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**Title: REAP – CPP Off Shore Wind Renewable Event**

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**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The purpose of this paper is to provide background information in relation to the proposed off shore wind and marine renewable development within Argyll and Bute to allow the CPP Groups to give consideration to the questions that should be asked and issues that should be raised at the CPP Off shore wind renewable consultation event at the beginning of next year. This background paper should be read in conjunction with the report that went before the CPP Management Group on the 8 September. (appendix 1)
- 1.2** Argyll and Bute has a significant renewable energy resource which if harnessed and managed correctly could offer significant economic opportunities for some of our more remote and fragile communities. The opportunities offered through manufacturing, research and development and the commercial and community application of a range of technologies including, wind, wave, tidal and biomass to exploit these renewable forms could play a significant role in securing economic development for some of our communities and businesses.
- 1.3** Whilst to date the majority of commercial renewable development has been concentrated on onshore windfarm development that focus is now shifting to other forms of renewables such as off shore wind and marine and tidal development. Recent studies have highlighted that the west coast of Argyll offer some of the best tidal resource within Scotland after the Pentland Firth. It is imperative that we ensure that our communities are in a position to take advantage of this and to realise local economic benefit from these.
- 1.4** In relation to offshore wind and marine renewable developments it is recognised that many of these developments could be described as transformational however it is also recognised that there could well be implications on public sector resources from the on shore requirements associated with these off shore wind and marine renewable developments. It was for this reason that the CPP sub group was formed to look at this issue and to bring partners in the public sector together to seek to address this issue.
- 1.5** In February 2009 the Crown Estate granting exclusivity to two separate developers (Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables

and Scottish Power Renewable) to take forward the development of three off shore wind farm wind sites in Argyll and Bute. These sites are of a significant scale with the site off Tiree (the Argyll Array) being the largest sites and could generate enough power for 300,000 and 1,000,000 households. These sites will have a 5 – 8 year project development and a 15 – 20 operational life span.

#### Kintyre

Location: 3km from the coastline of the Kintyre Peninsula (west of Machrihanish)

Approx area: 70 km<sup>2</sup>

Capacity: up to 378MW

Approx no. of turbines: 126 (3MW each)

#### Islay

Location: 13km off the Rhinns of Islay

Approx area: 93 km<sup>2</sup>

Capacity: up to 690MW

Approx no. of turbines: 138 (5MW each)

#### Tiree (Argyll Array)

Approx area 361.00 kmsq

Capacity: up to 1,500MW

Approx no of turbines: 200+

- 1.6** The potential economic impact of the development of these sites, in terms of construction, installation and maintenance will be significant. In addition the impact of this development on our communities could be significant. It is estimated that the Tiree development, depending on the project model adopted, could bring with it the need to provide some 100 additional homes on the island, upgraded/new infrastructure, and will impact on educational and healthcare needs on the island. There is a need to ensure that CPP partners properly plan for these requirements through the development plan process, REAP action plan and that we work closely with the Community and the developers.
- 1.7** The capital expenditure of these 3 off shore wind farm sites is estimated to be in the region of £7.7 billion, £3,000 per kW. The operational expenditure is estimated at £115 million per year, £40-50 per kW/year. Supply chain and employment opportunities to our businesses and communities could be significant.
- 1.8** Since the granting of the exclusivity awards for these three sites Marine Scotland has issued a draft Off Shore Wind Plan within Scottish Territorial Waters (STW) for consultation. This draft Plan identifies the above three sites as short term options. In addition a further four sites are identified as medium term options within the Argyll and Bute area. In addition the recent Scottish Government Saltire announcement in September also 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 rounds



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 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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