

Agenda Item 11

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Report

SUBJECT: Scoping opinion in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment for Wind Park on land at Silton, Gillingham

REPORT TO: Western Area Committee

DATE: 6th March 2008

AUTHOR: Oliver Marigold, Senior Planning Officer

Reason for Report:

Councillor Fowler has asked that Western Area Committee be updated on a planning application likely to be submitted to North Dorset District Council for a wind park comprising up to 6 turbines (with a maximum blade tip height of 120m) and ancillary works on land at Silton, Gillingham, Dorset.

Background:

North Dorset District Council (NDDC) has consulted Salisbury District Council on a scoping opinion submitted to them, for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted with the application for the above development. This consultation related only to the scope of the EIA – ie what aspects should be included within the EIA.

The deadline for responses was 12th February, and it is understood that NDDC have now issued their scoping decision. Officers had responded to NDDC commenting that the subjects covered in the scoping report are acceptable from Salisbury District Council's point of view, but that we wish to be fully consulted on the application and the EIA when it is submitted to NDDC.

The aspects to be included within the EIA are:

- Planning Policy
- Landscape and visual impact (including on the nearby AONB)
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Cultural Heritage (including archaeology, listed buildings, Conservation Areas) etc

- Noise
- Transport and Access
- Aviation (including military aviation)
- Miscellaneous considerations (including public safety, air quality, socio-economic impacts, shadow flicker and electromagnetic interference including TV, radio and mobile phone interference)

Perhaps the most relevant issue in relation to Salisbury District Council is likely to be the visual impact from within the District, particularly those parts within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, although of course many of the above issues could potentially affect land within SDC's boundaries to some extent.

A decision on Salisbury District Council's response to a future consultation on the planning application is one that will be brought to a future Western Area Committee, following consideration of all the submitted information. Ultimately, however, it is North Dorset District Council (and possibly the Secretary of State) who will make the final decision.

Options for consideration:

That the report be noted.