

# Individual Executive Member Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Renewable Energy Strategy &amp; Recommendations: A Renewable Energy Target for West Berkshire</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	30/04/2014
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID2760

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**Purpose of Report:** To adopt 'The Renewable Energy Strategy' a product of the Greener Sub-Partnership.

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**Recommended Action:** Consider the documents and approve them for adoption by West Berkshire Council.

**Reason for decision to be taken:** The UK has a National Target of 15% renewable energy primary generation by 2020. This Strategy sets out and suggests a target for West Berkshire based on the districts constraints for how much the district could contribute. In order for the Strategy to be used for planning evidence purposes it is required to be adopted by West Berkshire Council.

**Other options considered:** No other options considered.

**Key background documentation:** West Berkshire Renewable Energy Strategy  
A Renewable Energy Target for West Berkshire

Portfolio Member Details	
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## Implications

<b>Policy:</b>	The production of a Strategy by the Greener sub-partnership may have implications for future council policy.
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no direct financial implications from this report.
<b>Personnel:</b>	N/A
<b>Legal/Procurement:</b>	N/A
<b>Property:</b>	N/A
<b>Risk Management:</b>	N/A

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:			
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outcome</b> (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)			
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk/eia">www.westberks.gov.uk/eia</a>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Consultation Responses

### Members:

<b>Leader of Council:</b>	Councillor Gordon Lundie – No comment to make.
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:</b>	Councillor Brian Bedwell – No comment to make.
<b>Ward Members:</b>	N/A
<b>Opposition Spokesperson:</b>	Councillor Royce Longton – In view of the recent incidence of flooding locally, and the dire predictions in the report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we feel very strongly that the target for renewable energy production in West Berkshire should be raised significantly from the 6% to 11% of consumption by 2020 towards the national target of 15%. We accept that this could not be achieved without substantial development of wind turbines

and solar farms. We therefore recommend that such developments should be actively encouraged in appropriate locations, and that the Council's planning policies should be revised to allow such developments at sites with the least damaging impact.

**Local Stakeholders:** See formal consultation

**Officers Consulted:** John Ashworth, Corporate Director - Environment  
Adrian Slaughter, Principal Energy Efficiency Officer

**Trade Union:** Not consulted

<b>Is this item subject to call-in?</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire Council support, and are members of, the Greener Sub-Partnership. This is a branch of the Local Strategic Partnership and is acknowledged as an important element of the Council's role in engaging with its residents, local business and voluntary sector.
- 1.2 The Greener Sub-Partnership are keen for West Berkshire Council to acknowledge its recommendations and play a role in the implementation process. This will be helpful in shaping local policy and give them a platform upon which to base future dialogue with interested parties.

### 2. Local Environment

- 2.1 West Berkshire is a landlocked, mainly rural constituency, with considerable potential for renewable energy production. There is enough potential for West Berkshire to be theoretically self-sufficient in energy. Such a transition however would likely affect landscape, biodiversity, infrastructure and development and in the short to medium term would be highly contentious and deemed unacceptable.
- 2.2 The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out to show what potential exists for renewable energy in West Berkshire, applying various constraints. The scale of technology required to achieve various percentages of renewable production are discussed. The Renewable Energy Target for West Berkshire proposes a target for the production of renewable energy in West Berkshire considering the constraints discussed in the Strategy.

### 3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 No affected groups have been identified.

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 That West Berkshire Council adopts the Sub-Partnership's Renewable Energy Strategy and recommendations report.

## Appendices

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Appendix A - West Berkshire Renewable Energy Strategy

Appendix B – A Renewable Energy Target for West Berkshire