

Breckland Council – Power Allocation Policy for Snetterton Heath

1. Objectives of this policy

- 1.1. This policy sets out how the Council will release its allocation of 6MVA power, which was reserved as part of the Council's Snetterton Growth Programme.
- 1.2. Through this policy the Council is seeking to support its policy framework and achieve the aspirations set out in key associated documents (such as the Corporate Plan, the Local Plan and Future Breckland Thriving People & Places). This policy is specifically intended to:
 - i) Accelerate economic development within Snetterton Heath and bring forward new commercial floorspace and development opportunities.
 - ii) Create new, higher value and higher wage employment opportunities.
 - iii) Facilitate the continued development of high-value industrial clusters in Breckland.
 - iv) Support the planned development of the Snetterton Heath employment area in line with developing Masterplan and vision for the area.
 - v) Enable the private sector to lead development and investment in Snetterton.

2. Criteria for the allocation of power

- 2.1. The Council will consider applications for any quantum of power, for any commercial user (including both from landowners/developers and individual businesses) based around or relocating to the location served by the Primary Sub Station.
- 2.2. In order to successfully secure an allocation of power, applicants must demonstrate:
 - i) Tangible plans to bring forward developments which create new jobs and investment; AND
 - ii) Ability to provide finance to cover the calculated cost of the infrastructure (£227,658 per 1 MVA pro-rata depending on the power required). Contributions will be considered both 'in kind' (i.e. through provision of further electrical infrastructure which benefits the local area) and / or in the form of a direct, equivalent financial contribution made to the Council; AND
 - iii) Job creation and economic benefit to the area.
- 2.3. Further the Council will prioritise support to applicants where:
 - i) Schemes pay higher average salaries
 - ii) Schemes create higher volume of jobs
 - iii) Schemes use less power, and create more power through renewables
 - iv) Schemes support the Council's policies and objectives
- 2.4. All of the above criteria will need to be evidenced, and assessed, via a single application form available from Breckland Council.

3. Conditions for receiving power allocations

- 3.1. Any applicant will be required to commit to several key conditions:
 - Power can only be reserved for a maximum of 4 ½ years. This will be monitored regularly, and should the Council not be satisfied that the scheme will progress, the power will be re-allocated.
 - Commitment to regular monitoring and evaluation, including payment of a one-off administration fee of £5,000 per successful application.
 - Confirmation of fit and compliance with key regulations, including Subsidy Control and State Aid.

4. Identifying and selecting users of the power

Appendix 1

- 4.1. Anyone wishing to benefit from power reserved by the Council must complete an application form setting out how they meet the key policy criteria specified above.
- 4.2. The Council will initially run a fixed 'call for power' exercise for a period of 5-weeks. This opportunity will be formally publicised on the Council's website, and any interested parties will be invited to come forward and submit their requirements, along with evidence of meeting the policy objectives.
- 4.3. In the event that valid applications (i.e. those that satisfy all the conditions set out in 2.2 and 3.1) exceed available capacity, power will be awarded on the basis of those which best fit the Council's priorities as set out in 2.3.
- 4.4. In the event this initial 'call for power' does not fully commit the available power, the Council will move to an open applications system. Applicants will be able to apply on a rolling basis. Applications reviewed under the same process and principles set out in 4.3.
- 4.5. Officers will then review all applications received and undertake the necessary technical assessments. Further information will be sought from applicants as required.
- 4.6. The delegation to make decisions in regard to re-allocation of power has been given from the Council to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development.

5. General Conditions

- 5.1. The Council reserves the right to vary this policy and will publish updates whenever this is applies.
- 5.2. Funding obligations will be required to be evidenced initially, and payment schedule agreed in advance of connection requests being approved. Where a scheme is not able to come forward, and a proportion of the power is returned on the basis it has not been used, the Council will return any relevant proportion of cash match paid.