

RENEWABLES UPDATE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Renewable Energy sector has the potential to fundamentally and positively transform the economy and communities of Argyll and Bute. In order to achieve this outcome the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP), approved by the CPP16th June 2010, was developed from a key action in the Argyll and Bute Community Plan 2009-2013, to facilitate a co-ordinated partnership approach to renewable development in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2 This paper is intended to update the group on renewables work and developments currently ongoing within MAKI / Argyll and Bute, including ongoing delivery of the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Local Area Community Planning Group is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 There has been ongoing delivery of the REAP, with the assistance of key partners and the Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA). The REAP is currently undergoing an annual review, by lead partners Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Argyll and Bute Council, with input from key partners, in order to identify key priorities and produce a plan which is focused on collective outcomes.
- 3.2 The following are updates on key areas of ongoing work driven by the REAP:
- Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA)

ABRA brings together key partners including Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Scottish Power Renewables, Scottish and Southern Energy, the Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage and Skills Development Scotland. The alliance facilitates a co-ordinated partnership approach and ensures a strategic overview of renewable development in Argyll and Bute. It aims to develop a greater awareness of all the issues relating to this development, as well as assist with implementation of the REAP.

The Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance has held two of the three meetings proposed for 2011 – 18th March and 22nd June 2011; the final meeting is scheduled for 28th October 2011.

The second meeting of the alliance built upon the key themes and issues identified from the inaugural meeting. The key agenda items at this second meeting were transmission, the work of HIE, and port and harbour infrastructure requirements – considering the future needs of the industry to support and develop offshore wind and marine renewable energy projects.

Partners agreed that there is a need for more coordinated and joined up discussions, between public and private sectors, in order to; secure alignment of partner plans, objectives and future investment, recognise collective requirements, create a common understanding of the needs and challenges, and identify effective options for working in partnership to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities presented by this industry, at a strategic level.

Partners will now consider the role of ABRA in developing a common position towards key renewable developments and issues, such as transmission and distribution, and port and harbour infrastructure requirements, outlining how ABRA intends to assist coordination of partner planning. As well as identify key priorities, which will inform the forthcoming review of the REAP.

Progress with these actions will be reviewed at the meeting of the alliance 28th October, where the topics for discussion will be communications, socio-economic benefit, skills and coordinating decisions for future port and harbour infrastructure requirements.

- NRIP – Campbeltown

Campbeltown / Machrihanish is a prioritised harbour and manufacturing location in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (NRIP), the Council is working with HIE to secure the development of this renewables Hub.

As such, Campbeltown / Machrihanish featured in the recent 'Scottish Offshore Renewables Development Sites – West Coast Cluster' brochure, developed by Scottish Development International, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, as a priority manufacturing site. A number of similar sites and smaller support sites were identified along the west coast of Scotland. Further information and the brochure can be found at www.sdi.co.uk/resources/brochures/energy/scottish-offshore-renewables-development-sites-west-coast-cluster.aspx.

- Argyll and Bute Renewables Interactive Map

The Council Renewables Interactive Map has been developed and is available from the Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/LocalViewExt/Sites/Renewable_Energy/. It provides up-to-date and detailed information relative to renewable energy developments throughout Argyll and Bute. This has recently been updated to display information on solar panel developments, in addition to on and off-shore wind, hydro, marine (wave & tidal) and biomass previously displayed.

Work is ongoing to display the various Community Benefit packages associated with numerous on-shore windfarm developments. The Development Projects and Renewables Team are working closely with Community Energy Scotland to further develop this information and consider opportunities coming forward for local communities to benefit from renewable energy developments.

3.3 Members of the Development Projects and Renewables team are continually liaising with developers and community groups in order to maximise the opportunities to secure community benefit from developments across Argyll and Bute. The following are notable developments and projects currently proposed and ongoing, specifically within the MAKI area:

- An Suidhe Wind Farm

The consultation on the Community Benefit Package for this on-shore wind farm development ended April 28th 2011. As a result Scottish Community Foundation will administer the fund, worth £28,500 indexed linked in line with inflation, which is due to be launched autumn 2011. Scottish Community Foundation is working with the relevant local communities in order to convene a local panel to consider applications. The fund will be open to applications from community groups and charities within the area of benefit, which is defined by a 10km radius from the centre of the site. Further information on this fund can be found at www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/309992/rwe-npower-renewables/sites/projects-in-operation/wind/an-suidhe/local-benefits/.

- Islay Tidal Device

Members of the Economic Development and Development Projects and Renewables teams are continuing to liaise with SPR and Islay Energy Trust, including updates from SPR at the Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance, as this development progresses. Further testing is planned throughout 2011, if successful installation is anticipated to be throughout 2013. Further information on this development is available at:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sound_of_islay.asp

- SSE Islay Offshore Wind Farm

Similarly engagement with SSE is ongoing; however this project is at an early stage. At present Scottish and Southern Energy anticipate that an application

to develop this site will be submitted to the Scottish Government towards the end of 2013. Further information on the project and public exhibition day materials are available from www.sse.com/Islay/ProjectInformation/.

- Ocean Flow Energy Sanda Sound, Tidal Device

Members of Development Projects and Renewables team attended the Ocean Flow Energy public information day held in Campbeltown 14th July 2011, where proposals to locate a demonstration tidal energy device in the Sanda Sound, Kintyre, were presented. The project proposes to locate one grid connected turbine, offshore from Pennyseorach Caravan Park, Kintyre. The project team have been liaising closely with South Kintyre Development Trust throughout its development.

Environmental surveys are planned for 2011. An application for consent was due to be submitted to Marine Scotland June 2011. If consent is granted installation is proposed during 2012 and it is expected the operational life of the project will be c.5 years. Further information can be found www.oceanflowenergy.com, and presentations from the day can be circulated by members of Development Projects and Renewables.

- Leading edge community benefit – National Forest Estate

Forestry Commission Scotland announced February 2011, that it has streamlined its procedures for leasing land for renewable energy development, allocating five 'Lots' across the National Forest Estate to successful developers to identify potential sites for windfarm developments.

In doing so it has successfully required leading edge payments of £5,000 per MW installed per annum from these developments to communities.

'Lot 3' covering West and North-west Scotland encompasses the MAKI area. The commission will be working with E.ON – for developments greater than 5MW - and Scottish Power Renewables - developments less than 5MW - to identify potential sites in this area. The Development Projects and Renewables team will continue to liaise with developers and the forestry commission to maximise the opportunities presented for community benefit.