

Appendix 22 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments

1) Proposals for renewable energy developments, micro-renewables (such as, but not limited to, micro-wind turbines, micro-hydro and solar panels), or low and zero carbon and decentralised energy (such as, but not limited to Combined Heat and Power systems) may be supported subject to assessment of potential impacts on:

- a) Residential/workplace amenity;
- b) The visual amenity of the local area, including landscape character;
- c) Local natural resources, including air and water quality;
- d) The natural, built and historic environments;
- e) Biodiversity;
- f) Public access to the countryside;
- g) The openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt;
- h) Other site constraints.

2) The Council will take into account the individual and cumulative impacts of applications for renewable energy developments on the above.

Reasoned justification

22.1 We are keen to support the transition to a low carbon future and that the Local Plan should help to contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

22.2 Hertfordshire as a whole had the technical potential to achieve a significant amount of renewable energy production by a number of other various means including Biomass, dedicated Combined Heat and Power facilities, Bio-diesel and Bio-ethanol. Given the District's watercourses, there may also be opportunities for micro-hydro power generation.

22.3 Specific areas suitable for large-scale renewable and low or zero carbon and decentralised energy have not been identified. However, the Council encourages applicants to integrate the use of renewable energy technologies into all proposals and supports the use of micro-renewables subject to an assessment of potential impacts.