

REPORT TO: STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 1st February 2021

TOPIC: BATSWORTHY CROSS WINDFARM

REPORT BY: ANDY COLE

SERVICE LEAD - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper seeks to update the Strategy and Resources Committee on the current status of the Council's regulation of the noise related planning conditions associated with Batsworthy Cross Windfarm.

This is a follow up report to a paper which was considered by this Committee on the 2nd November 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Strategy and Resources Committee notes the current position.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide the Committee with confidence that the process of regulating Batsworthy Cross Windfarm is transparent and happening as efficiently as possible.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 Noise compliance monitoring at six locations close to Batsworthy Cross Windfarm has confirmed compliance with the noise related planning conditions at five of these six locations.
- 4.2 Exceedance of the noise limits in the sixth location has previously been confirmed.
- 4.3 The Council has previously advised the operator of this situation.
- 4.4 On Wednesday 16th September 2020, the Council re-issued a request to the Operator – asking them to provide details of a proposed further

mitigation strategy for properties in the vicinity of Birchwood House - within 30 days.

- 4.5 A response from the Operator was received on 8th October 2020 – confirming that a mitigation strategy had been put in place, and presenting information to support their view that compliance was now being achieved.
- 4.6 Officers shared this response in a meeting with representatives from the Community and two ward members on the 10th November 2020, and subsequently undertook a review of the response - taking into account the views of the Council's acoustic consultant (see Appendix A) and those presented in this meeting.
- 4.7 It was concluded by Officers' that additional information was needed from the Operator - to enable further assessment of the position of compliance which they were putting forward to be undertaken.
- 4.8 On 23rd November 2020, the Council's Senior Management Team took a decision to approve Officers' making a request for this information from the Operator - which was actioned on 1st December 2020.
- 4.9 A response to this request was received from the Operator on 18th December 2020.
- 4.10 Officers' are currently in the process of clarifying aspects of this response with the Operator – and will provide Members with details of any further progress at Committee on 1st February 2021.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This development will necessitate further investment in the regulation of this consent which cannot be quantified at this time.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Article or Appendix and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?
Part 3	Delegated
Annexe 1	

7. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Batsworthy Cross Windfarm. Report to Strategy & Resources Committee
6th January 2020.

Batsworthy Cross Windfarm. Report to Strategy & Resources Committee
5th October 2020.

Batsworthy Cross Windfarm. Report to Strategy & Resources Committee
2nd November 2020.

The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

9. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

9.1 The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

Author: Andy Cole; Service Lead Environmental Protection
Date: 18th January 2021
Reference: Strategy & Resources Committee 1st February 2021 Batsworthy
Cross Windfarm

Appendix 1

Report received from Council's Acoustic Consultant

(double click on icon below)



Batsworthy Cross
Noise - 24 Acoustics ↑