

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	Councillor E J Poll, Executive Councillor for Economic Development
Date:	11 December 2012
Subject:	Windfarm Position Statement - Community Engagement
Decision Reference:	02123
Key decision?	No

Summary:

To seek approval for community engagement on the content and purpose of Lincolnshire County Council's Windfarm Position Statement.

Recommendation(s):

To agree a community engagement exercise on Lincolnshire County Council's Windfarm Position Statement.

Alternatives Considered:

1. No public engagement.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To enhance the weight and status attached to the County Council's Windfarm Position Statement when assessing proposed development.

1. Background

The Executive approved publication of the Windfarm Position Statement in June 2012. It was subsequently posted on the Lincolnshire County Council website and has attracted considerable interest and support, both locally and nationally. However, in order to give Lincolnshire residents an opportunity to express their opinions on the Council's approach to windfarm development, it is necessary to undertake a community engagement exercise. This will be conducted through an online survey and by using the County Newspaper.

A summary of the Windfarm Position Statement and a hyperlink to the full document will be provided. Approximately 4 questions will be asked on the

Council's overall approach to windfarm development. In addition, respondents will be asked to state in which district they reside. Lincolnshire County Council is a statutory partner assisting in the preparation of Local Plans across 5 district areas. It is hoped this exercise will assist the districts in formulating their Local Plan windfarm policies. Lincolnshire Chief Executives and Leaders met on 6 December 2012 to discuss this matter.

2. Conclusion

It is important that the communities of Lincolnshire are allowed to comment on an environmental issue which has such far reaching impacts on the landscape and the ability to produce renewable energy. The best way to achieve this is through a public opinion exercise to be conducted around Christmas 2012.

3. Legal Comments:

This decision is within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications from acceptance of the recommendation in this report

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This has not been considered by a scrutiny committee.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

6. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Lincolnshire County Council Windfarm Position Statement	Lincolnshire County Council's Website

This report was written by Phil Hughes, who can be contacted on 01522 554806 or phil.hughes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.