Introduction

This representation is submitted to the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan Review by Locogen Ltd on behalf of Aberdeen City Council (Economic & Business Development).

It follows the format of the Main Issues Report Bids Form and contains supplementary supporting information where applicable.

Given the nature of the proposed development, it should be noted that not all of the 'sustainable development and design' questions are relevant.

Bids Form

1. Details of Proposer

Name: Aberdeen City Council (Economic & Business Development)
Address: c/o Locogen Ltd, 44 Constitution Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6RS
Telephone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

2. Details of Landowner

Name: Aberdeen City Council (Economic & Business Development)
Address: Aberdeen City Council, Business Hub 10, 2nd Floor South, Marischal College, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB

The Site and Proposal

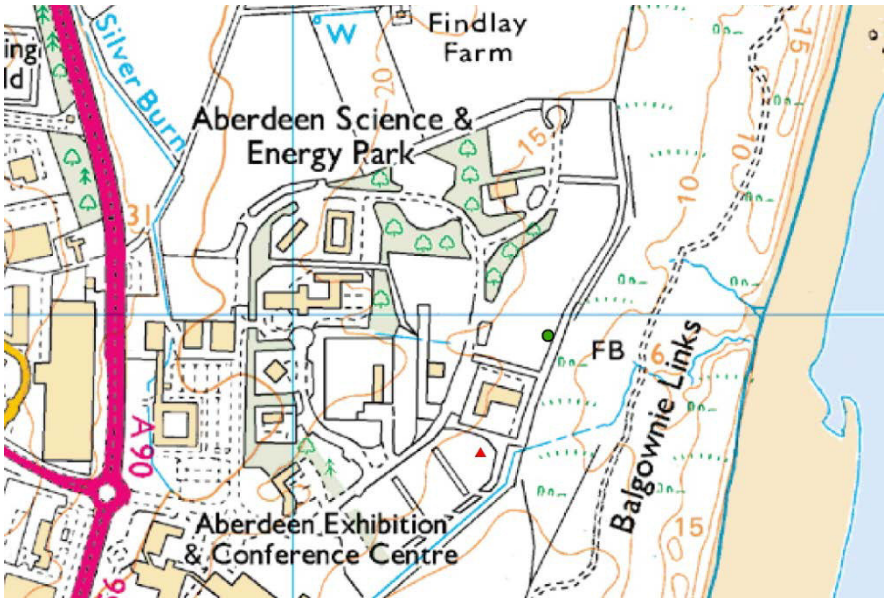
3. What name would you like the site to be known as?

Land at Aberdeen Science & Energy Park (overflow parking areas)

Have you any information for the site on the internet?

No

4. Please provide a map showing the exact boundaries of the site you would like considered.



The provisional location of the proposed turbine is indicated by the red triangle. The location of the existing operational turbine at Rubberatkins to the north-east is marked by the green circle.

5. Please provide the National Grid reference of the site.
E395300, N810800

6. What is the current use of the site?
The site is occasionally used for overflow car parking.

Has there been any previous development on the site?
There have been no other developments on the site.

7. What do you propose using the site for?
It is proposed that the site be developed for a single three-bladed wind turbine measuring up to 70m to tip height. While a preferred turbine model has yet to be determined, the overall height of the proposed turbine broadly mirrors that of the operational Enercon E33 model at Rubberatkins.

Further detail is provided in the response to Q11 below.

8. If you are proposing housing on the site, please provide details of what you think would be appropriate, both in terms of the number of dwellings and their forms.
Not applicable.

9. It is likely that there will be a requirement for 25% of the housing within the development to be affordable. If applicable, are you considering more or less than this figure?
Not applicable.

10. If you are proposing business uses on the site, please provide details of what you would market the land for.
Not applicable.

11. If you are proposing uses other than housing or business, please provide as much detail as possible on what you propose.
Local authority development of renewable energy projects is often a response to a range of policy objectives including *inter alia* decreasing an organisation's carbon footprint, climate change drivers, asset utilisation and optimisation, and securing new sources of revenue generation.

Aberdeen City Council is at the forefront of public sector efforts to tackle climate change, promote energy efficiency and utilise low/zero carbon technologies across its estate portfolio. In this respect, the City Council's own Carbon Management Plan 2010-2015 commits it to achieving carbon emission reductions equal to 23% by 2015 and 42% by 2050 (using financial year 2008/09 as a baseline).

In addition to its sustainability targets and carbon management commitments, the City Council's Five Year Business Plan for the period 2012/13 to 2017/18 outlines a number of options based upon additional income generation opportunities and base cost reduction arising from energy efficiency measures. Within this context, Elected Members recently approved a cumulative income generation target of £500,000 by 2017/18 from various sources including onshore wind energy generation opportunities utilising the City Council's own landholdings.

In this respect, the City Council commissioned John Becker Ingenuire in 2011 to undertake a wind scoping and visual impact study across its administrative boundary. Through the application of a comprehensive set of analysis criteria and appropriate exclusion zones, the John Becker report concludes that there is potential for wind energy development at *inter alia* Aberdeen Science & Energy Park.

Locogen were subsequently appointed in late 2012 to provide consultancy support services to the City Council in relation to realising the wind energy opportunities identified in the 2011 study.

While further detailed studies are required, on the basis of an initial assessment of likely issues, there are not considered to be any insurmountable technical constraints or significant adverse environmental impacts (either individually or cumulatively) that would preclude development of a single turbine at the location suggested.

The provision of a further turbine at this location also sits comfortably with the Energetica concept, where the Science & Energy Park comprises a gateway 'eco hub' location. The overall vision is to transform the area into a flagship location for energy efficiency and green energy and allow Aberdeen City and Shire to become world leaders not only in oil and gas but also in renewable energy. In this respect, Energetica seeks to attract leading science, technology and research businesses, particularly in the fields of energy technology, to the wider corridor.

12. Will the proposed development be phased?
Not applicable.

13. Has the local community been given the opportunity to influence/partake in the development proposal?
No site-specific public engagement has been undertaken to date.

Prior to the submission of any future planning application, Locogen would arrange for a public exhibition to take place at a suitable venue within the local Community Council area. At this exhibition, all relevant material would be presented to the public including the proposed site layout, typical turbine specification, photomontages/wireframes from key viewpoints, and details of alternatives considered. Key staff would be in attendance to present the proposals and respond to any queries raised by attendees. Based on previous experience, Locogen would also prepare a questionnaire that attendees would be invited to complete. This questionnaire could also potentially be made available via the applicant's website to maximise opportunities for interested parties to comment.

Sustainable Development & Design

14. Have you applied principles of sustainable siting and design to your site?

Issue	Response
Exposure	On the basis of the desk-based study completed to date, wind speeds are expected to be acceptable and viable.
Aspect	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Slope	The site is relatively flat and no issues are anticipated in terms of gradient.
Flooding	The site is not at risk of flooding and its development as proposed will not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.

Issue	Response
Drainage	The site does not suffer from poor drainage or waterlogging.
Built & Cultural Heritage	Given the current use of the site as overflow parking, previously unknown archaeological features/remains are unlikely. There are a number of designated sites of cultural heritage interest within 5km of the site. While this will be assessed further, given the combination of distance and intervening landform, adverse impacts on setting are not anticipated.
Nature Conservation	Similarly, the erection of a turbine as proposed will not result in the loss of habitat or disturbance to protected species. Given the site's coastal location and proximity to a number of designated natural heritage sites, there may be a requirement for bird survey work. However, given the presence of the existing Rubberatkins turbine, it is considered that any issues arising can be satisfactorily mitigated.
Landscape Features	Development of the site will not result in the loss of landscape features such as treebelts.
Landscape Fit	The site's coastal location and potential impacts on recreational users of the neighbouring golf club are acknowledged. While further assessment is necessary, both individually and cumulatively in relation to Rubberatkins, it is considered that a further turbine can be accommodated at this location provided it is sensitively sited and is sympathetic in scale and design to the existing turbine.
Relationship to Existing Settlements	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Land Use Mix	As noted above, it is considered that the proposed development will be consistent with wider Energetica objectives.
Accessibility	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Proximity to Services & Facilities	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Foot & Cycle Connections	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Proximity to Employment Opportunities	Not applicable to the proposed development.
Contamination	There are no known contamination issues.
Land Use Conflict	While further detailed assessments are necessary, on the basis of desk-based assessments to date, it is not considered that there will be any insurmountable land use conflict issues arising.
Physical Infrastructure	The site can be appropriately accessed and serviced. In particular, there are various electricity grid connection options available in the locality.

Date: 13 June 2013