

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL 1 - 5 FEBRUARY 2008

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION)

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**PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT: PLANNING AND CLIMATE CHANGE –
SUPPLEMENT TO PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 1**

Summary: This paper provides Members with the key changes and implications for Breckland Council that arise as a result of the recently published supplementary Planning Policy Statement in Planning and Climate Change. The report considers the issues of reducing carbon emissions and stabilising climate change and how the spatial planning system can contribute towards these objectives. The Statement is now a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications and the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework.

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) sets out planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. This document is a supplement to PPS1 by setting out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change.
- 1.2 The Planning White Paper "Planning for a sustainable Future", published in 2007 has emphasised the importance of the planning system in delivering sustainable development in terms of housing delivery, business development, and infrastructure. To enable a prosperous economy and quality of life, planning is seen as playing a key role in helping to tackle climate change.

2. KEY DECISION

- 2.1 This is not a key decision.

3. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matter raised in this report falls within the following Council priorities:
- A safe and healthy environment
 - A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities

4. IMPLICATIONS OF SUPPLEMENTARY PPS1 FOR BRECKLAND

- 4.1 Sustainable development continues to remain at the heart of this supplement to PPS1, and sets out how Local Authority planning can best support the achievement of carbon zero targets in tandem with the achievement of social, economic and housing development.
- 4.2 One of the key objectives through this document is the delivery of 'sustainable development' through the preparation, management and delivery of Local Authorities spatial strategies which should achieve an appropriate response to climate change. The statement sets out a number of key planning objectives that Local Authorities should consider when preparing their spatial strategies, which places significant importance on energy efficiency measures that reduce emissions when providing for homes, jobs, services and infrastructure within Breckland. Another key objective is to

secure sustainable urban and rural growth and development, encouraging sustainable modes of transport other than by car, which in turn encourages the contribution for renewable and low carbon energy sources.

- 4.3 The statement suggests a number of guiding principles for Local Authorities to apply through Spatial Strategies in order to tackling climate change. These principles highlight the need for appropriate spatial distribution, location and design of new developments in order to limit carbon dioxide emissions. The use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy for new development is encouraged. (*“Decentralised energy supply is energy supply from local renewable or local carbon sources (on site and near site but not remote of site), usually on a relatively small scale and decentralised is a broad term to denote a diverse range of technologies which can serve individual buildings, developments and the wider community”*). Spatial strategies are expected produce robust sustainability appraisals (incorporating strategic environmental assessments) which underpin and support the key planning and strategic approach that is being undertaken by Local Authorities.
- 4.4 Breckland's Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework should be in conformity with the RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy). The RSS provides a spatial framework, to which tackling climate change forms an important criterion for planning bodies to address through their spatial strategies.
- 4.5 Local Authorities should ensure that targets set for renewable energy generation are consistent with Regional and Governmental targets. The achievement of reducing the impact on climate change through sustainable planning and encouragement of renewable and low carbons sources of energy supply must take account of water resources and avoid new development within vulnerable areas. This statement indicates the importance of the LDF Core Strategy achieving the planning objectives within this PPS, but also the interrelationship between the Core Strategy and other strategies, especially Breckland's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 4.6 A significant issue for Breckland is the provision of a framework within the Core Strategy that encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation without restricting technologies and innovation; whilst ensuring that any approach is consistent with the protection of landscape and townscape as specified in PPS22 (Planning and Renewable Energy). This statement considers that it would be prudent to identify suitable sites for renewable and low carbon energy sources and expects that a proportion of energy supply is secured from decentralised and renewable and low carbon energy sources. This has a clear implication for the development and implementation of the Core Strategy and Development and Control policies within its strategic approach and allocations.
- 4.7 The statement gives greater emphasis to Local Development Orders (LDO's) to secure renewable and low carbon energy supply systems by means of the provision of additional permitted development rights, and to bring forward a particular site for the use for renewables if required. When identifying sites for potential development a criteria based approach in terms of its sustainability should be adopted in order to address its suitability to be sustainable without detrimental results. In order for Breckland to implement renewables measures within the core strategy is it expected that there is a competent understanding of renewable and low carbon technologies in order to understand their implementation. This would enable Local Authorities should set out a percentage of the energy to be used in new development to come from decentralised and renewable low carbon energy sources where viable, including size and type of development and if the opportunity arises encourage above and beyond the target figure which should be set within the Core Strategy.
- 4.8 The statement encourages the delivery of sustainable buildings and the reduction of carbon emissions from domestic and non domestic buildings. It is advocated that

where Local Authorities in advance can anticipate levels of buildings need via local requirement then this should be taken account of in planning for the use of renewable or low carbon energy as well as water efficiency measures. This will have an implication for Breckland in particular regard to Thetford Growth Point status where Breckland can proactively implement targets and requirements for new development schemes within the Thetford Area Action Plan.

- 4.9 This statement actively encourages policies which support innovation and investment in sustainable buildings and the strategy and policies with the DPD should help to achieve National and Regional targets for the reduction of carbon emissions from domestic and non-domestic buildings. Any policy relating to local requirement for decentralised energy supply to new developments for sustainable buildings should be set up in a DPD. This has a clear implication as any proposal and would need to ensure its viability having regards to cost implications of bringing sites forward. This would include consideration for infrastructure and any adverse impact on the development needs for local communities. Any policy approach to enable renewable and low carbon sources for new housing schemes would need to comply with PPS3 and would not inhibit affordable housing.
- 4.10 As with existing conformity and compliance with government guidance annual monitoring forms part of a strategy and enables measurable changes in order to understand and establish whether the strategy is securing a responsive action to climate change. Reviews and annual monitoring should be undertaken to reflect updates to National Climate Change Programme or sooner if it is established that the spatial strategy is insufficiently contributing to the key planning objectives of this PPS.
- 4.11 The statement encourages and provides greater emphasis on the use of design and access statements in order to establish the conformity with the DPD and any criteria that should be adhered to enable a sustainable development. The policies within this statement are capable of being a material consideration on planning applications and it is emphasised that where there is any difference on climate change between policies in this PPS as others in the national serried that this PPS takes precedence.
- 4.12 Finally, this statement encourages measures to reduce carbon dioxide emission from homes and encourage sustainable building methods and materials and how best planning can support a the achievements of carbon zero, however it needs to be noted that buildings regulations do have a large part to play in the achievement of sustainability. This statement indicates that '*Building a Green Future, planning for Sustainable Future 2007*', sets out a recommendation to tighten Building regulations to require a reduction in carbon emissions for new homes to carbon zero by 2016. To date there are similar ambitions from Government but as yet proposals have not been set.

5. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 5.1 This Report is for information only and no options are available.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 6.1 To facilitate further discussion of the issues raised by Supplementary PPS1 for the Development Control service and the emerging Local Development Framework.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The Risk Management questionnaire has been completed and this report does not require a risk assessment because the changes/issues covered by the recommendations are not significant in terms of risk.

8. RECOMMENDATION(S)

8.1 Members to note the contents of this report for their information

Appendices:

A – Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1

Where appropriate, this report has taken account of the need for compliance with

- The Council's Equal Opportunities Policies
- Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Section 40, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006