

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION UNDER RULE 13 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

Question from: **Councillor Blagbrough**

Question to: **Councillor Patient, Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member with responsibility for Climate Action and
Housing**

Question:

I understand the proposed Calderdale Wind Farm project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, meaning the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero will ultimately determine its outcome. However, please can the Cabinet clarify the specific role and responsibilities which the Council holds in this process? It is vital that both residents and Councillors clearly understand the Council's involvement in the process, so they can effectively oppose the development. I want to add that the Conservative Group will oppose the development because we should be protecting our peatland. Construction on peatland can release vast amounts of carbon and cause long-term environmental damage, habitat loss, and disruption to the water table.

Response:

Although the Council in its role as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is not the decision maker in the NSIP process it will still play a crucial role. The LPA is a statutory consultee throughout the process, which includes providing input on the local impacts of the proposals and considerations to be taken into account during the pre-application stage and throughout the examination stages.

There are four main stages throughout the NSIP process where the Council as the Local Planning Authority will have a key role to play.

1. Pre-Application Stage

- Before an application is submitted, the applicant must consult with the Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and other stakeholders.
- The Council's role is to ensure that the developer addresses local impacts and issues early on in the process. It will advise on relevant local planning policies and highlight impacts on key local issues such as green belt, ecology, highways, landscape, flood risk, heritage, noise, etc.
- In terms of community engagement at this stage the Council will ensure that the developers have adequately consulted with local residents and other key stakeholders.

- The Council will also discuss with the developer at this early stage any Planning Obligations that will be required through a S106 agreement.

2. Pre-Examination Stage

- At this stage the Council will continue to prepare for the Examination and continue to prepare key reports such as the Statement of Common Ground, Local Impact Report and Written Representation(s) (WR). The Council will also continue negotiations with the developer.

3. Examination Stage

- At the Examination stage the Council will be required to provide evidence at the hearing sessions on local impacts, planning policies, and other relevant information to assist the Planning Inspectorate in its assessment of the application.

4. Post Decision Stage

- The Council will become responsible for discharging many of the requirements (akin to planning conditions) associated with an NSIP if development the consent is granted. The Council will also have a role in monitoring and enforcing the Development Consent Order (DCO) provisions and requirements.

NOTE: Questions under Rule 13 must be in writing and submitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon the Friday before the Council Meeting.