



Merseyside
Environmental
Advisory Service

04 August 2015

Local Plan Team
Knowsley Council
1st Floor Annexe
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L36 9YU

Dear Sir / Madam,

HRA of Further Modification to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy August 2015

The submitted Local Plan Core Strategy was subjected to full HRA in 2012. Further HRA updates were completed in June and August 2014 following changes made.

Since that time one further modification (August 2015) to the plan has been proposed to address implications of a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) and changes to national planning practice guidance published on 18 June 2015, concerning wind energy development. It is therefore necessary for this proposed change to be subjected to HRA analysis in order to determine whether it would alter any of the conclusions previously reached regarding the HRA of the Local Plan Core Strategy, or introduce any new impacts/effects. This analysis is not intended as a stand-alone document but should be read in conjunction with the HRA of the submitted Local Plan Core Strategy. As such, it does not seek to comprehensively recap all the issues and analyses that were covered in that document but specifically seeks to identify any issues with the proposed modification.

The most recent amendment to paragraph 9.17 of the Core Strategy specifically excludes wind energy from the provisions of Policy CS23, which concerns itself with Renewable & Low Carbon Infrastructure. The change to paragraph 9.17 indicates that policies relating to the development of wind turbines will instead be included within the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies document, with the intention of identifying areas suitable for wind energy development in line with the WMS. Since it is clear that policies managing wind turbine delivery in Knowsley will be included in the Site Allocations document, it is considered that this change to the supporting text of the Core Strategy and the exclusion of wind turbines from the

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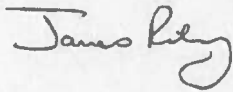
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provisions of Policy CS23 will not result in a likely significant effect on European sites. Individual wind turbine proposals and areas suitable for wind energy development could result in likely significant effects on Martin Mere SPA and the coastal SPAs around Merseyside, given the extent to which associate wildfowl utilise farmland in the area. However, this would be a matter to be investigated at the Site Allocations and individual application stage; it would not be a result of this change to Core Strategy text.

It is therefore concluded that there would be no introduction or exacerbation of likely significant effects on European sites as a result of this further modification.

Yours sincerely

for **AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Riley".

Dr James Riley
Associate Director (Ecology & HRA)