

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON FRIDAY, 29 MARCH 2019

PRESENT

County Councillor M Weale (Chair)

County Councillors D O Evans, H Hulme, H Lewis and R Williams.

County Councillor G Williams [previous Scrutiny Observer]

1.	APOLOGIES
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County Councillors P Davies, J Evans and K Laurie-Parry gave apologies due to other Council business. It was noted that Councillor Mark Barnes had been appointed by the new Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee as the Scrutiny Observer. As he had been appointed on 25 March, 2019 he was unable to attend the meeting and gave his apologies.

2.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December, 2018.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

4.	UPDATED CONSULTATION STATEMENT
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The Working Group considered the Updated Consultation Statement (April 2019). It was noted that the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance [SPG] in respect of Landscape and Renewable Energy were published for a six week period of public consultation from 14th January to 24th February 2019. The Working Group considered the comments received and the draft officer's responses (Appendix 4). Where it was considered appropriate changes had been made to the SPGs.

5.	REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE CONSULTATION DRAFT LANDSCAPE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCES [SPGS]
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The representations were noted.

6.	THE LANDSCAPE SPG
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The Professional Lead - Planning Policy highlighted the major changes to the SPG in light of the comments received during the consultation.

In response to questions the Professional Lead - Planning Policy advised that the development of chicken farms was not an issue addressed in the Landscape SPG. It was noted that the Minister was considering publishing guidance

regarding nitrogen levels. The Working Group was aware that England and parts of Wales had Nitrate Vulnerable Zones [NVZ] to protect water quality. Officers advised that Natural Resources Wales [NRW] does monitor levels of nitrate. It was also noted that NRW was in the process of preparing Area Statements. Concerns regarding nitrate levels, water quality and odour could be raised during the consultation.

In respect of housing, the Working Group raised concerns regarding the lack of housing actually being built. The Professional Lead - Planning Policy advised that the Development Bank of Wales, set up by the Welsh Government, can support house builders and businesses with loans and support may also become available for self-builders.

County Councillor D Evans identified some minor typographical errors for correction.

County Councillor G Williams left the meeting.

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY SPG

The Senior Planning Officer - Planning Policy highlighted the major changes to the SPG in light of the comments received during the consultation.

In respect of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) the Working Group noted the additional information regarding the development, under permitted development rights, of small AD installations on farms, where all feedstock must be sourced from within the farm and no additional material could be imported. The Working Group noted the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) frequently asked questions with respect to wind turbines added as Appendix 4 and the additional information regarding Grid Connection, which had been submitted by Scottish Power.

In respect of Decommissioning / Site Restoration / Duration of Planning Permission for renewable energy sites the Working Group considered that the time extension of a planning permission for an existing site utilising the same turbines or the replacement with more modern turbines [as long as they are no larger and reuse the same foundations] are preferable rather than the development of a new site and the environmental impact of the latter [paragraph 9.10.3].

County Councillor D Evans identified some minor typographical errors for correction.

The Working Group recommended to the Cabinet:	Reason for Recommendation:
The approval of the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Landscape, April 2019 and Renewable Energy, April 2019 – including the amendment to the wording in 9.10.3 regarding the extension of duration of the planning permission for an existing site.	To meet the commitment and programme for Supplementary Planning Guidance preparation in the adopted Powys LDP.

The Working Group thanked officers for their work in developing the SPGs.

County Councillor M Weale (Chair)