

Subject:	Scout Moor Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	20 th March 2013
Report of:	Planning Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Operational Services and Development Control
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the contents of the Report are noted and that negotiations on a Planning Performance Agreement be delegated to the Director of Business in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update Members on progress on the Scout Moor and Rooley Moor Wind Farm proposals.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
 - **Clean Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Negotiation of a Planning Performance Agreement with Peel Energy
 - Consideration of two proposals affecting part of the same area by different planning bodies

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 Members were informed of progress on the proposed Wind Farms at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor at the Council meeting in December 2012. There has no change in the position with respect to Coronation Power on Rooley Moor with the expected Community consultation events not occurring. The expected submission by the end of March to Rochdale MBC and Rossendale BC will therefore be delayed, possibly by a number of months.

5.2 With respect to the scheme being developed by Peel, a site visit was made by officers from the National Infrastructure Directorate (NID) on 27th February including the Case Leader and a Senior Inspector. They met with Peel in the morning and Rossendale, Rochdale and

Lancashire County Council Planning Officers in the morning. The purpose of the visit was to familiarise themselves with the proposal, the area and background as well as give initial guidance on the process for considering the scheme.

- 5.3 It was evident from the discussion that the NID process for deciding the Peel scheme will be both time and resource intensive, particularly at key stages. It appears likely there will be two formal consultation phases on the proposals before Peel submit their final scheme to NID for determination, probably in mid 2014. NID Officers recommended that particular attention be given to preparing the Local Impact Report setting out the Council's case and seeking to influence the content of the draft Development Consent Order (essentially what should be in any planning permission, should it be granted).
- 5.4 It is apparent from a short discussion with Peel that discussions with the Local Authorities about the proposed Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) will be re-commenced in the near future. This covers how the company would reimburse work undertaken in return for a commitment of defined resources. A draft agreement has already been put on the table by the local authorities and it is expected that conclusion of arrangements, led on Rossendale's behalf by the Director of Business, should be achievable.
- 5.5 The relationship between the two proposals and what this would mean for the decision making process as well as the scheme of the ground is still a matter of concern. Officers are investigating how these concerns can be taken forward.

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 Human Resource implications.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 Planning Officers have consulted colleagues in Lancashire County Council and Rochdale MBC

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 There has been very little outward progress on developing these two proposals towards submission stage. Officers will continue liaising with all parties to make progress on this matter. Finalisation of a PPA would bring additional financial resources to ensure that all relevant technical issues on the Scout Moor scheme are fully assessed. The Scout Moor Member Steering Group will be reconvened after purdah when it is hoped that there is a clearer picture of how scheme is progressing.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
NID Note of meetings 27/2/13	NID website One Stop Shop, Rawtenstall