

5.0 PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter of the ES undertakes an analysis of the proposed Brigg REP in the context of all current, relevant planning policies and guidance. It is divided into four parts, following on from this introduction. These:

- provide a brief view of the relevant policy context and identify the principal documents to which further reference is made;
- set out the detailed policy framework against which planning applications should be considered;
- provide a detailed assessment of how the proposals accord, or otherwise, with that framework;
- draw a number of concise conclusions.

5.2 Planning Policy Context – Overview

5.2.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (September 2004) requires that applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

5.2.2 In the case of the proposed Brigg REP, the relevant statutory development plan comprises:

- The Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (adopted May 2008);
- North Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted May 2003).

5.2.3 Following the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the North Lincolnshire Local Plan was saved for 3 years. As the end of this period approached the Council were required to submit a list, to the Secretary of State, of the policies they wished to retain beyond September 2007. It is these remaining 'saved' policies that form the basis on which

planning decisions are made, until the adoption of the North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework.

5.2.4 However, elements of the above development plan, whilst in force, have effectively been overtaken by both national policy and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Brigg REP proposal, therefore, also needs to be considered in the context of other material considerations, particularly in respect of renewable energy policy. These are numerous and are judged to comprise the following:

- The Energy White Paper (May 2007);
- The UK Biomass Strategy (May 2007);
- Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development (February 2005);
- Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (December 2007);
- Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22): Renewable Energy (August 2004);
- North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Preferred Options (October 2006);
- North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD – Issues and Options;
- The Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber (February 2007).
- The Consultation Draft Renewable Energy Strategy – June 2008 (this document is referenced in Chapter 3.0 of the ES and, given its draft status, is not referred to again within this chapter).

5.2.5 An additional material planning consideration is the demonstrable ‘need’ for the development which is set out in Chapter 3.0 of the ES.

5.3 Policy Context

The Development Plan

5.3.1 The policies relevant to the Brigg REP contained within the statutory development plan are summarised below.

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026

- 5.3.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (September 2004) introduced a fundamental reform of national planning policy, promoting a new two-tier system of development plans consisting of regional guidance and local plans. At a regional level the Act requires the preparation of a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which sets out the Secretary of State's policies in relation to development and land use in the region. The RSS supersedes both the existing Regional Planning Guidance Notes and Structure Plans. Whilst the transition to RSS is completed, adopted Structure Plans will be “saved” for a period of 3 years. For those plans in preparation, the 3-year period will start from approval / adoption, with scope to extend this time, should the Secretary of State deem it necessary.
- 5.3.3 For the Yorkshire and Humber Region, within which the proposed Brigg REP lies, the current regional guidance is contained with The Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026. It was adopted in May 2008.
- 5.3.4 The following renewable specific policies are of particular relevance:

Policy YH2 Climate change and resource use

Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should:

A Help to meet the target set out in the RES to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region in 2016 by 20-25% (compared to 1990 levels) with further reductions thereafter by...

...7. Increasing renewable energy capacity and carbon capture

Policy ENV5 Energy

The Region will maximise improvements to energy efficiency and increases in renewable energy capacity. Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should:

A Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and maximise the efficient use of power sources by:

1. *Requiring the orientation and layout of development to maximise passive solar heating*
2. *Ensuring that publicly funded housing, and Yorkshire Forward supported development, meet high energy efficiency standards*
3. *Maximising the use of combined heat and power, particularly for developments with energy demands over 2MW, and incorporating renewable sources of energy where possible*
4. *Ensuring that development takes advantage of community heating opportunities wherever they arise in the region, including at Immingham and near Selby*
5. *Providing for new efficient energy generation and transmission infrastructure in keeping with local amenity and areas of demand*
6. *Supporting the use of clean coal technologies and abatement measures*

B Maximise renewable energy capacity by:

1. *Delivering at least the following Regional and Sub-Regional targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy capacity:*

	2010	2021
<i>Humber</i>	<i>124MW</i>	<i>350MW</i>
<i>North Yorkshire</i>	<i>209MW</i>	<i>428MW</i>
<i>South Yorkshire</i>	<i>47MW</i>	<i>160MW</i>
<i>West Yorkshire</i>	<i>88MW</i>	<i>295MW</i>
<i>Offshore</i>	<i>240MW</i>	<i>630MW</i>
Total	708MW	1862MW

2. *Monitoring annually planning permissions and developments against the indicative local authority targets for 2010 and 2021 set out in Table 10.2 and taking action accordingly in order to ensure the regional and subregional targets are exceeded*

3. Promoting and securing greater use of decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy in new development, including through Development Plan Documents setting ambitious but viable proportions of the energy supply for new development to be required to come from such sources. In advance of local targets being set in DPDs, new developments of more than 10 dwellings or 1000m² of non-residential floorspace should secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources, unless, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, this is not feasible or viable.

5.3.5 In addition Table 10.2 provides indicative local targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy in 2010 and 2021. For North-East Lincolnshire this is 23MW by 2010 and 50MW by 2021.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan

5.3.6 Following the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the policies contained within the North Lincolnshire Local Plan were saved for an initial period of 3 years (until September 2007). Prior to the expiry of this period, North Lincolnshire submitted a list of policies, to the Secretary of State, that they wished to further save. It is these policies that form the basis upon which planning decisions are made, until they are replaced by the introduction of the Local Development Framework. The following is a summary of the relevant policies contained within the Local Plan:

IN1 Industrial Development Location and Uses

New industrial development as defined by the Town and Country Planning Use Classes Order 1987 (as amended) will be allowed on the following sites...

Site	Location	Area Hectares	Use Classes Permitted	Brownfield %	Greenfield %
IN1-9	Former British Sugar Site, Brigg	20.5	B1, B2, B8	100	0

IN6 Defined Industrial Buffer Area

Development will not be permitted within the defined amenity buffer areas associated with the South Humber Bank, North Killingholme Airfield and the

former British Sugar Site, Brigg industrial areas. Within these areas, schemes for indigenous tree and shrub planting and habitat creation will be required.

IN8 Former British Sugar Site, Scawby Road, Scawby Brook, Brigg Planning permission for new industrial development will be allowed for Use Class B1 business development, Use Class B2 general industrial development and Use Class B8 warehouse and storage development at the former British Sugar site, Scawby Road, Scawby Brook, Brigg. Proposals will be required to achieve a high standard of landscaping.

Policy T1 Location of Development

Development proposals, which generate a significant volume of traffic movement, will be permitted provided that they are located:

- i) in the urban area of Scunthorpe and Bottesford, Barton upon Humber, Brigg, and the areas identified for development at the South Humber Bank and Humberside International Airport; and*
- ii) where there is good access to rail, water and air transport, or to the North Lincolnshire Strategic Road Network; and*
- iii) where there is good foot, cycle and public transport provision or where there are opportunities for foot, cycle and public transport to be provided.*

T2 Access to Development

All development must be provided with a satisfactory access. In larger developments it should be served adequately by:

- i) being readily accessible by a choice of transport modes; and*
- ii) existing public transport services and infrastructure; or*
- iii) additions or extensions to such services linked directly to the development; and*
- iv) the existing highway network.*

T8 Cyclists and Development

New developments will be required to:

- i) include cycle links with existing or proposed routes where such opportunity exists; and*
- ii) ensure that the provision of cycle parking facilities are in accordance with the standards set out in Appendix 2.*

T14 The North Lincolnshire Strategic Road Network (NLSRN)

The Council will manage the use of roads within North Lincolnshire by establishing the area's Strategic Road Network. Traffic will be concentrated onto these roads whose main purpose will be to carry traffic of more than local significance of both public and private traffic. Developments, which compromise the function of the NLSRN in traffic and safety terms, will not be permitted.

T19 Car Parking Provision and Standards

Provision will be made for car parking where it would:

- i) meet the operational needs of businesses; or*
- ii) be essential to the viability of a new development; or*
- iii) improve the environment or safety of streets; or*
- iv) meet the needs of people with disabilities; or*
- v) be needed by visitors to the countryside; and comply with Appendix 2 – Parking Provision Guidelines.*

LC5 Species Protection

Planning permission will not be granted for development or land use changes which would have an adverse impact on badgers or species protected by Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Where development is permitted that may have an effect on those species, conditions or the use of planning agreements will be considered to:

- i) facilitate the survival of individual members of the species; and*
- ii) reduce disturbance to a minimum; and*
- iii) provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population.*

LC12 Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

Proposals for all new development will, wherever possible ensure the retention of trees, woodland and hedgerows. Particular regard will be given to the protection of these features within the setting of settlements, the protection of ancient woodlands and historic hedgerows and the amenity value of trees within built up areas. Tree preservation orders will be made where trees which contribute to local amenity or local landscape character are at risk. Landscaping and tree and hedgerow planting schemes will be required to accompany applications for new development where it is appropriate to the development and its setting.

LC15 Landscape Enhancement

The following landscape enhancement schemes are proposed...

...Brigg

9) Power Station

HE5 Development Affecting Listed Buildings

The Council will seek to secure the preservation, restoration and continued use of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. When applications for planning permission relating to a listed building or listed building consent are being assessed, the primary consideration will be the need to preserve or enhance the fabric and character of the building. Permission or consent will not be granted unless it has been demonstrated that the proposed works would secure this objective. The Council will encourage the retention and restoration of the historic setting of listed buildings. Proposals which damage the setting of a listed building will be resisted. Whenever appropriate, proposals which would entail the loss of historic fabric from a listed building will be conditional upon a programme of recording being agreed and implemented.

HE8 Ancient Monuments

Development proposals which would result in an adverse effect on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important monuments, or their settings, will not be permitted.

HE9 Archaeology Evaluation

Where development proposals affect sites of known or suspected archaeological importance, an archaeological assessment to be submitted prior to the determination of a planning application will be required. Planning permission will not be granted without adequate assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the remains present and the degree to which the proposed development is likely to affect them. Sites of known archaeological importance will be protected. When development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage must be ensured and the preservation of the remains in situ is a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before and during development.

DS1 General Requirements

A high standard of design is expected in all developments in both built-up areas and the countryside and proposals for poorly designed development will be refused. All proposals will be considered against the criteria set out below:

Quality of Design

- i) The design and external appearance of the proposal should reflect or enhance the character, appearance and setting of the immediate area; and*
- ii) the design and layout should respect and where possible retain and/or enhance the existing landform of the site.*

Amenity

- iii) No unacceptable loss of amenity to neighbouring land uses should result in terms of noise, smell, fumes, dust or other nuisance, or through the effects of overlooking or overshadowing; and*

- iv) *amenity open space in the area should be retained, wherever possible; and*
- v) *no pollution of water, air or land should result which poses a danger or creates detrimental environmental conditions.*

Where appropriate, conditions will be imposed requiring the provision of landscaping to enhance new development.

Conservation

- vi) *There should not be an adverse effect on features of acknowledged importance, on or surrounding, the site, including species of plants and animals of nature conservation value (particularly species protected by Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981), Scheduled Ancient Monuments, archaeological remains, listed buildings and Conservation Areas or trees and woodland covered by Tree Preservation Orders; and*
- vii) *the development must ensure the retention of those existing site features that make an important contribution to the character or amenity of the site or the surrounding area; and*
- viii) *development proposals should include the results of archaeological assessment, where appropriate, and adequate measures to ensure that there would be no unacceptable impacts on archaeological remains. Conditions will be imposed to secure suitable mitigation at the appropriate time in the development process.*

Resources

- ix) *There should be no conflict with an allocated or approved land-use proposal in the locality nor should the reasonable potential for development of a neighbouring site be prejudiced; and*
- x) *the location and design of developments on the urban fringe (sites adjoining settlement development limits) should take into account the need to minimise the impact of the development on adjoining agricultural land or other countryside interests; and*
- xi) *measures to conserve energy will be expected in:*
 - a) *the design, orientation and layout of buildings; and*
 - b) *the location of development; and*
 - c) *improvements to the transport network and in the management of traffic.*

Utilities and Services

- xii) There should be no reliance on public finances being available to provide infrastructure and services; and*
- xiii) suitable on-site drainage should be provided and where there are off-site drainage problems the developer will be expected to overcome them.*

DS7 Contaminated Land

In the case of proposals for development on land known or strongly suspected as being contaminated, applicants will be required to demonstrate that the level of contamination can be overcome by remedial measures or improvements. Permission will only be granted on contaminated sites where a detailed site survey has been submitted, and a suitable scheme of remedial measures has been agreed to overcome any existing contamination. Conditions will be imposed and/or a planning obligation entered into to secure the implementation of such a scheme at the appropriate time in the development process and to otherwise restrict and control the development.

DS11 Polluting Activities

Planning permission for development, including extensions to existing premises and changes of use, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the levels of potentially polluting emissions, including effluent, leachates, smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, smell or noise do not pose a danger by way of toxic release; result in land contamination; pose a threat to current and future surface or underground water resources; or create adverse environmental conditions likely to affect nearby developments and adjacent areas.

DS12 Light pollution

Planning applications which involve light generating development including floodlighting will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse impact on local amenities.

DS13 Groundwater Protection and Land Drainage

All development proposals must take account of the need to secure effective land drainage measures and ground water protection in order to control the level of water in the land drainage system.

DS14 Foul Sewage and Surface Water Drainage

The Council will require satisfactory provision to be made for the disposal of foul and surface water from new development, either by agreeing details before planning permission is granted, or by imposing conditions on a planning permission or completing planning agreements to achieve the same outcome.

DS15 Water Resources

Development will not be permitted which would adversely affect the quality and quantity of water resources or adversely affect nature conservation, fisheries and amenity by means of:

- i) pollution from the development; or*
- ii) water abstraction unless adequate measures are undertaken to reduce the impact to an acceptable level.*

DS16 Flood Risk

Development will not be permitted within floodplains where it would:

- i) increase the number of people or buildings at risk; or*
- ii) impede the flow of floodwater; or*
- iii) impede access for the future maintenance of watercourses; or*
- iv) reduce the storage capacity of the floodplain; or*
- v) increase the risk of flooding elsewhere; or*
- vi) undermine the integrity of existing flood defences unless adequate protection or mitigation measures are undertaken.*

DS21 Renewable Energy

Proposals for the generation of energy from renewable resources will be permitted provided that:

- i) any detrimental effect on features and interests of acknowledged importance, including local character and amenity, is outweighed by environmental benefits; and*
- ii) proposals include details of associated developments including access roads and other ancillary buildings and their likely impact upon the environment. Where appropriate, conditions will be imposed requiring the restoration of the site to its original condition or the implementation of an agreed scheme of after-use and restoration.*

Other Material Considerations

The Energy White Paper

5.3.7 The Energy White Paper – ‘Meeting the Energy Challenge’ was published on 23 May 2007 and represents the most up to date national strategy in respect of renewable energy.

5.3.8 The White Paper recognises that *“planning is one of the most significant barriers to the deployment of renewables”* and outlines a series of planning reforms. The reforms proposed are based around three underlying principals (which were first set out in an earlier energy review report), these are:

- *“improving the strategic (i.e. national policy) context against which individual planning decisions should be made;*
- *introducing more efficient inquiry procedures in the current consent regimes; and*
- *exploring options for more timely decision-making.”*

5.3.9 In addition to the above, the White Paper also sets out a number of other reforms, it states that *“the government is also:*

- *underlining that applicants will no longer have to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy or for their particular proposal to be sited in a particular location;*
- *creating the expectation amongst applicants that any substantial new proposed developments would need to source a significant proportion of their energy supply from low carbon sources (including on and off-site renewables);*
- *encouraging planners to help create an attractive environment for innovation and in which the private sector can bring forward investment in renewable and low carbon technologies; and*
- *giving a clear steer to planning professionals and local authority decision makers, that in considering applications they should look favourably on renewable energy developments.”*

5.3.10 The White Paper also makes reference to the consultation draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change. This is now fully adopted and is discussed in more detail later in this chapter.

The UK Biomass Strategy

5.3.11 The UK Biomass Strategy was published at the same time as the Government’s Energy White Paper (i.e. May 2007). The Strategy seeks to meet the commitments made in the Energy Review (2006) and the Government’s response to the 2005 Biomass Task Force Report. In doing so, it brings together current UK Government policies on biomass for energy, transport and industry. The strategy acknowledges the importance of fuels sourced from biomass in tackling climate change and that biomass will have a central role to play in meeting the EU target and UK Government aspiration of 20% renewable energy by 2020.

5.3.12 The aims of the biomass strategy are set out within paragraph 3.1 which states that its intentions are to:

- *“realise a major expansion in the supply and use of biomass in the UK*
- *facilitate the development of a competitive and sustainable market and supply chain*
- *promote innovation and low-carbon technology development so biomass can deliver relatively higher energy yields*

- *contribute to overall environmental benefits and the health of ecosystems through the achievement of multiple benefits from land use*
- *facilitate a shift towards a bio-economy through sustainable growth and development of biomass use*
- *maximise the potential of biomass to contribute to the delivery of our climate change and energy policy goals: to reduce CO2 and other greenhouse emissions, and achieve a secure, competitive and affordable supply of fuel”*

5.3.13 The Strategy indicates (paragraph 3.3) that the delivery of the aforementioned objectives will require a major expansion of biomass use for fuel, energy and industrial products, it also indicates that the UK Government consider that there is significant potential to expand the UK supply of biomass, including “*agricultural crops*”.

5.3.14 Chapter 5 of the Strategy specifically considers the use of biomass resources for a range of energy applications including heat, electricity generation, CHP and the production of gases and fuels for transport. It indicates (paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8) that “*biomass has significant potential to contribute to renewable electricity and carbon abatement*”.

Planning Policy Statement 1

5.3.15 PPS1 (published February 2005) sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. This PPS has recently replaced PPG1. The Government’s high-level policy objectives for planning, and the key policies and principles which underpin the system are built around three themes: - sustainable development, the spatial planning approach and community involvement in planning.

5.3.16 Paragraph 27 identifies a number of approaches planning authorities should seek to follow when preparing their development plans. One of these approaches promotes:

“more efficient use of land through higher density, mixed use development and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings. Planning should seek actively to bring vacant and underused previously developed land

and buildings back into beneficial use to achieve the targets the Government has set for development on previously developed land”.

- 5.3.17 In addition, paragraph 22 also promotes renewable energy and states that Development Plan policies should “seek to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy)”.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1

- 5.3.18 This PPS (published December 2007) on climate change is a supplement to PPS1 and sets out “*how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences*”. The approach to planning set out in the supplement includes the following key policies:

- 5.3.19 The PPS supplement fully supports the use of renewable energy and in paragraph 19 it requires policies within Local Development Documents (LDD) to “*promote and not restrict renewable and low-carbon energy and supporting infrastructure*”. Paragraph 20 provides a number of guidelines for planning authorities which include:

13. Climate change should be a key and integrating theme of the RSS and be addressed in conjunction with the economic, social and environmental concerns that together inform the overall spatial strategy and its components. In particular, regional planning bodies should:

- *pay attention to the location of major generators of travel, the effect of differing patterns of urban growth and sustainable rural development on the movement of goods and the potential to build into new and existing development more efficient means of energy supply and increasing contributions from renewable and low-carbon energy sources;*
- *provide a framework for sub-regional and local planning to focus substantial new development on locations with good accessibility by means other than the private car and where energy can be gained from*

- decentralised energy supply systems, or where there is clear potential for this to be realised;*
- *ensure opportunities for renewable and low-carbon sources of energy supply and supporting infrastructure, including decentralised energy supply systems, are maximised;*
 - *set regional targets for renewable energy generation in line with PPS22, and ensure their ambition fully reflects opportunities in the region, are consistent with the Government's national targets and, where appropriate in the light of delivery, are periodically revised upwards;*
 - *recognise the potential of, and encourage, those land uses and land management practices that help secure carbon sinks;*
 - *consider and take account of the availability of water resources;*
 - *consider the desirability of avoiding new development in those areas with likely increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change, particularly where it is not viable to manage likely risks through suitable measures to provide resilience; and*
 - *bring forward adaptation options for existing development in likely vulnerable areas.*

19. In developing their core strategy and supporting local development documents, planning authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation. Policies should be designed to promote and not restrict renewable and low-carbon energy and supporting infrastructure.

20. In particular, planning authorities should:

- *not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy and its distribution, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for such development must be sited in a particular location;*
- *ensure any local approach to protecting landscape and townscape is consistent with PPS22 and does not preclude the supply of any type of renewable energy other than in the most exceptional circumstances;*
- *alongside any criteria-based policy developed in line with PPS22, consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low-carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the*

development of such sources, but in doing so take care to avoid stifling innovation including by rejecting proposals solely because they are outside areas identified for energy generation; and

- *expect a proportion of the energy supply of new development to be secured from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources.*

40. An applicant for planning permission to develop a proposal that will contribute to the delivery of the Key Planning Objectives set out in this PPS should expect expeditious and sympathetic handling of the planning application.

- 5.3.20 The significance of the Climate Change Supplement cannot be overstated. In paragraphs 13, 19, 20 and 40 it effectively reconfigures the emphasis in the planning system, such that the approach to proposals like the Brigg REP, should be one of facilitation and encouragement.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy

- 5.3.21 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 was published in 2004 and provides a statement of national planning policy in respect of renewable energy development.

- 5.3.22 The introduction to PPS22 indicates that the policies contained within the statement cover a range of renewable technologies, including biomass. The policies / guidance contained within the PPS are set out under five main headings, as follows:

- key principles;
- regional targets;
- regional spatial strategies and local development documents;
- locational considerations;
- other considerations.

- 5.3.23 PPS22 raises a number of issues that are of relevance to the proposed development, these are summarised below:

- Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and development documents should contain policies which promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy sources (paragraph 1(ii));
- local planning authorities should set out criteria for the assessment of applications for renewable energy projects. They should not restrict the development of renewable energy technologies without sufficient justification (paragraph 1 (iii));
- the wider environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy projects are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether planning permission should be granted (paragraph 1(iv));
- regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should not make assumptions in respect of the technical and commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects (paragraph 1(v));
- developers of renewable energy projects should engage in active consultation and discussion with local communities (paragraph 1(vii));
- development proposals should demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures (paragraph 1(viii));
- RSS's should include targets for the minimum amount of renewable energy to be generated within the region as a percentage of total generation. In addition, where appropriate, sub-regional targets may be set, together with an indication of how a specific technology may contribute to the achievement of targets (paragraphs 2 - 5);
- planning authorities should not use local landscape or local nature conservation designations in their own right to refuse planning permission (paragraph 15);
- no sequential approach is required in the consideration of renewable energy projects (e.g. there is no preference for previously developed land) (paragraph 16). However, it is recognised that many renewable energy developments are capable of being accommodated in urban as well as rural areas (paragraph 17);
- with regard to visual impact, the focus of policy should be on mitigating visual effects, rather than providing criteria against which harm is assessed. Some effects may be minimised through appropriate siting,

design and landscape schemes, depending upon the size and type of development proposed (paragraph 19);

- renewable developments may generate small increases in noise levels and local authorities should ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed to minimise increases in ambient noise levels (paragraph 22);
- “for biomass projects the need to transport crops to the energy production plant does have the potential to lead to increases in traffic. Local planning authorities should make sure that the effects of such increases are minimised by ensuring that generation plant are located in close proximity as possible to the sources of fuel that have been identified. But in determining planning applications, planning authorities should recognise that there are other considerations (such as connections to the grid and the potential to use heat generated from the project) which may influence the most suitable locations for such projects.” (paragraph 24).

North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Preferred Options

5.3.24 The Core Strategy is an overarching document that sets out the vision for North Lincolnshire over the next 15 years and will form the key document in the Local Development Framework.

5.3.25 The Preferred Options Stage is the first formal stage in the production of the Core Strategy and builds upon previous consultation work undertaken by North Lincolnshire Council.

5.3.26 The Core Strategy Preferred Options document provides (on page 79) two options for renewable energy:

1. To encourage energy from renewable resources such as wind energy or energy from waste.
2. To encourage use of energy saving buildings techniques through energy efficient design.

5.3.27 Following consultation North Lincolnshire's Preferred Option was a combination of the above. In order to achieve this, a policy will be developed which:

“focuses on meeting renewable energy targets through the adoption of a range of generation options including a percentage of onsite renewables in new developments. This will also include consideration of impacts on the environment”.

North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD – Issues and Options (October 2006)

5.3.28 The Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD will form one of the Local Development Framework documents. The purpose is to allocate sufficient land for housing, employment and retail to meet the needs of North Lincolnshire to 2021 and beyond.

5.3.29 The Issues and Options paper is one of the first stages in producing the DPD and it puts forward a number of sites to be considered for housing and / or employment use.

5.3.30 The Brigg REP site (the former British Sugar Factory) and adjacent land, is proposed in the Issues and Options paper to be allocated for residential and / or employment development, totalling some 32.78ha.

The Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber

5.3.31 The Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber was produced in February 2007. The Strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions for the energy sector while maintaining secure and affordable supplies of energy.

5.3.32 The Strategy contains a number of key objectives (page 4), the most relevant of which are:

- *“Promote the reduction in energy demand through efficiency in generation and transmission”.* One of the methods for achieving this is

by identifying opportunities for capturing waste heat and for new CHP schemes.

- *“Maximise low carbon energy generation”*. This will be done by progressing the region’s targets for energy generated from renewable sources and the facilitation of bio-energy production development in the region.

5.3.33 By taking the above actions the Regional Energy Forum states (on page 4) that it is promoting:

- *“an extensive regional bioenergy infrastructure that includes the widespread production and use of biomass and biofuels;*
- *Prevalence of combined heat and power (CHP) and community energy schemes in urban and rural renewal programmes”*

5.4 Policy Analysis

5.4.1 The policies and guidance described previously within this chapter have been assessed in terms of the application in Table 5.1. The table sets out the thrust of each of the relevant policies and assesses whether the development would help, hinder or be neutral to the policy purpose. For the purposes of this assessment where the development either helps or is neutral to the policy objective, no policy breach is deemed to occur. Comments are also made where appropriate.

Table 5.1: Appraisal of Relevant Planning Policy and Guidance

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber to 2026					
Policy YH2	States that development plans and strategies should help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓			The RSS seeks to help meet the target set out in the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) of reducing greenhouse emissions in 2016 by 20-25%. One of the suggested methods is increasing renewable energy and carbon capture. The Brigg REP would assist in achieving this target.
Policy ENV5 and Table 10.2	Promotes and provides targets for renewable energy generation	✓			The Brigg REP would make significant contribution towards the region achieving the target of 1862MW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2021. In addition, the Brigg REP alone would meet 80% of the indicative local target for grid connected renewable energy for 2021.
North Lincolnshire Local Plan					
Policy IN1	Provides locations suitable for industrial development and uses.	✓			The proposed Brigg REP is located on the Former British Sugar Site, which is allocated as suitable for industrial development.
Policy IN6	States that development is prohibited in industrial buffer areas.	✓			There will be no development within the defined industrial buffer area for the former British Sugar Site.
Policy IN8	Specifically identifies the former British Sugar site for B1, B2 and B8 development.	✓			Whilst the REP, being a power station, is Sui Generis development it is fundamentally industrial in character. Such Sui Generis industrial development is clearly best located on B2 allocated land (all the better if it is previously developed land). Thus, whilst strictly a departure from the policy in this regard, it is concluded that a B2 allocated site represents the optimum location of Sui Generis industrial development. In addition, a high standard of landscaping would be implemented (see Chapter 7.0 and Figure 7.3).
Policy T1	Imposes	✓			The Brigg REP would not result in a

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
	conditions on development that would generate significant traffic.				material change in operational or environmental capacity conditions over the local highway network. Development traffic flow increases will generally be low and it is considered that there is no requirement for significant development related off-site highway improvements works to support the scheme.
Policy T2	States that development must be provided with satisfactory access.	✓			The proposed Brigg REP would have a suitable access (see Appendix 6-1). The proposal would not constitute "larger development". Notwithstanding this, the development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be readily accessible by a choice of transport modes. Provision would be made for pedestrians, cyclists and those arriving by car; • is readily accessible from the existing highway network. Access to the proposed development is discussed further in Chapter 6.0 and Appendix 6-1.
Policy T8	Cycle links with existing or proposed routes where possible.	✓			There is no existing and no known proposed cycle routes near the development. However, the development would be accessible by cyclists and suitable cycle parking facilities would be provided.
Policy T14	States that development should not compromise the NLSRN.	✓			The access would be suitable for the safe entrance / egress of HGVs and other vehicles. As such, the function of the NLSRN would not be compromised in terms of traffic volume or safety.
Policy T19	Car parking provision.		✓		The development would have parking provision to meet its operational needs.
Policy LC5	Seeks to prevent or ensure suitable mitigation is in place for development which impacts upon protected species.		✓		The development of the Brigg REP would have no impact upon any protected species. See Chapter 8.0 for further details on ecology and nature conservation.
Policy LC12	Seeks to protect trees woodland	✓			It would not be possible to retain the existing trees and hedgerow at the

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
	and hedgerow.				proposed Brigg REP site, due to the need to alter ground levels. However, the development would not impact upon any ancient woodland, historic hedges or trees with Tree Preservation Orders. In addition, the development would implement a high quality landscaping scheme.
Policy LC15	Seeks to enhance landscape.	✓			<p>Landscape works would be implemented as part of the Brigg REP proposal.</p> <p>An extensive area of new woodland planting would extend north from the site entrance along the western and northern boundaries of the site. This would, as the trees mature, provide a degree of visual screening for the properties at Scawby Brook, although the upper parts of the development would remain visible.</p> <p>The southern and eastern boundaries of the site would be marked by new hedgerow planting with trees, again in keeping with guidelines for the landscape type. The hedgerow trees would, to some degree, provide screening to the south and east in the longer-term.</p> <p>The area between the proposed site buildings and the woodland at the western boundary would be seeded with a species-rich mix which would be low in maintenance costs and would enhance wildlife diversity.</p> <p>For full details of the landscape scheme, see Chapter 7.0 and Figure 7.3</p>
Policy HE5 and HE8	Seeks to preserve Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).	✓			There is a SAM and a number of Listed Buildings within a 1km radius of the site. However, the Brigg REP would not impact upon them or their setting. For further information see Chapter 13.0.
Policy HE9	Requires that an archaeological assessment be submitted for development proposals which affect sites of known or suspected archaeological importance.	✓			The archaeological assessment concludes that the Brigg REP would not affect any known archaeological remains of significance. For further details a full archaeological assessment forms part of the ES at Appendix 13-1, and is summarised in Chapter 13.0.

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
Policy DS1	General requirements for all proposals.		✓		<p>The Brigg REP meets the aims of the policy for the following reasons:</p> <p>Quality of Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the building is designed in a contemporary manner enhancing the character and appearance of the immediate surroundings (i.e. the adjacent power station). In addition, it would replace an existing building that is no longer in use and is falling into a state of disrepair; the building design incorporates careful consideration of the surroundings and landscaping will enhance the existing landform of the site. <p>Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development would not cause any significant levels of noise, odour, fumes or dust, and would not overlook or overshadow nearby development; the site contains no open amenity space to retain; the development will not result in dangerous levels of water, air or land pollution. <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the REP plant itself would have no more than a site impact on plant and animals of nature conservation, of which there are none of any significant value. In addition, the development would not affect any SAMs, Listed Buildings, conservation areas, or trees or woodland protected by TPOs; there are no site features considered important in the contribution to the character or amenity of the site or surrounding area; it is likely that any archaeological remains at the former British Sugar Site would have been destroyed during its construction, had such remains been present. In addition, the archaeological assessment has deemed that settlement evidence for all periods is more than 1km away from the

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<p>application site.</p> <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development positively supports the land use proposals within the local plan, and would not prejudice the potential for neighbouring development; the development would be located on the urban fringe and as such the design and landscaping of the development considers the impact on the surrounding agricultural land; the design, orientation and layout of the buildings seek to make the development operationally energy efficient. The development would be purposefully located close to agricultural activities, thus reducing the distance that the renewable fuel source (i.e. straw and wood) would have to travel. <p>Utilities and Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed development will not rely on public finances being available to provide infrastructure and services; the development would include suitable on site drainage.
Policy DS7	Proposal where land is known or suspected to be contaminated must be able to demonstrate that the level of contamination can be overcome.	✓			<p>A full contamination assessment has been undertaken. This has identified a small pocket of contaminated soils and groundwater.</p> <p>Soil contamination would be overcome by localised excavation and removal from the site during construction.</p> <p>The detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment concluded that as long as the identified source is removed, there is no reason to suggest that any unacceptable residual risk would be posed to either human health or controlled waters.</p>
Policy DS11	Conditions for development which has the potential to pollute.	✓			<p>The development would not cause levels of potentially polluting emissions such as; effluent, leachates, smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, and odour, that would pose as dangerous, result in land contamination, pose a threat to existing or future surface or underground water resources, or</p>

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					create adverse environmental conditions likely to affect nearby development. For further details see Chapters 10.0, 11.0 and 12.0 of the ES.
Policy DS12	Seeks to prevent light pollution.	✓			Once commissioned the REP would operate on a continuous basis and as such a degree of illumination would be required during hours of darkness. However, lighting would be designed so as to minimise light pollution to an acceptable standard, where there would be no adverse impact upon local amenities.
Policy DS13	Development must have effective land drainage measures.	✓			The proposed development would be designed adopting the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) and would include an on-site surface water attenuation lagoon to ensure that the existing surface water drainage regime in the area would not be adversely affected. For further information on surface waters and flood risk see Chapter 10.0 and Appendix 10-1.
Policy DS14	Foul sewage and surface water must be disposed of suitably.	✓			Foul effluent and surface water runoff generated by the proposed development would be collected via a system of below-ground sewers and conveyed to the existing public sewer system serving the area and a new surface water drainage system. Paved areas such as car parks, access roads and hardstandings would be served, as appropriate, by Environment Agency approved oil separators / interceptors.
Policy DS15	Development should not have an adverse effect upon the quality and quantity of water.	✓			The development would have water supplied via the water mains and suitable drainage would be implemented to dispose of any waste water. The quantity of water the REP would use would not cause an adverse impact upon the quantity of water resources. The development would have no impact upon the quantity or quality of surrounding water resources (including the New River Ancholme or Scawby Beck).
Policy DS16	Development in flood plains will not be permitted without suitable mitigation.	✓			The proposed development is in the floodplain, as defined by the Environment Agency. However, the proposed REP is suitable for the

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<p>following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the site would undergo land-raising to ensure that the development is taken out of the floodplain and would not be at risk of flooding. the development includes on-site compensatory flood storage basins which provide compensatory flood floodplain capacity of a volume greater than the volume of floodplain lost to the proposed development. This would remove the risk of the Brigg REP causing flooding elsewhere. See Chapter 10.0; the development would assist the flow of floodwater to the storage lagoon; the development would not impede access to the watercourse for maintenance; the development would not undermine any existing flood defences.
Policy DS21	Criteria for renewable energy generation proposals.	✓			<p>The Brigg REP meets the criteria for the development of renewable energy generation proposals for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the environmental benefits associated with this development are significant (see Chapter 3.0 on need). In addition, the facility is not considered to have any material impact on features and interests of acknowledged importance; the proposal includes full details of all associated development and access roads.
The Energy White Paper					
	National strategy in respect of future energy development.	✓			<p>The Energy White Paper was published in May 2007 and as identified previously in this chapter is a material planning consideration. Key objectives, targets and other factors relevant to the Brigg REP development are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Strategy sets out the national targets for renewable energy generation. The Brigg REP would assist in meeting these;

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it states unequivocally that it is not be necessary for developers to demonstrate the need or justify the location of new renewable development. It should be noted however that Eco2 has elected to undertake a full assessment of need, which has established that there is an overriding need for the development; it indicates that local planning authorities should look favourably upon renewable energy developments. It is clear from the above that the proposals would be in accordance with the requirements of the White Paper in respect of renewable energy development.
The UK Biomass Strategy					
	Sets out the National Strategy in terms of Biomass.	✓			<p>The Brigg REP development is considered to accord with the UK Biomass Strategy for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Strategy recognises the important role that biomass has to play as a fuel source in respect of climate change. The Brigg REP development would assist in achieving this objective as it is expected to offset some 250,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year, compared with the same level of electricity generation from coal; the Strategy recognises the role that energy generated from biomass can make to National targets for renewable energy generation. The proposed facility would contribute towards the achievement of these targets; the Government expects there to be a significant increase in the use of biomass in the UK to generate fuels and renewable energy, if the objectives of the UK Biomass Strategy are to be achieved. The Brigg REP would contribute to the increased use of Biomass as a source of renewable energy in the UK and in doing so, would contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the UK Biomass Strategy. It is clear from the

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					above that the proposal is entirely in accordance with the relevant parts of the UK Biomass Strategy.
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development					
Para 27	Seeks to bring vacant and underused previously developed land back into beneficial use.	✓			The Brigg REP would be located on brownfield land (the former British Sugar Site) which is currently vacant and in a state of disrepair. The proposal would bring the site back into beneficial use
Para 22	Promotes renewable energy.	✓			As a renewable energy development, PPS1 supports the proposed Brigg REP, in principle.
Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1					
PPS1 Supp		✓			<p>PPS1 Supplement states that biomass is a renewable and / or low carbon energy source. As such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the authority should ensure the opportunity to realise the proposal is maximised (paragraph 13, 3rd indent); b) the authority should promote and encourage the proposal, not set policies which restrict it (paragraph 19, 1st indent); c) the authority should not require the applicant to justify need, nor question the energy justification of the development location (paragraph 20, 1st indent); d) the authority should not seek to locally protect townscapes other than in accordance with PPS22 or preclude any renewable energy supply scheme on these grounds, other than in the most exceptional circumstances (paragraph 20, 2nd indent); e) an applicant with a proposal that will contribute to the key objectives of the PPS should expect expeditious and sympathetic handling of the planning application (paragraph 40). <p>Based upon the above national policy, it is considered that the Brigg REP proposal should be encouraged and handled in a manner which best maximises its prospect of securing</p>

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					planning permission.
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy					
Para 1	Sets out the key principles to planning for renewable energy.	✓			<p>The Brigg REP would accord with the relevant principals of PPS 22. The reasons for this are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is considered that the facility is in a location which is appropriate to the proposed technology (i.e. biomass) and that the proposals would not result in any significant adverse environmental, economic or social impacts; • the proposals have been found to be entirely in accordance with the renewable energy policies contained within the North Lincolnshire Local Plan); • the Brigg REP development would result in a number of environmental and economic benefits, factors which (as set out in the wording of PPS22) are “material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission”; • the applicant has engaged in active consultation with both technical consultees and non-technical consultees (i.e. members of the public) during the preparation of this planning application. Such consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant Statement of Community Involvement and is discussed in more detail in the Planning Application Document. Consultation will continue following the submission of this planning application. • this ES demonstrates both the benefits of the Brigg REP development together with the means by which any environmental impacts have been mitigated.
Paras 2 – 5	Discusses the establishment of regional targets for renewable energy generation.	✓			<p>The PPS states that Regional Spatial Strategies should include targets for renewable energy generation. It indicates that the targets should be expressed as the minimum amount of installed capacity for renewable energy in the region and that targets can be set out on a sub-regional</p>

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<p>basis.</p> <p>The relevant renewable energy targets contained within both the extant and emerging RSS for Yorkshire and the Humber have already been discussed in detail within Chapter 3.0 of the ES (which considers the need for the development). It is demonstrated within Chapter 3.0 that the Brigg REP would create 40MW of generation capacity capable of exporting energy to the local distribution network and in doing so, would make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the renewable energy targets for the Yorkshire and Humber region.</p>
Paras 9 -17	Sets out the key locational considerations for renewable energy developments.	✓			<p>PPS 22 sets out a number of factors which should be taken into account when considering suitable locations for renewable energy developments. The site of the Brigg REP development is considered against the factors in the subsequent text.</p> <p>International, National and Local Land Use Designations The Brigg REP site is not the subject of any international, national or local land use designations.</p> <p>Green Belt The site is not located within the Green Belt. As a consequence, it is not a consideration of this planning application.</p> <p>Other Locational Considerations Paragraph 16 of PPS 22 indicates that “local planning authorities should not use a sequential approach in the consideration of renewable energy projects (for example, by giving priority to the re-use of previously developed land for renewable technology developments)”.</p> <p>Though the PPS states that brownfield sites should not be prioritised it also acknowledges that some previously developed sites may offer opportunities for renewable energy developments. The former British Sugar Site is an example of where this is the case.</p> <p>PPS 22 also recognises in paragraph 17 that “many types of renewable energy developments are capable of being accommodated in urban as</p>

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					well as rural areas". This supports the location of the REP at the former British Sugar Site, the majority of which is within the development boundary defined in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.
Paras 19 - 21	Discusses the potential landscape and visual effects of renewable energy developments.	✓			<p>The proposals would introduce a built form that is not inconsistent with that which currently occurs in the surrounding area (i.e. the adjacent Glanford Brigg Power Station). There are additional matters, which would further mitigate the overall impact of the development upon the character of the landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current quality of the local landscape is low. This is reflected in the fact that the site and surrounding area is not the subject of any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. As a consequence, it can be concluded that the site and its surroundings would not be particularly sensitive to harm from new development; the REP benefits from a contemporary architectural solution as described within the Design and Access Statement which accompanies the Planning Application. The key design principle is to create simple building forms that respond to the functional requirements of the internal process, using neutral tones to minimise visual impact. At distant views white composite flat cladding gives an uncluttered contemporary and functional appearance, at close views the use of vertical and horizontal cladding materials help to break down the scale of the building and the use of timber makes a striking visual statement and is consistent with the sustainable objectives of the project. Such sensitive use of materials and attention to detail would ensure that the Brigg REP is less likely to result in any significant impacts upon the surrounding area; the proposals would also include an extensive, complementary scheme of new landscaping. An extensive area of new woodland planting would extend north from the site entrance along the western and northern boundaries

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<p>of the site. The southern and eastern boundaries of the site would be marked by new hedgerow planting with trees.</p> <p>A detailed landscape and visual assessment, and proposed scheme is contained in Chapter 7.0.</p>
Para 22	Considers the potential noise impacts of renewable energy development.	✓			<p>A detailed assessment has been undertaken to establish whether the proposed development would result in any significant noise impacts. It has been determined that the Brigg REP would, during operation, result in a negligible effect or at worst a slight effect on noise levels at the nearest residential dwellings. During the construction phase it is concluded that, with proposed mitigation measures in place, the development would result in a negligible to slight adverse effect. For further details see Chapter 11.0.</p>
Para 24	Specifically considers the implications of biomass projects.	✓			<p>Paragraph 24 states:</p> <p><i>“For biomass projects the need to transport crops to the energy production plant does have the potential to lead to increases in traffic. Local planning authorities should make sure that the effects of such increases are minimised by ensuring that generation plant are located in close proximity as possible to the sources of fuel that have been identified. But in determining planning applications, planning authorities should recognise that there are other considerations (such as connections to the grid and the potential to use heat generated from the project) which may influence the most suitable locations for such projects.”</i></p> <p>It is acknowledged that the Brigg REP development would generate a number of new vehicular movements from both staff and delivery vehicles. In recognition of this, a transportation assessment has been undertaken which considers the potential impact this would have upon the local highway network. The main conclusion of the transportation assessment is that “the development of the Brigg REP facility will not result in a material change in operational or environmental capacity conditions over the local highway network”. It is</p>

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
					<p>clear therefore that the traffic generated by the facility can be accommodated by the local highway network.</p> <p>It is also important to note that the straw material (which is the principal source of fuel for the Brigg REP development) would be sourced from suppliers located within 50 miles of the site (the majority would actually be within 30 miles of the site). Moreover, all suppliers of straw would sign 12 year contracts ensuring a local supply of fuel to the facility for the foreseeable future. It is considered that this approach is entirely in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 24.</p>
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber – Proposed Changes					
Policy YH2	Seeks to increase renewable energy capacity.	✓			The Brigg REP would make a significant contribution towards renewable energy generation for the Yorkshire and Humber Region.
Table 5.2	Supports use of CHP and the generation of renewable energy from biomass.	✓			<p>The Brigg REP would incorporate a pass-out valve. This is a valve that would allow easy connection to a heating network served by the excess steam from the REP and could provide heat for local development.</p> <p>the REP is located on part of a wider area of land allocated in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan for industrial development. A large area of the surrounding land is suggested as a Housing and Employment Allocation in the emerging North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework. The REP would therefore have the potential to supply heat to any future development on these sites.</p>
Policy ENV5	Seeks to improve energy efficiency and increase renewable energy. Also provides minimum renewable energy targets.	✓			The Brigg REP would meet the aim of increasing renewable energy capacity and make substantial contribution to the 2021 targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy capacity for the region, sub-region and for North Lincolnshire.
Policy ENV7	Development of agricultural land for the provision of		✓		The draft RSS supports the growing of crops to use as biomass fuel. The Brigg REP would provide a market

Policy	Objective	Effects of Scheme on Policy/Guidance			Comments
		Helps	Neutral	Hinders	
	renewable energy crops.				for the biomass crops and as such this policy indirectly supports the development of biomass fuelled renewable energy plants.
North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Preferred Options					
	Preferred Option for renewable energy.	✓			<p>The Preferred Option for renewable energy is to encourage energy from renewable resources and encourage energy saving building techniques.</p> <p>The Brigg REP would assist the renewable energy Preferred Option through the development of a facility that will provide energy from biomass (a renewable resource).</p>
North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD – Issues and Options					
Site ref: 10-19	The REP is within land proposed to be allocated for residential and/or employment development.	✓			The proposed Brigg REP, as an employment development, would wholly be in accordance with the emerging Housing and Employment Allocations DPD should the British Sugar Factory site, and surrounding area, be allocated as is suggested in the Issues and Options consultation document.
The Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber					
	Promotes new CHP schemes.	✓			The Brigg REP would supply electricity to the national grid. It would also be designed with the potential to supply heat should any new development occur in reasonable proximity to the site.
	Promotes renewable energy generation and bio-energy production development.	✓			The Brigg REP, as a source of renewable energy generated from biomass, would meet this aim.

5.5 Conclusion

5.5.1 It can be determined from the above appraisal that the proposed Brigg REP is consistent with all planning policy as set out in the Statutory Development

Plan and, therefore, meets the prime test of Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

- 5.5.2 In addition, a comprehensive assessment of material considerations (other relevant policies and strategy documents) has not revealed any justification for determining this application other than in accordance with the Development Plan. In fact, the proposals have been found to strongly accord with, and be supported by a range of other material factors, specifically planning policy and guidance (including The Energy White Paper, The UK Biomass Strategy, PPS1, Supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change, PPS22, the Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026, North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land DPD – Issues and Options and The Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber) which are material to the determination of the planning application.