

POWYS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Between

Powys County Council and Scottish Power



June 2017

1.1 This is a joint statement produced by Powys County Council, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) and Western Power Distribution (WPD), the two licenced electricity network operators in the Powys Local Plan area, to agree to a proposed change in the LDP wording (reasoned justification) with regard to concerns relating to Infrastructure.

1.2 SPEN and WPD are both Distribution Network Operators ("DNOs") and hold licences from the UK Government to operate the electricity distribution network across Powys, split approximately north and south respectively. In their capacity as the DNOs neither SPEN nor WPD buy or sell electricity and nor do they generate electricity or operate wind farms. Their role is solely to operate the distribution network in an economic, coordinated and efficient manner and this is a statutory obligation, as licence holders. In order to discharge these obligations WPD and SPEN are required to connect new development sites and this will often require the construction of new circuits, both overhead and underground and associated infrastructure and apparatus.

1.3 Scottish Power Energy Networks made three Representations at the LDP Further Focussed Changes stage which related to their concerns regarding;

- the support the LDP was giving to the need for 'new' infrastructure (4601.U1),
- the need to refer to the fact that utility infrastructure should not be a constraint where promoters themselves bring forward additional capacity (4601.U2), and
- the LDP should support the need for additional grid infrastructure, as acknowledged in national policies (4601.U3)

WPD made no Representations at the LDP Further Focussed Changes Stage.

1.3 Subsequently these concerns were addressed through a series of email communications throughout the spring of 2017 as well as meetings held in early 2017 in order to inform the Council's response.

As a consequence of this communication and in order to better reflect PPW paragraph 12.8.14, where LPA's should adopt "an integrated approach ... towards planning renewable and low carbon energy developments and additional electricity grid network infrastructure", and TAN8 Annex C paragraph 2.13 which recognises the benefits of new grid infrastructure, the Council, Scottish Power Energy Networks

and Western Power Distribution would recommend the following proposed Matters Arising Changes (MAC) to the LDP;

PROPOSED MAC 1;

Theme 3 – Supporting Infrastructure and Services

LDP Objective 9 – Infrastructure and Services

To support the provision of **new** infrastructure and services to meet the future needs of Powys' communities.





PROPOSED MAC 2;

Paragraph 4.2.55A within Policy DM15 – Design and Resources

4.2.55A Utilities. Utility infrastructure encompasses services such as water supply, sewerage treatment, electricity and gas and heat supplies, and telecommunications. Responsibility for the supply and maintenance of existing services rests with a mix of statutory undertakers and private companies. Where possible, practical and not an undue burden, particularly likely to be the case where there exists little or no infrastructure or spare grid capacity, developments should utilise sustainable, low and zero carbon energy technologies. Where this is not possible, developments should be connected to the existing infrastructure but in locations where there is no spare capacity, future development will ~~be constrained until the capacity is increased or a satisfactory alternative can be found~~ **include provision for increasing the existing capacity and developers will need to work closely with utility providers in providing new infrastructure where it is required. The creation of extra capacity will improve the resilience of the local network which will provide benefits for communities across Powys in line with Paragraph 2.13 of Annex C, of TAN 8.**

(Text highlighted in **green** is new to, and text highlighted in ~~grey and struck through~~ is to be deleted from, the composite LDP)

Signed by;

<p>Peter Morris Professional Lead, Planning Policy, Powys County Council</p> <p></p> <p>Date: </p>	<p>Steven Edwards Senior Environmental Planner, Scottish Power Energy Networks</p> <p></p> <p>Date: <u>26/6/17</u>.....</p>	<p>Andrew Hubbard Consents and Planning Manager, Western Power Distribution</p> <p></p> <p>Date: <u>26/6/17</u>.....</p>
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