

Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan Examination

Statement of Common Ground

As prepared between
Huntingdonshire District Council
and
Anglian Water

Policies LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

21st August 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between the parties of Huntingdonshire District Council (the Council) and Anglian Water.
- 1.2. The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between the Council and Anglian Water with regard to policy LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy set out in the submitted Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036, to assist the Inspector during the examination of the Plan.
- 1.3. The Statement reflects discussions that took place in August 2018.

2. Policy LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

- 2.1. As part of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan: Proposed Submission, Anglian Water submitted a response to Policy LP 37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Anglian Water considered that the policy is not consistent with national policy.
- 2.2. Anglian Water considers that some of their sites are suitable for renewable energy generation which will enable them to invest in renewable energy technologies. This will enable Anglian Water to contribute towards maintaining or reducing customer bills, reduce Anglian Water's reliance on the electricity grid and significantly reduce carbon emissions.
- 2.3. Anglian Water considered that the policy is contrary to NPPG guidance that expects local authorities to consider the range of technologies that can be accommodated and the policies needed to encourage their development in the right places.
- 2.4. Anglian Water noted that renewable energy proposals other than wind energy will be supported where it can be demonstrated that potential adverse impacts are, or can be, made acceptable as outlined in the first paragraph of Policy LP37. However they believe that focus of the criteria in the policy is largely on assessing the impacts on heritage assets and designated sites which may not apply in all circumstances.
- 2.5. Anglian Water believe that Policy LP37 (as drafted) does not outline the circumstances in which renewable proposals (not related to wind energy) on Anglian Water's land will be supported.
- 2.6. Anglian Water therefore suggest that Policy LP37 should be redrafted to include a positive reference to renewable developments which are proposed to support Anglian Water's existing infrastructure. The inclusion of the following wording was therefore

proposed, adding the following after paragraph 6 ending with 'to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment':

Proposed Modification 1

Proposals will be supported where the benefit of the proposal outweighs any harm and it is demonstrated that any impacts to the above criteria has been avoided or can be adequately mitigated.

Proposed Modification 2

Renewable energy or low carbon energy scheme other than wind energy which provide for existing utility infrastructure will be supported.

- 2.7. The Council have considered the response from Anglian Water and as explained in the statement to Matter 15 – Conserving and Enhancing the Environment, the Council regard the policy to be compliant with the NPPF and NPPG and to be well informed based on the Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework.
- 2.8. The Council has considered the proposed modifications suggested by Anglian Water and agrees that the inclusion of *Proposed Modification 1* would provide greater clarity with regard to non-wind energy development. However, the Council believes that the inclusion of this sentence would be more beneficial after paragraph one of the policy; this would enable the sentence to directly relate to low carbon energy generating schemes.
- 2.9. The Council does not consider it equitable to specifically identify utility infrastructure providers as set out in *Proposed Modification 2*. The Council deems that all applications for renewable and wind related low carbon energy generating schemes should be assessed in the same manner, having regard to the potential impacts that development may cause. This does not prevent low carbon energy schemes coming forward on utility infrastructure sites.
- 2.10. After further discussions, both Anglian Water and the Council are in agreement that an alternative modification should be made to paragraph 8.49 of the supporting text to Policy LP37 which would elaborate upon the support offered for proposals for renewable or low carbon energy generating schemes other than wind energy and ensure better conformity with NPPF paragraph 97. This Statement of Common Ground has subsequently been provided which sets out the points of agreement.
- 2.11. New text is shown as underlined, and deleted text is shown struck through.

3. Proposed Revisions to Policy LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Development

Add the following after paragraph one ending with 'or can be made acceptable.':

Proposals will be supported where the benefit of the proposal outweighs any harm and it is demonstrated that any impacts to the criteria identified below has been avoided or can be adequately mitigated.

Paragraph 8.49

Add the following text to the last sentence of the paragraph:

The policy is intended to encourage appropriate schemes, particularly those that work towards provision of carbon neutral energy generation for utility providers and rural businesses or are community-led initiatives, whilst ensuring that the risk of adverse impacts are properly addressed.

4. Statement of Common Ground

Signed on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council		
Name and Position	Signature	Date
Clare Bond Planning Policy Team Leader		21 st August 2018
Signed on behalf of Anglian Water		
Name and Position	Signature	Date
Stewart Patience Spatial Planning Manager		21 st August 2018