

# Mid and East Antrim draft Plan Strategy

## Independent Examination: Matters Arising reference MEA19

June 2022

### **Matters Arising MEA 19**

1. This note sets out the information that is contained within the attached map.
2. The information contained within the drawing and this note is provided by RES UK and Ireland in support of Representations Reference MEA DPS-076.

#### ***Map 1 – Existing Policy Constraints***

3. This map shows the constraints to commercial wind farm development that existing under current policy. It includes international and NI designations and constraints arising from the requirement for PPS18 and the SPPS (i.e. The 10 x rotor diameter distance required from residential properties).

#### ***Map 2 – Existing Policy Constraints to commercial wind farm development: Impact***

4. This map shows the combined impact of all those constraints identified in Map 1. It greys out all of the land that they affect and shows the land remaining for potential wind farm development.
5. The percentage of remaining land without constraints is 1.6% of the council area.

#### ***Map 3 – Existing and Proposed Policy Constraints to Commercial Wind Farm Development***

6. This map shows the existing policy constraints a greyed out on Map 2, plus the additional constraints proposed in the draft Plan Strategy, namely:
  - Special Countryside Areas - presumption against all new development other than in exceptional circumstances.
  - Areas of Constraint on High Structures – constraint on the development of structures exceeding 15 metres.
  - Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest – development which would adversely affect these sites or the integrity of their setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstance. This relates to the proposed enlargement of the existing ASAI at Knockdhu.

#### ***Map 4 – Existing and proposed policy constraints to commercial wind farm development: Impact***

7. This map shows the combined impact of all the existing constraints and those proposed in the draft Plan Strategy. Those areas are shaded grey and the remain area is what remains available for wind farm development.
8. The percentage of remaining land without constraints is 0.6% of the council area.

9. It is also worth noting that the remaining land has not been subject to any assessment of feasibility for wind farm development.

#### **Assumptions**

10. For the purposes of this analysis RES UK & Ireland has assumed a 100m rotor diameter.

#### **Clarifications**

11. For clarity, it should be noted that the existing windfarms shown in constrained areas are older wind farms which have a smaller rotor diameter and therefore required less of a separation distance.

#### **Conclusions**

12. It is clear from the maps presented that the availability of land for wind energy in the District is already very constrained. Further constraint on land availability for wind energy only makes it harder for the council to make a meaningful contribution towards the Energy Strategy targets.

#### **Contact**

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