



Title: Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Increasingly the renewables sector is being regarded as a key sector within Scotland and with the significant natural renewable resource offered within Argyll and Bute it has the potential to be a source of significant future sustainable economic growth for our businesses and communities. However, in order to achieve this outcome, there is a need for co-ordinated partner action at the local and national levels. The REAP, which is still in draft form, has been developed from a key action in the Argyll and Bute Community Plan 2009-2013 in order to facilitate this co-ordinated partnership approach.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the management Committee given consideration to the draft REAP document and advise as to any comments or changes that they would wish to see incorporated prior to the REAP going before the Council and then the Community Planning Partnership for full approval and adoption.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The development of the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) is a key action in the Argyll and Bute Community Planning document. The future role of renewables is recognised in both the economy and environment section of the Community Plan and therein is seen as a priority over the life of the Plan. The Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are identified as the lead partners in the development of the REAP and have therefore lead its development to date in close consultation with national and local partners. The process of consultation has included a joint meeting of the Economy and Environment Community Planning Thematic Groups.

3.2 The Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP), seeks to provide a co-ordinating framework for action and is centred round the three 'C's' themes of:

- **Connected** Argyll and Bute;
- **Competitive** Argyll and Bute;

- **Collaborative Argyll and Bute.**

REAP sets out the key actions required to further develop the renewable energy sectors currently present in Argyll and Bute and to take advantage of the significant opportunities being offered by the rapidly evolving marine and off shore wind renewable sector. The priorities and related actions for renewable energy development are grouped under the three “C”s as noted above.

3.3 The plan covers the period 2010 to 2013 and will be reviewed annually. It is anticipated that the Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA), which is proposed as a key outcome from the REAP, will bring together key national and local partners, and will be pivotal in overseeing the implementation and shaping of the strategic actions in the REAP. A number of the success measures of the plan will be further refined once the ABRA has been established and responsibilities allocated.

3.4 The Community Planning Partnership itself will be key to the success of the REAP and to overseeing the delivery of the actions in the Plan

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Renewable Energy sector has the potential to fundamentally and positively transform the economy and communities of Argyll and Bute. However, in order to achieve this outcome, there is a need for co-ordinated partner action at the local and national levels. The REAP has been developed to facilitate this process.

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