**This was originally an email.**

Dear Sir or Madam

Below are some comments on the Regional Energy Strategic Plan policy framework consultation from the Broads Authority.

Yours faithfully

Natalie

The document would benefit from checking the terminology used is correct and appropriate. In some places there is reference to local plans and then local energy plans. For example, para 3.57 – I am not sure this Framework can produce a Local Plan – perhaps it means a Local Energy Plan.

Lots of mention of planning and planning process and planning area and spatial planning but not sure every mention is relating to local planning as related to a Local Planning Authority. This needs a check through.

There are numerous different references throughout the document that could mean the same thing: local authorities, local government, local democratic institutions, local government infrastructure bodies. I am not sure what the last two are. I would suggest consistency. However, see next point.

There is no mention of National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority. We are not councils, local authorities, local government, local democratic institutions or local government infrastructure bodies. We are Local Planning Authorities though. I wonder if you should just be using the term ‘Local Planning Authority’ throughout?

We would welcome some reference to protected landscapes and the National Park Authorities and Broads Authority.

4.15 – how will protected landscapes be represented?

4.22 –Not just district councils but also National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority.

I cannot see mention of using the pre-application advice that Local Planning Authorities provide for schemes.

There are some considerations that the kind of proposals that this document relates to need to consider;

• Peat – peat is a finite resource with many special qualities such as carbon sequestration. It can be excavated as a by-product of development. If it dries out, it becomes a carbon source. Schemes need to take care in relation to location and routing of pipelines and consider impact on peat.

• Protected landscapes – there is no mention in the document of protected landscapes. Clearly, energy projects could have impacts on the landscape. Protected Landscapes are treasured locally, nationally and indeed internationally and the document needs to refer to protected landscapes.

• Light pollution – some schemes tend to have lighting. The lighting is not often designed that well. The document could usefully refer to lighting and light pollution and dark skies and working with experts to produce lighting plans that show how the proposals will look at night. There are many dark areas in the UK and light pollution needs to be a consideration.

The Planning Team has an agile working pattern so are not present in the office at all times. We would recommend that you contact us by email and phone for correspondence as this will enable your enquiry to be dealt with more quickly.