

Inspector's Question 7 for the Council (post hearings)

Ministerial Statement dated 18th June 2015

The Secretary of state published a Written Ministerial Statement in June which sets out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy development.

The expectation is that any future wind energy development must be in an area identified as suitable for wind energy in a local or neighbourhood plan¹.

At this stage in the Examination process I consider a pragmatic approach to this matter should be sought. For example the Council could revise policy 22 and its supporting text to confirm that it does not relate to wind turbines and that until such time as the Plan is reviewed any wind turbine proposal would be considered against the advice in the Ministerial Statement. There may be other ways forward, however, and it is for the Council to decide how it wishes to proceed.

It would be helpful if the Council could consider this matter and let me know how it intends to address the implications of the Ministerial Statement.

An initial response by Friday 24th July would be welcome.

David Hogger

Inspector

9th July 2015

¹ NPPF paragraph 97, 3rd bullet point