

Report to	Policy and Resources Committee
Date	29 March 2018
By	Countryside Policy Manager East
Title of Report Note	Rampion Wind Farm Update

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note the update on the ongoing monitoring of the cable route construction and reinstatement activity of the Rampion Scheme.**
- 2) Note the allocation to date of the Mitigation Fund to four small grants**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Rampion Scheme comprises a total of 116 offshore wind turbines located 14km off the coast at Brighton, which will provide 400MW of installed electrical capacity. The wind farm is forecasted to generate 1,366GWh (Gigawatt hours) of power output each year or the equivalent of up to 290,000 homes each year for the lifetime of the project, the equivalent of more than 4 in every 10 homes in Sussex.
- 1.2 The 27km long two (150kV) circuit cable route runs from Landfall at Brooklands, East Worthing to Bolney where it connect to the National Grid. The 30m wide cable construction route passes through 14km of the South Downs National Park passing up the Adur Valley.
- 1.3 Construction of the cable route began in 2015 and the cable installation has now been completed across National Park and the circuits have recently been tested. The wind farm has started generating power, with first electricity delivered to the grid in November 2017.
- 1.4 Carillion was contracted for the onshore cable route works and went in to liquidation at the end of January. The Rampion team is assessing the implications of this including the requirement to engage contractors to carry out the remaining reinstatement works. EON has now taken the role of principle contractor. They are hoping to work with previous sub-contractors to deliver the remaining aspects of reinstatement and are aiming for completion still at the end of October 2018.
- 1.5 The route will then be monitored for a further ten years to ensure the landscape and habitat fully recover to their previous condition.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 The SDNPA was instrumental in reducing the impact of the original scheme in two main areas: on the defined Heritage Coast and setting of the National Park including the reduction in the number of turbines from 195 to 175, the creation of an exclusion zone where turbines would not be sited and amendments to the turbine layout and secondly the impact of the cable route including improved archaeological and ecological mitigation measures in addition to amendments to construction practices to safeguard the landscape.

- 2.2 The Secretary of State decision to consent the application created three areas of work for the NPA:
- i. The discharge of consents through a planning performance agreement (PPA);
 - ii. A named, dedicated officer resource for monitoring of works and re-instatement;
 - iii. The management of a programme of mitigation works within a section 106 agreement
- 2.3 The £3.1m Rampion Fund is a community benefit fund set up by Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd and managed by Sussex Community Foundation. The Fund supports organisations working for the benefit of the people of Sussex, with the area of benefit delineated below, from Littlehampton Harbour in the west, to Beachy Head in the east and up to the A272 near Twineham in the north close to the wind farm's onshore substation. Projects that benefit the broad community, in particular those with links to environment and ecology, climate change and energy, and improved community facilities, will be considered and priority will be given to projects which benefit disadvantaged people and communities
- 3. Issues for consideration**
- 3.1 The onshore cable installation has now been completed across National Park and the circuits have recently been tested. Installation of all turbine is now complete. The wind farm is on schedule to be commissioned in 2018.
- 3.2 Before the collapse of Carillion it was understood that existing delays would further extend the initial construction period from two year to three and a half years. These delays were due to construction, ground and weather conditions, and due to complete in August 2018. This has now been extended to the end of October 2018.
- 3.3 The key stages of reinstatement along the cable route are:
- Removal of construction assets and material.
 - Initial grading and levelling.
 - Post construction drainage.
 - Subsoil re-proofing levelling and grading.
 - Subsoil ripping.
 - Top soil replacement.
 - Re-seeding or natural regeneration.
 - Replanting hedgerows
 - Fence removal.
 - Surveys and monitoring.
- 3.4 Tottington Mount is the only section to be fully re-instated. Re-instated initially in 2016, due to problems with the cable ducting, the turf was lifted again in April 17. The area has suffered for this second re-instatement and may need re-seeding. This area will be the first to enter the 10 year monitoring and survey programmes.
- 4. Cost implications**
- Monitoring
- 4.1 E.ON provided £116,000 to the SDNPA in accordance with the S106 agreement, to cover the cost of monitoring the construction of the cable route and its reinstatement.
- 4.2 The expenditure to date is as follows:
- 2015/17** Actual £25,482 (includes staff cost and consultants fees)
- 2016/17** Actual £25,673 (includes staff cost and consultants fees)
- 2017/18** Forecast £35,300 (includes staff cost and consultants fees)
- 2018/19** Forecast £20,000
- 2019/2029** Forecast £48,674 (assuming the £38,000 extension of funding is approved – see para 4.3 below). This equates to £4867 a year over the 10 year monitoring period.
- 4.3 The formal notification detailing the extension of the construction work on the Rampion

Cable route was received on 23 November 2017. The notification also included a Deviation request relating to the extension on a number of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Requirements which have been agreed in principle. A formal request to provide £38k more funding within the terms of the S106 agreement was included in the deviation approval. Once agreed a deed of Variation will be required. A request for an additional £5000 to support the planning aspects of the Rampion project such as the DCO and deviations has also been submitted to E.ON to cover the additional programme overrun.

Mitigation Fund

- 4.4 E.ON provided £242,500 as a mitigation fund to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to enhance and improve affected areas in line with our Purposes & Duty, to be spent within a 10 year period.
 - 4.5 Starting in October 2016 an internal process was established by officers, using the Water & Chalk Themed Board as the governance mechanism. There is a two stage process in place, with approval of an Expression of Interest (EOI) then a more detailed Project Initiation Document (PID).
 - 4.6 Evaluation is completed by the Water & Chalk Themed Board to a set criteria centred on the Section 106 requirement
 - a. Project meets the Mitigation Fund purposes.
 - b. Contribution to the SDNPA Management plan objectives.
 - c. Approach to delivery. Ability to meet the projects stated aims and objectives.
 - d. Project resources. Projects ability to delivery within stated resources.
 - e. Value for money - measure of cost and benefit; enhanced by any match funding element.
 - 4.7 To-date 16 EOIs have been considered by the Water & Chalk Themed Board and of these, four applications have been successful:
 - 4.8 1. Beggars Bush Walk for All and community nature area £25,000
This project will establish a link in the existing PROW network thereby, creating a circular walk from Sompting/Lancing Village. Opening up further access onto the Downs and bringing people through a newly established, community managed woodland and chalk grassland, providing opportunities for education and enjoyment of the wider SDNP.
 - 4.9 2. Heritage coast identity and interpretation strategy £19,000
This project aims to create an underpinning narrative by establishing the special qualities for the Heritage Coast and develop an integrated and consistent approach to interpretation across the area. (The Rampion windfarm is visible from the Heritage Coast and impacts on the Seascape.)
 - 4.10 3. Sustainable Coppicing for Longlands wildlife £11,000
This project seeks to reinstate traditional management and sustainable coppicing of an area of ancient woodland, in close proximity to the Rampion pipeline. This will create suitable conditions for butterfly species including Pearl Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. It will also provide a woodland product for use in the development of other rural skills. The woodland will serve as a 'best practice' woodland for neighbouring woodland owners.
 - 4.11 4. Truleigh Hill habitat and access improvements £29,000
This project aims to create a flagship habitat, access and learning package for what is currently a landscape in need of regeneration in immediate proximity of the Rampion route. We will create a wildlife reserve, showcasing the variety of habitats found on the South Downs including chalk grassland, woodland and dew ponds. The site will be used for structured educational visits, as well as for more informal enjoyment by users of the South Downs Way and visitors to the YHA at Truleigh Hill.
- Total £84,000**

5. Next steps

- 5.1 This update provides the context to Members for further reports and requests, on project evaluation and new projects funded through the Mitigation Fund.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes- where project funding exceeds delegation levels these decision will be brought to the committee/Authority as required
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No – all funding is ring-fenced s106 monitoring and mitigation
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	No proposal within this document
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	The three practical projects all intend to involve a wide range of different members of communities and/or ensure that access is improved. The Heritage Coast Interpretation Strategy will assist partners in ensuring the Heritage Coast is promoted effectively to a range of audiences. None of the projects involve appointing new staff.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	All risk assessments will be carried out in accordance with the proposed activities of the projects. In terms of the windfarm and cable laying, EON is responsible for all health and safety.
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	No

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
S106 not applicable for project purposes	Low	Medium	Advice from the Major Planning Projects and Performance Manager and legal services has been obtained, which supports the approval of these projects through the mitigation fund. Effective governance and monitoring mechanisms in place
Projects do not meet agreed outcomes	Low	Medium	

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 Appendices n/a
 SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager; Projects and Performance Manager; Major Planning Projects and Performance Manager
 External Consultees Heritage Coast Partnership
 Background Documents [2015 SMT Report](#)
[SDNPA Local Impact Report and Written Representation](#)

