

ITEM 19 Questions to Members of the Cabinet

The Cabinet Member (Strategic Planning and Housing), Councillor Cliff Hughes has received a written question from Councillor Keith Martin as follows:

“At the Council meeting on 26 September, I asked about the Council’s response to the Governments Permitted Development consultation with regards to Shale Gas exploration”.

Councillor Cliff Hughes had prepared answers to the following questions relating to this issue as follows:

Question 1

a) Do you agree with this definition to limit a permitted development right to non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration? Yes/No

No we believe given that this is a relatively new area and we are aware of significant public interest in the topic generally then the process should be subject planning permission rather than able to benefit from Permitted Development rights. Indeed Paragraph 10 of the consultation document states that the Government remains fully committed to making planning decisions faster and fairer for all those affected by new development, and to ensure that local communities are fully involved in decisions that affect them. We do not believe allowing the exploration as Permitted Development would allow or indeed give the perception that local communities are engaged in the process.

b) If No, what definition would be appropriate? See above

Question 2

Should non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development be granted planning permission through a permitted development right? Yes/No

No see answer to Q1

Question 3

a) Do you agree that a permitted development right for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development would not apply to the following? Yes/No

Yes, but only if it is accepted that Permitted Development is applicable to this process

b) If No, please indicate why.

c) Are there any other types of land where a permitted development right for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development should not apply?

Not aware of any.

Question 4

What conditions and restrictions would be appropriate for a permitted development right for non-hydraulic shale gas exploration development?

We would suggest conditions that align with those imposed on planning permissions that have been granted in Lancashire for this activity to date.

Question 5

Do you have comments on the potential considerations that a developer should apply to the local planning authority for a determination, before beginning development?

Think it is vital that the LPA has a level of input and control

Question 6

Should a permitted development right for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development only apply for 2 years, or be made permanent?

Unclear to what the significance of 2 years is? Notwithstanding our response to Q1, if this is effectively to trial how the Permitted Development right works in practice then this would seem reasonable.

Question 7

Do you have any views the potential impact of the matters raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010?

No comments

The Cabinet Member (Public Health and Safety, Wellbeing and Environmental), Councillor Karen Walton has received two questions from Councillor Keith Martin as follows:

Question 1:

“At full Council on 26 September, after comments made by a licensed South Ribble Taxi driver I asked if you could supply the Council with the council buildings and vehicle environmental impact with regards to emissions, air quality and energy usage. Add to this, are the council’s fleet using Adblue?”

Councillor Karen Walton’s response is as follows:

One of the projects in the Corporate Plan is to develop a renewable energy feasibility study. As part of this study our Environmental Health team are developing a draft energy policy which looks at the Council buildings energy uses. The Air

Quality Management Action Plan was approved on the 21st November and a number of actions will address the Council's own impact on the air quality of South Ribble. We currently have a number of HGV's and Light Goods Vehicle (67 plate) on fleet whose engines are Euro 4 onwards and so need Adblue.

Question 2:

“Could the Cabinet Member tell Council if South Ribble took part in the Governments 25 Year Environmental Plan Consultation and if Council did take part, what were the comments and will we be looking at the document in relation to our future business and reduction of our carbon footprint.”

Councillor Karen Walton's response is as follows:

The Council did not take part in the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan Consultation, but we will be looking at the documentation in relation to Clean air as part of our Air Quality Management Action plan, Thriving plants and wildlife as part of our Green Links and Central parks programme, Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards through our planning policies, Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment through our parks development plans and minimising waste working with our waste collection partner.