

## APPENDIX 3

### Update on Proposed Ground Mounted and Wind Developments at Newborough, Morris Fen and America Farm - FEB14/CAB/16

**Decision maker:** Cabinet

**Decision status:** Called In

**Is Key decision?:** No

**Is subject to call in?:** Yes

#### **Purpose:**

Cabinet received a report following a Scrutiny Committee for Rural Communities meeting held on 16 December 2013.

The purpose of the report was for Cabinet to consider:

1. The recommendations made by the Scrutiny Commission for Rural communities, these being;

‘The Commission recommends to Cabinet:

- a) Immediately stops both options (1) solar and (2) wind for the America Farm project due to the negative income predicted for the delayed project; and
  - b) Stops the solar panel option (1) on all three sites (America Farm, Newborough and Morris Fen) due to the significant total expenditure of £296 million, a poor return of £21 million net income and a Net Present Value figure of only £10.5 million’.
2. The update of the latest financial projections for the three sites;
  3. The latest position on survey results etc. at the America Farm site; and
  4. The feedback received to date as part of the budget consultation launched at the 3 February Cabinet meeting.

Following consideration of these areas, Cabinet was requested to agree a way forward for the three energy park projects.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to agree:

1. That the project at America Farm be progressed and taken to a Planning Committee for a decision subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding English Heritage Issues;
2. That further consultation on the future development options for Morris Fen and Newborough projects be undertaken with farmers, individuals and key stakeholders;

3. And that a report be brought to the March Cabinet meeting to determine a way forward for these two sites; and
4. That at this stage, the MTFS figures remain as set out in the budget report.

**Reasons for the decision:**

Continuing with the solar farm at America Farm and subsequent successful completion would realise for the Council a net income of £6.64m over the 25 year period.

Continuing with the Option (1) Solar Farm only development and if successfully completed would realise for the Council a net income of between £93.62m and £86.67m over the 25 year period.

**Alternative options considered:**

**America Farm:**

Do not progress the energy park.

**Morris Fen and Newborough:**

Do not progress the ground mounted solar only option.

Do not undertake further engagement and consultation work.

**Interests and Nature of Interests Declared:**

Councillor Dalton declared a pecuniary interest in the item, in that he was a Director, JE & VM Dalton Ltd.

**Background Documents:**

- DECC Update Guidance: "UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: Roadmap to a Brighter Future"; and
- BRE Solar Centre Planning Guidance.

**Publication date:** 24/02/2014

**Date of decision:** 24/02/2014

**Date comes into force if not called in:** 28/02/2014

**Call-in deadline date:** 27/02/2014