

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR WIND ENERGY IN ANGUS - UPDATE**

**REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH – HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report asks Committee to note the updating of the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus which will become a material consideration in considering and determining planning applications.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the updating of figures 6.2 and 6.4 within the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus;
- (ii) notes that the updated figures 6.2 and 6.4 of the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus will be published on the Angus Council web site;
- (iii) notes that the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (updated) will be recognised as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for wind energy proposals; and
- (iv) notes policy implications will be considered at an appropriate Committee in due course.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/ CORPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced

**3. BACKGROUND**

The Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus is a technical report providing updated information on landscape capacity for wind energy development and the potential cumulative impact of proposals in the context of operational and consented developments. The Development Standards Committee of 26 November 2013 noted that it would be a material consideration in the development management process for the assessment of wind energy development proposals and planning applications (report no. 649/13 refers).

## **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Landscape Capacity Assessment maps the contribution of wind turbine development towards landscape character by classifying according to four typologies. This assessment was base-lined for consented turbine development up to May 2013. Since this assessment, there have been a significant number of further wind turbine developments approved within Angus. The Action Programme of the Angus Local Development Plan 2016 includes a proposal to prepare Supplementary Guidance on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development (incorporating Spatial Framework for Wind Energy). This Guidance is under preparation.
- 4.2 In order that the Landscape Capacity Assessment remains a useful material consideration in the consideration of planning applications as well as providing a base-line for the forthcoming Supplementary Guidance the mapping of consented development wind energy landscape types has been updated. This has been carried out in-house by landscape planning staff within the Planning Service. This has resulted in updated figures 6.2 and 6.4 of the original Landscape Capacity Assessment (appended to this report).
- 4.3 As expected, up-dating the assessment has shown that the contribution of wind turbines towards the landscape character of Angus has increased (see updated figure 6.2). Perhaps the most notable changes are the identification of the first “wind turbine landscapes,” within the Sidlaws adjacent to the A90(T) at Gallowfauld and in Glen Isla at Kilry. The latter is due to existing and consented wind farms within Perth & Kinross, but adjacent to the Angus boundary.
- 4.4 Changes in character include increases in areas classified as “landscape with wind turbines” in the Sidlaws; Glen Isla; Memus; Montreathmont; the area between Monikie, Forfar and Letham; and the area north of Montrose Basin. There are new areas of “landscape with turbines” at Finavon and in lower Glen Lethnot.
- 4.5 There have also been increases in the extent of areas classified as “landscape with occasional wind turbines” in many parts of Angus.
- 4.6 Whilst there have been new consented wind turbine development in Aberdeenshire it is not considered that these will change the wind turbine typology assessment within Angus. However, as indicated above, consented wind farms within Perth & Kinross has significantly changed the landscape typologies within Glen Isla. Wind turbine development in both Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross may affect landscape capacity within Angus as part of an assessment of cumulative impacts for any new proposed development.
- 4.7 Lastly, there have been increases in the areas where cumulative impact limits development within the Sidlaws; south of Letham and in Glen Isla (shown on the updated figure 6.4).

## **5. PROPOSALS**

It is intended that the updated figures 6.2 and 6.4 of the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus will be recognised as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for wind energy proposals and will inform the production of the Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy Development.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Angus Local Development Plan 2016
- Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus
- Report 649/13 to Development Standards Committee 26 November 2016

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Figure 6.2 Current Consented Development: Wind Energy Landscape Type (updated August 2016)

Appendix 2 - Figure 6.4 Wind Turbine Development Opportunities and Constraints (updated August 2016)