

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** The Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP), which was approved by the CPP on the 16 June, was developed from a key action in the Argyll and Bute Community Plan 2009-2013 in order to facilitate a co-ordinated partnership approach to renewable development in Argyll and Bute. In light of the implications on public sector resources from the onshore requirement from off shore wind and marine renewables the management committee recommended the establishment of a sub-group to look specifically at these implications.
- 1.2** The group met on the 20 July and discussions centred around the links with REAP, responsibilities of partners, infrastructure issues, communications and the potential impact on existing service provision and resources.
- 1.3** We have the opportunity to work in a proactive manner with the key developers to ensure that we are in a position to influence the outcome.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee agree to the planning and delivery of a CPP consultation event with the off shore wind developers and marine consenting authority, Marine Scotland, to take place on the 10 February 2011 following the CPP full partnership meeting.
- 2.2** In advance of the meeting on the 10 February 2011 the Management Committee consent to the sub group approaching the CPP thematic groups and Local Area Community Planning Groups requesting that they give consideration to the questions that should be asked and issues that should be raised at the consultation event.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** As partners will be aware there are significant renewable development proposals coming forward in our area. Argyll and Bute has three proposed off shore windfarm sites, the Argyll Array,

off Tiree, being the largest consisting of anywhere between 300 and 500 turbines and having a capacity to generate enough power for 1,000,000 households (1.8GW). These developments can only be described as transformational projects given their scale and potential impact on our communities. In addition the recent Scottish Government Saltire Prize Scoping study proposed a number of wave and tidal sites within Argyll and Bute which may well form part of a future Scottish commercial wave and tidal leasing round by the Crown Estate. Scottish Power Renewables are also proposing a 10MW tidal device in the Sound of Islay with an application due to be submitted to Marine Scotland in the near future. If consent is given for this later this year and further testing in Orkney is successful in 2011 then the ten tidal turbines would be manufactured in 2012 and installed in 2013. This is likely to be a world-leading development and would help to put Islay and Argyll at the centre of the marine renewables industry.

- 3.2** There could well be implications on public sector resources from the on shore requirements associated with these off shore wind and marine renewable developments however we are still at an early stage in the development of these projects, with construction not anticipated to start until 2015 at the earliest. There is therefore still an opportunity to proactively engage with the developers and to discuss the implications and influence the outcome. It was for this reason that the sub group was established.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The Renewable Energy sector has the potential to fundamentally and positively transform the economy and communities of Argyll and Bute. The scale of the off shore developments as well as potential future wave and tidal developments that are being considered for Argyll and Bute are significant and could be described as transformational projects in their own right. However, it is critical that the CPP partners work with the developers and key stakeholders at a local and national level to ensure that these developments happen in a sustainable and co-ordinated manner, that we are all fully aware of the implications, including public sector resource implications, and requirements and the optimal benefits for our communities are secured. In order to achieve this outcome there is a need to proactively engage with the developers to ensure that we minimise the impact on our limited resources but maximise the benefit to our communities..

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