

<b>Subject:</b>	Scout Moor Wind Farm update	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>Report of:</b>	Planning Manager	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Environmental Services
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
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## 1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That the contents of the report are noted; that any suggestions for venues for public consultation by Coronation Power are made to the Director of Business and that the Scout Moor Members Working Group is engaged in assessment of Coronation Power's proposals when these are received.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 This council report informs members of ongoing negotiations with Peel Energy on a Planning Performance Agreement, progress on Coronation Power's proposals for Rooley Moor and next steps in the process.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
  - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
  - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Lack of effective engagement in the pre-planning process could result in delivery of a scheme that fails to maximize benefits for local residents.
  - Failure to obtain a Planning Performance Agreement could impose large unplanned additional costs on the Council and affect service delivery.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 At the September meeting of Council members were informed of the sale of the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm to Munich Re-assurance. Officers of this authority together with representatives from Rochdale have subsequently met with Wind Prospect, who will be operating the Wind Farm on behalf of Munich Re, to discuss the continued operation of the existing Section 106 agreement on the site. This covers enhancement of upland bog and meadow landscapes. Discussions are ongoing to maximise the benefits of the existing scheme, particularly for the host authorities.
- 5.2 At the last meeting members were informed that the three authorities have been seeking to negotiate a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with Peel Energy. No progress has been made on this as Peel Energy is still in the process of finalising contractual agreements and

undertaking further background work. The company have however indicated that when these procedures have been finalised they would still wish to pursue the PPA discussions further.

- 5.3 The format of the scheme that Peel will develop is not yet completely clear due to the competing scheme for the eastern part of their Preferred Development Area. It is however evident that the company are continuing to develop a proposal for land that includes new turbines within the existing turbine area, at Cowpe Moss and on the western part of the area above Edenfield.
- 5.4 The competing scheme is being developed by Coronation Power for up to 18 turbines on land on Rooley Moor/Brandwood Moor. At a presentation to members on 21<sup>st</sup> November, Coronation Power indicated that four of these turbines are likely to be in Rossendale. A Powerpoint summary of the proposals has been circulated to all members. A final decision on the number and layout of turbines is likely to be made in December and will be determined by such factors as the presence of peat and visual impact. A planning application is likely to be made in the first quarter of 2013. A full public consultation exercise on the proposals will be held early in 2013 with representatives of the company aware of the disquiet that arose around the Landgate access route to Crook Hill Wind Farm. In order to ensure that consultation is thorough and effective, members are requested to suggest possible venues to the Director of Business.
- 5.5 The Scout Moor Members Working Group has not met for a number of months due to the ongoing uncertainty on what schemes will be taken forward. However once the Coronation Power proposal is made available for consultation the group will be reconvened to comment on the proposals. It is expected this will include not only the physical scheme but also the proposals for a Community Benefit Fund. If any further proposals come forward from Peel Energy the group will be kept informed.
- 5.6 The current picture remains somewhat unclear but the coming months should present a clearer picture of how the two competing proposals will progress. It is important that a consistent approach is taken to both schemes.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

##### **6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1 Members are reminded of item H1 and paragraph 16 of the minutes re Council 20th July 2011.

##### **7. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 Comments included in the body of the report.

##### **8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

- 8.1 No HR implications arising from the report.

##### **9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 9.1 Within Rossendale officers from different Directorates have been kept informed of progress.

##### **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Scout Moor/Rooley Moor Wind Farms are among the largest development proposals to affect the Borough at the current time. A consistent approach will be taken to both schemes to ensure that any impacts are minimised. Member input into possible venues for the Coronation Power consultations would be valuable in ensuring that local residents are effectively consulted.

No background papers