

<b>Title of Report: Item 9: Transboundary consultation from DFI regarding planning application LA11/2020/0255/TBA for removal of 25 existing wind turbines and replacement with up to 13 wind turbines with height up to 180 metres at Barnesmore, Co. Donegal</b>	<b>Officer Presenting: A McNee, Principal Planning Officer</b>  <b>Author: A McNee</b>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of receipt of a consultation from DFI Planning dated 22 May 2020 in relation to a Transboundary Application - LA11/2020/0255/TBA for proposed development at the existing Barnesmore wind farm site in Co. Donegal for the removal of 25 no. existing wind turbines and the erection of up to 13 wind turbines with an overall height of up to 180 metres.
- 1.2 The application has been submitted to, is being considered by and will be determined by An Bord Pleanála. DFI have been consulted by An Bord Pleanála and have subsequently issued a consultation to Derry City and Strabane Council for any comments they wish to make on the development proposal in relation to its effects on this Council area.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 A planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for “Proposed Development at the existing Barnesmore Windfarm site, Keadew Upper and Cullionboy, Co. Donegal: (i) Decommissioning and removal of 25 no. existing wind turbines and reinstatement of the redundant site infrastructure including site roads of 600m in length; (ii) Construction and erection of up to 13 no. wind turbines each with maximum overall ground to blade tip heights of up to 180 metres and associated crane hardstandings and wind turbine foundations; (iii) Upgrade of the existing site access roads and provision of 188m of new site access road; (iv) Upgrade of the existing Golagh 110 kV electrical substation and compound to include for an expansion of the footprint to accommodate an EirGrid control building, a new IPP control building, car parking, grid transformer, 110kV cable chair, outdoor electrical plant and equipment, security boundary and perimeters fencing, wastewater holding tanks, groundwater well and the removal of the existing overhead line connection and demolition of the existing IPP control building; (v) Upgrade works associated with the existing 110kV grid connection including the undergrounding of a 1.15 km section of the existing 110 kV overhead power line, the construction of a new cable interface tower on the existing Golagh Tee 110kV overhead line, underground cable connection in the existing site access track from the new cable interface tower to the upgraded Golagh Substation and removal of the existing angle mast and end mast towers; (vi) 1 no. permanent meteorological mast up to 30 m in height, including a foundation, underground power and communication cabling and security fencing; (vii) Temporary Contractors Construction Compound; (viii) Site drainage network; (ix) Internal wind farm underground power and communications cabling at Townlands of Keadew Upper Cullionboy and Clogher County Donegal.
- 2.2 Derry City and Strabane District Council were consulted on the application by DFI on the 22 May 2020 with comments to be received by 18 June 2020. The Department has been consulted by An Bord Pleanála on this planning application for a wind farm which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Northern Ireland. This proposal seeks to repower an existing windfarm in Co. Donegal and is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. DFI have also consulted with a number of statutory consultees in Northern Ireland including DCSDC Environmental Health Department, DFI Rivers, NIEA, DFI Roads and Historic Environment Division who will respond separately on the application.

### **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 On 22 May DCSDC received a consultation from DFI advising that the Department had been consulted on the application by An Bord Pleanála. All details of the application and all associated plans, drawings and documents including the Environmental Impact Assessment and visual analysis of the proposed development and other details have been uploaded to the planning portal. This information can be viewed by Members via public access at [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk) under application LA11/2020/0255/TBA. DFI request that DCSDC advise of any comments they wish to make in relation to the proposed development and respond to DFI by 18 June 2020.

### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications**

- 4.1 An Bord Pleanála are responsible for the processing of the planning application. There are no financial, equality, legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other implications.

### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Members note the contents of this paper and advise officers of any comments/issues to be raised in the response they wish to be issued to DFI.

### **Background Papers**

Appendix 11 – Copy of consultation letter from DFI