

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on Draft PPS – Planning for a low carbon future

Suggested response

In general, the move towards streamlining national policy is supported, although it is therefore vital that guidance and support be provided alongside. Whether this PPS is, or is not, a supplement to PPS1 or a stand alone statement is not considered to be a fundamental issue – rather it needs to be explicit on the weight afforded to its policies in light of other pressures.

The draft PPS, for example, acknowledges that the delivery of housing must not be compromised, but seems to afford less importance to locally determined landscape and townscape assets. The process of weighing up the relative merits is not fully developed, especially when considering the advice in PPS5.

In particular, the Council considers that Policy LCF13 does not give sufficient recognition to locally determined policies and designations intended to define and protect local heritage assets as well as character and quality of local areas.

In order to ensure that low carbon development does not compromise the quality of places, more guidance and training will need to be provided to both policy makers and development management teams. Early engagement with developers already takes place, but clearly the successful implementation of the PPS and development of truly sustainable communities will require additional skills at a local level for many authorities. In particular, the assessment of viability, design and use of conditions and obligations are all areas of which will need to be strengthened. It is important that adequate funding and/ or training be integral to the roll-out of this strategy.