

## Provision of Renewable Energy Facilities in Association with New Developments at Catterick Garrison

- **Local authority area:** Richmondshire District Council
- **Stakeholders:** Ministry of Defence

### Summary

A flexible approach to the delivery of a policy requirement for renewable energy facilities in association with new developments by the Ministry of Defence relating to the provision of improved accommodation and associated facilities for soldiers at Catterick Garrison.

### Key learning points

- Stay flexible in considering ways of meeting the requirement.
- Look at a comprehensive rather than piecemeal solution.
- Think big.

### Background

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) needed to invest in new and replacement accommodation and associated facilities for soldiers based at Catterick Garrison. These major developments would be taking place over a period of time (three to four years) in several different locations with the Garrison area.
- The developments needed to meet the requirements of Policy ENV5 of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan whereby a minimum of 10% of the energy needs of such schemes should come from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.
- Furthermore, the developments sought to meet other national and strategic objectives for sustainable development by meeting the MoD's version of a BREEAM "Excellent" rating (DREEAM).

### Method

- The MoD (as applicants) were entirely sympathetic with the policy objectives and sought to meet these in the most cost effective way.
- Although the approach to renewables was not fully worked up at the time of submission and consideration of the first planning application,

it was considered likely that a comprehensive rather than piecemeal solution would be a more cost effective approach in light of the fact that several similar applications were due to be made in the foreseeable future.

- MoD undertook a study of renewable energy options across the Garrison area considering wind, biomass and energy from waste as the likely solutions that could deliver the required scale of returns. The study concluded provisionally that wind energy would be likely to provide the greatest potential, but in the form of two or three larger turbines located on the edge of the nearby military training area, rather than individual turbines associated with each new building.
- In the light of this, each permission was granted with a requirement that a scheme for associated renewable energy provision be agreed and delivered within a specific period of time. This requirement was sufficiently flexible to allow either a single “Garrison-wide” solution (type unspecified), or if that proved to be impractical or not feasible, then individual solutions “retrofitted” to each individual development.
- As the developments progressed and as further work was undertaken by MoD into the options for renewables, it became apparent that medium/large scale wind turbines would conflict with defence safeguarding requirements in and around the Garrison. Consequently, a different solution would be required.
- Exploring other options with the MoD resulted in a scheme coming forward for a biomass district heating facility to serve one of the individual barracks (Marne Barracks) at Catterick Garrison. Although this lies some 3 to 4 miles from the new developments it is still part of the Garrison land holding and had the benefit of an existing gas-fired district heating system that the biomass boiler could be fitted to.
- This was approved in principle by both the MoD and the District Council as the means to meet the renewable energy requirements for each of the recent developments that were then starting to be implemented.
- The biomass scheme is now close to delivery with a planning application for the required building to house the boiler and fuel store to be submitted at the beginning of April 2012.
- Assuming this is approved and planning permission granted, the development will be implemented in time for Autumn 2012. It will replace/supplement existing gas-fired boilers at Marne Barracks as part of a district heating system serving the majority of the barracks.
- On completion of this development, the outstanding renewable energy requirements of the individual planning permissions for the major new developments within Catterick Garrison will have been met. The scheme will deliver a cumulative amount of renewable energy far more than the equivalent 10% of the energy requirements of each of the individual developments. Although the actual output of the boiler design is still to be determined, it could account for up to 90% of the equivalent energy demands of the new and replacement buildings. Some gas will still be used should top-ups

be required in periods of high demand, but this will still deliver a very significant quantity of renewable energy.

- Due to the commitment and input from the Ministry of Defence, the District Council was able to achieve this outcome with no additional resources other than Planning Officer time in dealing with the various applications and discussions about possible options.

## Result - Key outcomes and impact

- The key outcomes will be the delivery of a cost effective and comprehensive renewable energy solution for several major developments as one single package. This has enabled the equivalent cost of providing individual solutions to be significantly reduced.
- There are few impacts arising from this approach as it is achieved by one central solution within an existing barracks site, rather than what might otherwise have been two/three medium to large wind turbines on the edge of the urban area/military training area at Catterick Garrison.
- This case has illustrated the benefits of taking a large scale and comprehensive approach across more than one development where that is feasible as well as the need to remain flexible about how the ultimate solution might be achieved.

## Key contact

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