Report to: **Planning Committee 20th February 2008**
Cabinet 21st February 2008

Subject : **Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1)**

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Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the key issues raised by the recently published PPS 1 supplement. The Supplement is designed to augment the overarching policies set out in Planning Policy Statement 1:Delivering Sustainable Development. It follows on from the consultation on the draft supplement that was reported to members on 7th February 2007. The Supplement should be read alongside other Government publications that address climate change. The policies laid out in the Supplement are capable of being material considerations on planning applications and could supersede the policies in the development plan.

Background

2. Addressing climate change is the Government's principal concern for sustainable development. The Climate Change Bill would put into place a target for carbon emissions to be reduced to 26-32% of 1990 levels by 2020 and to at least 60% by 2050. There is an urgent need for action on climate change. This PPS supplement sets out how regional and local planning can best support achievement of zero-carbon targets alongside meeting community needs for economic and housing development.

Summary of key issues

3. Planning authorities should apply the following principles in making decisions about their spatial strategies:-

- The proposed provision for new development (distribution, location and design) should be planned to limit carbon dioxide emissions.
- New development should make good use of opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy.
- New development should minimise future vulnerability to climate change.
- Climate change considerations should be integrated into all spatial planning concerns.
- New development should address mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainability appraisal should be applied to shape planning strategies and policies.

Local Development Documents

4. The core strategy should be informed by and inform local strategies on climate change including the sustainable community strategy. Planning authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourage renewable and low-carbon energy generation by:-

- Not requiring applicants for energy development to demonstrate the need for renewable energy and its distribution or the justification for a particular location.
- Ensuring any approach to protecting the landscape does not preclude the supply renewable energy other than in exceptional circumstances.
- Identifying suitable areas for renewable and low-carbon energy sources and supporting infrastructure.
- Expecting a proportion of the energy supply of new development is secured from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy sources.
- Considering the use of local development orders.

5. In deciding which areas/sites are suitable for development, planning authorities should assess proposals against the following:-

- The extent to which decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy could contribute to the energy supply.
- Whether there is a realistic choice of access by non-car methods.
- The capacity of existing/potential infrastructure to service the site.
- The ability to build socially cohesive communities.
- The effects on biodiversity.
- Contributions to open space.
- Known physical and environmental constraints to development.

6. Planning authorities should have an evidence-based understanding of the local feasibility and potential for renewable and loc-carbon technologies to supply new development in their area. Drawing from this evidence base, planning authorities should:-

- Set a target % of energy in new development to come from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources where viable.
- Where there are particular opportunities for greater use of decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy than the target percentage, bring forward site specific targets to secure this potential.

7. Planning policies should support innovation and investment in sustainable buildings and should not, unless there are exceptional circumstances, deter novel or cutting edge developments.

Any policy relating to local requirements for decentralised energy supply to new development or for sustainable buildings should be set out in a Development Plan Document, not a supplementary planning document, so as to ensure examination by an independent Inspector. In doing so, planning authorities should:-

- Ensure what is proposed is evidence based and viable, having regard to the overall costs of bringing sites to the market.
- In the case of housing development, demonstrate that the proposed approach is consistent with securing the expected supply of housing shown in the housing trajectory and does not inhibit the provision of affordable housing.
- Set out how they intend to advise potential developers on the implementation of local requirements.

8. Annual monitoring reports should assess progress against the objectives of this PPS and be integrated with monitoring of housing delivery and other policies. They should describe performance and the action intended to improvement implementation or to update the strategy.

Determining Planning Applications

9. Before the development plan is updated to reflect the policies in this PPS, planning authorities should ensure proposed development is consistent with the policies in this PPS. Consideration should be given to how proposals could be amended to make them acceptable or to whether planning permission should be refused.

10. Where possible, planning authorities should make use of Design and Access statements to obtain from applicants the information necessary to show how their proposed development will contribute to the requirements of this PPS.

Glossary

Decentralised energy supply: is a broad term used to denote a diverse range of technologies, including micro-renewables, which can locally serve an individual building, development or wider community and includes heating and cooling energy.

Renewables and low-carbon energy: includes energy for heating and cooling was well as generating electricity. Renewable energy includes those energy sources that occur repeatedly in the environment, from the wind, water, sun and biomass. Low-carbon technologies are those that can help reduce carbon emissions. These include energy supplies from biomass and energy crops; combined heat and power and combined cooling heat and power; waste heat that would otherwise be generated from fossil fuel; energy from waster; ground source heating and cooling; hydro; solar thermal and photovoltaic generation; wind generation.