

## **Examination into the Shropshire Local Plan**

### **Hearing Statement in relation to Matter 31 of ID40**

1. Stretton Climate Care originally made representations in relation DP26. In response to the Inspectors' question:

*Is the Policy justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy, including the Government's Policy statement on onshore wind, dated, July 8 2024?*

2. DP26 as proposed by Shropshire Council severely restricts the development of onshore wind power and relied upon two footnotes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which have now been deleted by the Policy Statement. The Policy is therefore no longer consistent with National Policy and is therefore unsound.
3. It would also be a misleading Policy to remain within the Local Plan unaltered, as it would be overridden by the Government Policy Statement and the proposed modifications to the NPPF.
4. Policy DP26 should therefore be modified to ensure that applications for wind energy are assessed basically under the same framework as other proposals for energy development.
5. This can be achieved by modifying Policy DP26 as indicated below:

### **~~DP26~~ DP27 Strategic, Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure**

The delivery of sustainable communities in Shropshire relies on the provision of new strategic infrastructure and the continued operation of existing strategic infrastructure. Proposals which are likely to affect an internationally designated wildlife site will require a project level HRA in accordance with Policy **DP13** ~~DP12~~.

#### **Existing Strategic Infrastructure**

1. Development will be expected to demonstrate that it will not adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the continued operation and potential expansion of existing strategic infrastructure.

#### **New Strategic Infrastructure**

##### **~~Non-wind~~ Renewable and low carbon development**

2. ~~Non-wind~~ Renewable and low carbon development will be supported where its impact is, or can be made, acceptable. To aid in this determination, all applications should be accompanied by an assessment of the proposal's effect on the following during both the construction and operational stages:

- a. Visual amenity (including the considerations within Policy **DP18** ~~DP17~~);

- b. Landscape character (including the considerations within Policy **DP18** ~~DP17~~);
- c. Natural assets (including the considerations within Policy **DP13** ~~DP12~~);
- d. Historic assets (including the considerations within Policy **DP24** ~~DP23~~);
- e. Air quality, noise and public amenity (including the considerations within Policy **DP19** ~~DP18~~);
- f. Water quality and water resources noise (including the considerations within Policy **DP20** ~~DP19~~);
- g. Traffic generation and the nature of vehicle movements;
- h. The Shropshire Hills **National Landscape** AONB (including the considerations within Policy ~~DP25~~ **DP24**);
- i. Hydropower applications should pay attention to fish stocks and normally be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (see also Policy ~~DP22~~ **DP21**) ) **a Water Framework Directive Assessment, and geomorphological assessment;**
- j. Biomass, energy from waste, biogas and anaerobic digestion proposals should also address the impact on vibration, odour, **bio-aerosols** and dust (the latter for biomass and energy from waste only). Opportunities to recover heat and power are encouraged in accordance with Policy SP3; and
- k. Large scale ~~ground-mounted solar photovoltaic solar farm~~ **p**Proposals should show how they have made effective use of previously developed and non-agricultural land. Where a proposal requires the use of agricultural land, poorer quality land should be used in preference to land of a higher quality (see also Policy **DP19** ~~DP18~~). Proposals should allow for continued agricultural use wherever possible and/or encourage biodiversity improvements. ~~around arrays~~. The assessment should pay particular attention to the impact of glint and glare on neighbouring land uses and residential amenity as well as aircraft **and other safety issues**, (including defence operations).

3. The assessment should be proportionate to the development proposed and include sufficient information to allow for an accurate evaluation of all impacts, both negative and positive. It should cover necessary ancillary development such as security measures, lighting, access tracks and fencing. Impacts should be considered cumulatively against those existing or consented development types with similar impacts in the surrounding area. Mitigation measures to remove or reduce adverse impacts should be identified.

#### Wind energy development

- ~~4. In addition to the above criteria for non-wind schemes, proposals for wind energy development of any scale (excluding microgeneration) will only be approved if:~~
- ~~a. The proposed site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan; and~~
  - ~~b. Following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.~~

**Monitoring and Decommissioning**

~~5.4.~~ Where planning permission establishes performance standards, applicants will be expected to demonstrate compliance through the submission of regular monitoring reports.

~~6.5.~~ Proposals for temporary infrastructure will be expected to include measures for satisfactory restoration, including progressive restoration, of the site at the earliest practicable opportunity to an agreed after-use or to a state capable of beneficial afteruse.

~~7.6.~~ Where appropriate, planning obligations will be sought in order to secure the after-use, long term management and maintenance of the site.

*Explanatory Paragraph ~~4.302 4.236~~ will need to be deleted as it no longer applies, although some explanatory text in relation to wind turbines might be appropriate.*