

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Planning Committee 17 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Rampion 2 Wind Farm – Local Impact Report
LEAD OFFICER:	Neil Crowther
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Hamilton
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the district.• To consider climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environment in everything the council is responsible for and encourage its community and local businesses to do the same.• Protect and enhance our natural environment.• Increase opportunities for more high-quality, well-paid employment, encouraging more people to live, work, study and visit Arun.• Make best use of our natural assets to help drive the economy.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
This report gives an update on the amendments to the Rampion2 Wind Farm consultation.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
No financial implications.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree to contents of a Local Impact Report (LIR) to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination as part of the Rampion 2 Wind Farm proposals. This will comprise the conclusions of the Council on various technical and subjective matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Planning Committee resolves to
 - i. Provide comments on and agree the proposed Local Impact Report, set out in Appendix 1 to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
 - ii. If amendments are sought to the Local Impact Report, then delegated authority is granted to the Group Head of Planning to make appropriate amendments and submit the LIR.

- iii. To agree that written representations based on the contents of the Local Impact Report are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with the timescales confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Planning Committee have considered various reports on the Rampion 2 Wind Farm proposals through the informal consultation stages. At Planning Committee on 8 September 2021, it was resolved to submit a holding objection to the proposals. The full response can be found at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 Rampion Extension Development Ltd (RED) have submitted a 'Development Consent Order' (DCO) for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Scheme. The DCO will be formally examined under the 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) process, managed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 3.3 As part of that formal process Arun District Council, as a 'host Local Authority', is invited to submit a 'Local Impact Report' (setting out the positive, negative and neutral impacts of the proposal) and 'Written Representations' (setting out any objections, concerns or matters of support).
- 3.4 This report is for the Council to agree a Local Impact Report as part of this formal process leading up to Examination by the determining authority.
- 3.5 The Written Representations will then be drafted to draw to the key areas of objection, concerns and support from the Local Impact report, for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 The current proposal for Rampion 2 would have an installed capacity of up to 1,200 MW, with the offshore components comprising:
 - Up to 90 offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs), associated foundations and inter-array cables:
 - Up to three offshore sub-stations;
 - Up to four offshore export cables, each in its own trench.

The key onshore elements of the proposal are:

- A single landfall site at Climping.
- Buried onshore cables in a single corridor approximately 38.8km in length running from Climping to Oakendene, which comprise up to four cable circuits in separate trenches – the construction width for which would be a maximum of 40m; and
- A new onshore substation near Cowfold (Horsham District) that will connect to the existing National Grid Bolney substation (Mid-Sussex), via buried onshore cables.

- 4.2 The formal proposals for the Rampion 2 Wind Farm have been accepted by the determining authority (The Planning Inspectorate) in September 2023 and the Development Consent Order pre-examination process has now commenced.
- 4.3 The Planning Inspectorate has appointed an independent Examining Authority to rigorously examine the application. At the end of the examination, the Independent Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Government's 'Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy'. The Secretary of State will then review the application and decide on whether to grant a Development Consent Order.
- 4.4 As part of the Planning Act 2008 process, the relevant local authorities will be invited to submit a Local Impact Report to the Planning Inspectorate by a given deadline. Prior to this, the Council has been asked to set out (as a summary) their likely headline issues in a 'relevant representations' submission. This submission was essential a non-binding high-level identification of the main issues (Appendix 1). The Local Impact Report is the detailed submission for the purposes of the examination process.
- 4.5 The Local Impact Report is defined by the Planning Act as 'a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area)'. The content of the Local Impact Report is a matter for the local authority concerned as long as it falls within this statutory definition. The Local Impact Report should consist of a statement of positive, neutral and negative local impacts. The Local Impact Report should be used by local authorities as the means by which their existing body of local knowledge and evidence on local issues can be fully and robustly reported to the Examining Authority.
- 4.6 Once the Local Impact Report has been agreed, Arun District Council will submit the Local Impact Report to the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with the deadline of 20 February 2024.
- 4.7 The Examining Authority has now published the Examination Timetable (on 14 December 2023). Following the submission of the LIR, the first stage of this process are preliminary meetings followed by initial hearings in early February 2024. Further Hearings are scheduled for May/June 2024 if required. Through this process, the applicant will seek to conclude Statements of Common Ground with the Council as well as other parties such as West Sussex County Council, National Highways, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.
- 4.8 After the Examination has been concluded, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the decision on whether or not to make a development consent order authorising the project. In coming to a decision, the Secretary of State must have regard to Local Impact Reports.
- 4.9 As part of this process, the applicant has carried out extensive formal and informal consultation. A number of other local Parish and Town Councils have made their own submissions as part of the Relevant Representations stage. These are listed below.

- Climping Parish Council
- Aldwick Parish Council
- Pagham Parish Council
- Kingston Parish Council
- Lyminster & Crossbush Parish Meeting
- Bognor Regis Town Council
- Littlehampton Town Council

These representations can be found at this webpage.

[Relevant Representations | Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Significant internal consultation has taken place with technical officers. Further, significant consultation has taken place with adjoining authorities through the preparation of a draft Local Impact Report.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Not to engage in the process or make representations.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('NSIPs') are dealt with under the procedure set out in the Planning Act 2008 and involve an application to the Secretary of State for development consent ('a DCO'). Consultation is the first stage in the process, and the Council is a statutory consultee. The Council responded to the first consultation following consideration of the proposals by the Planning Committee on 8 September 2022.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 N/a

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

- 9.1 N/a.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 10.1 N/a

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

- 11.1 N/a

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 The Council are in discussion with the applicants regarding land ownership issues at Climping where works are proposed for a temporary period.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 N/a

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 The proposed Rampion 2 Wind Farm development would provide a significant amount of renewable electricity to the grid and provide households and businesses across the UK with the opportunities to purchase renewable electricity. It would help ensure the transition away from the fossil fuel generation of electricity which has a large impact on the environment, through the direct burning of the fuels themselves and the impact to the surrounding environment during the harvesting of the fuels.

14.2 In support of fighting climate change and reducing the Council's impact on the environment the Council declared a climate emergency in January 2020 and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. Since this date the Carbon Neutral Strategy and Climate action and biodiversity work plan have both been adopted, along with one of the four key pillars in the Council's vision document being 'supporting our environment to support us.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 N/a

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 N/a

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 N/a

CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- Appendix 1 – Draft Local Impact Report
- Appendix 2 - Arun District Council Relevant Representations submission November 2023.
- Appendix 3 – Copy of Arun District Council response to informal consultation.

- Reports to Planning Committee
8 September 2021
30 November 2022

- Members may wish to view the South Downs National Park Local Impact Report.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/meeting/national-park-authority-meeting-12-december-2023/>

- Full details of the application proposals can be found here.

[Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm - Project Information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)