

Report of: Head of Environmental Development

To: Executive Board

Date: 17th March 2008

Item No:

Title of Report : Renewable Energy project: Community-scale commercial wind turbines on OCC land

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: Following EB approval of the 4th February report "Renewable Energy project: Community-scale commercial wind turbines on OCC land" authorising officers to continue negotiations with Partnerships for Renewables Ltd in respect of disposal of the two short-listed sites (Brasenose/Horspath and Sandford Brake) for siting of community-scale wind turbines on Council-owned land, this report serves to update EB on progress to date and to table two further sites for consideration that have emerged following more detailed investigations with PfR and OCC officers.

Key decision: Yes

Portfolio Holder: Cllr van Zyl

Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder: Cllr van Zyl

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Finance: Andy Collett

Policy Framework: To reduce carbon dioxide emissions associated with our own buildings and operations by 25% by 2010 (2005 baseline)– and 3% year on year after 2010/To reduce CO₂ emissions In Oxford City by at least 15% by 2010 (2005 baseline).

Recommendations: (1)That the Board welcome the addition of two additional sites for the potential siting of community-scale wind turbines on Council-owned land. (2) That officers be authorised to negotiate with PfR Ltd in respect of their disposal and that a further report be presented to the Board (target date: Monday 21 Apr) detailing the suitability of all four sites and terms for their potential disposal.

Background

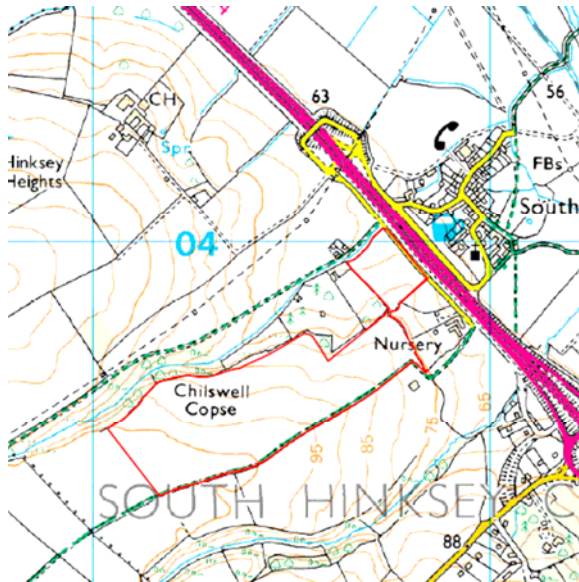
1. Please refer to the EB report of 4th February “Renewable Energy project: Community-scale commercial wind turbines on OCC land” for full background to this project.
2. In summary, EB approved the 4th February report above authorising officers to continue negotiations with Partnerships for Renewables Ltd in respect of disposal of the two short-listed sites (Brasenose/Horspath and Sandford Brake) for siting of community-scale wind turbines on Council-owned land.

Update

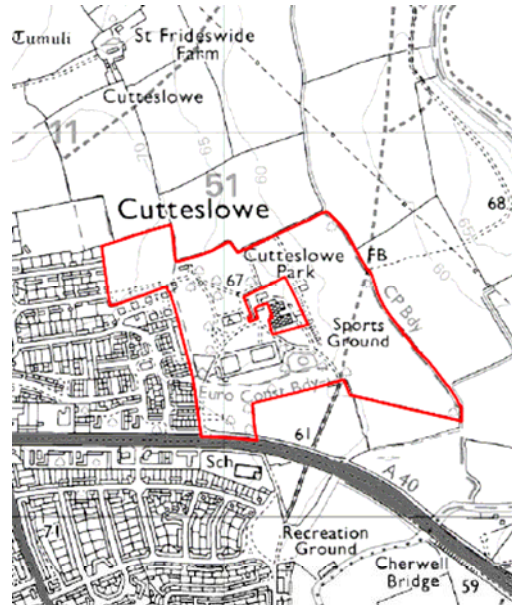
3. Following more detailed investigations with PfR and OCC officers since this time, mutually acceptable lease option agreements are being pursued for the two sites originally tabled (Brasenose/Horspath and Sandford Brake).
4. During the course of discussions two other sites that were investigated during the full feasibility study stage, but not tabled in the 4th February report, have emerged as additional attractive options for further investigation. These additional sites were not initially included as priority sites from PfR’s perspective for reasons of initial construction-phase access (Cutteslowe Park and Chilswell Farm) but, after discussion with Asset Management and other officers, have now been deemed worthy of more detailed investigation. PfR would therefore like to progress these two additional sites.
5. Each site has the potential for the installation of up to 6 turbines in total each generating up to 5.5GWhs (each turbine providing enough power for ca 1100 homes.)

Planning issues/locations for additional sites

6. The two additional sites in question are in the North of the city (on the edge of Cutteslowe Park) situated within Oxford City Council’s administrative boundary and to the South-West of the City (Chilswell near South Hinksey) in the Vale of the White Horse’s administrative boundary (see maps below). Any proposal would be the subject of full planning applications.
7. To clarify terminology in respect of “disposal” of land for siting of a community-scale wind turbine at Cutteslowe Park, this refers to the footprint of the site occupied by the wind turbine (a small percentage of the land area in question) over the lease period not disposal of the entire land asset in question for sole operation of a wind turbine. Existing activities carried out at the park will be possible with potential presence of a wind turbine on this location.



Chilswell



Cutteslowe Park

Next steps

8. It is proposed that following further assessment of land use and lease disposal issues associated with the two sites originally tabled in the 4th February report, and the two additional sites detailed here, that a report be brought to a future Board meeting to consider lease options for all four sites in question.

Recommendations

9. (1) That the Board welcome the addition of two additional sites for the potential siting of community-scale wind turbines on Council-owned land. (2) That officers be authorised to negotiate with PfR Ltd in respect of their disposal and that a further report be presented to the Board (target date: Mon 21 Apr) detailing the suitability of all four sites and terms for their potential disposal.

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Background papers: None