

UCWN response to Benn Cain West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Hi Benn,

Thankyou for your response to my letter. I didn't mention on my letter that the proposal for 41 wind turbines and a Battery Energy Storage System would now be considered by the Planning Inspectorate as a Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and would ultimately be determined by the Secretary of State, and not the local authority. Calderdale would be a statutory consultee at the pre-application stage, and we recognise their importance here in understanding the issues and have been in touch with ward councillors as well as our MP for the last 18 months or so.

What effect would a WY spatial development strategy (a requirement of Part 2, Chapter 2 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill) have on big onshore wind farm applications? With this in mind how would you see this affecting WYCA's carbon emissions pathway, and the objective to reduce the region's net zero target by 2038?

We know that restoration of 100% of the region's peatland plays a small but vital part in this, and compromising and damaging peatlands by constructing wind farms and other renewable energy infrastructure on them will not be compatible with their restoration for carbon capture and storage or as internationally protected irreplaceable habitats.

In my letter to Tracy I mentioned the important role that we believe the Local Nature Restoration Strategy (LNRS) has in protecting the regions biodiversity, and the internationally protected peatland habitats are a critical part of this, and the role that wind energy development on these upland areas must be considered by WYCA under the LNRS.

Finally I was at the Mayors Q& A session in Mytholmroyd on the 25th June and a question was put to Tracy about whether she felt a 41 turbine wind farm should be built on Walshaw Moor above Hebden Bridge and she replied that she felt that this was a vital development to help us combat climate change. We are equally concerned about climate change and we recognise that wind energy generation must be a part of the green transition and our move away from reliance on fossil fuels, however for all the reasons I state in my letter, Walshaw Moor is not the right place for such a development.

Kind regards,

Penny Price

UCWN