

SUBMISSION regarding Volume 1: Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

FROM: Transition Monaghan

1. Renewable Energy

There is a significant difference in the wording in relation to the Planning Authority and wind energy as compared with other sources of renewable energy. The word 'treated favourably' is only used in relation to wind. Therefore we suggest a rewording as outlines below. Given Ireland's need to urgently transition to a low carbon and eventually a low carbon economy this change is needed as the original text suggests that wind will be treated favourably while the other renewable sources will not be treated in the same way.

Insert text into last paragraph of Section 8.12 as follows;

The Planning Authority will adopt a favourable approach to renewable energy developments.

Projects involving indigenous sources of energy such as solar, landfill gas, biomass, energy crops, forestry waste, biogas from sewage sludge and farm slurry will be assessed with the prime policy of the Planning Authority to permit developments that are environmentally sustainable and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The provision of natural gas as an energy resource will be pursued for the major settlements of the County with the

appropriate authority.

8.14 Wind Energy Section 8.14 Wind Energy

Revise Section 8.14 as follows;

When determining applications for wind farm development the planning authority will have regard to the provisions of the Wind Energy – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DoEHLG 2006 and any relevant updates. The guidelines are currently under review and it is expected that the revised guidelines will make additional provisions to deal with noise, shadow flicker and amenity concerns arising from wind farms.

The Planning Authority will adopt a favourable approach to wind energy developments provided they are sited so as not to cause a serious negative impact on the special character and appearance of the landscape, designated conservation areas, protected structures or sites of archaeological importance. The challenge is to achieve a balance between responding to government policy on renewable energy and enabling wind energy resources of the County to be harnessed in an

environmentally sustainable manner.