations which would be prejudicial to particular groups. The IPG states that projects that do not conform with the Council's definition of a farm diversification or community driven energy scheme, will be assessed on their own merits, and therefore without prejudice.</p> <p>The introduction of the IPG would therefore not result in less favourable treatment for particular groups nor would it give rise to indirect discrimination; furthermore it would not have any adverse impact on the Council's ability to make reasonable adjustments.</p>
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

N/A

5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

No

6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

No

7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?

No

8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

No

Action(s)	Owner	Date
N/A		

9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date: 02/11/12

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Denise Shaw	02/11/12

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.
