
Title: Tiree Onshore Scenario Mapping Project

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report provides an update relative to the Tiree On Shore Scenario Mapping project. As the Committee will be aware from previously reports to the Community Planning Partnership, the Councils is working in partnership with Marine Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Tiree Community Development Trust, The Crown Estate (CE), Scottish Power Renewables, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (Cmal), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Government and NHS Highland to examine the on shore implications of the proposed Argyll Array Off Shore wind farm on the island and community of Tiree.
- 1.2** This report provides an update on the progress to date and will be accompanied by a power point presentation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress to date and that, where appropriate, members of the Committee agree to engage in the 6 week consultation period which will commence on the 16 March 2012 and run until the 27 April 2012.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The overall aim and purpose of this project is:

To map the onshore implications arising from the 4 scenarios identified by the developer relating to the associated construction, operational and maintenance requirements of the proposed off shore wind farm development, seeking to optimise the socio economic benefit to the island and mitigate the negative consequences of each scenario. The project has been developed in an inclusive manner involving the community of Tiree, the developer and relevant public bodies who are involved in land use and marine planning and development or who provide services such as health services and education services. The main aim is to secure a sustainable vision for the future and provide a strategic

decision-making tool, based on socio economic and environmental appraisals.

- 3.2** In February 2009 the Crown Estate granted exclusivity rights to two separate developers (Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables and Scottish Power Renewables) to take forward the development of two 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, 300 turbines 1.8GW) being the largest site, potentially generating enough electricity to power 1 million homes, providing up to 20% of Scotland electricity. These sites will have a 5 – 8 year project development and a 20 - 25 year operational life span but could be repaired and maintained indefinitely.
- 3.3** In examining how these developments will be taken forward in the future one of the key issues that has been identified as requiring further work has been the need to identify and fully plan for the onshore implications arising from these off shore wind farm developments.
- 3.4** In June 2012 Ironside Farrar were appointed by the Steering Group to take forward the Tiree Onshore Scenario Mapping project. Over the last 8 months the consultants, in close consultation with the Steering Group and the community on Tiree, have been working with the developer in identifying the four separate off shore scenarios relating to the operations and maintenance (O & M) that may apply to the development of the proposed off shore wind farm.
- 3.5** Each of the four O & M scenarios will have varying implications for any associated on shore development. The consultants have analysed each scenario, identified the potential on shore implications and mapped these to determine the environmental and socio economic impacts. Consideration has also been given as to how best to optimise any socio economic benefit and mitigate against any negative consequences arising from each of the scenarios.
- 3.6** It is important to note that there will be no certainty as to which scenario will be taken forward by the developers until around 2015 and therefore this is seen as the first phase of a longer term process which may well lead to the development of a masterplan in the future once there is more certainty
- 3.7** A draft report has now been produced identifying these implications and this report will now be subject to a 6 week consultation period commencing 16 March 2012.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The overall aim of the project has been to work collaboratively with the community, key stakeholders and developer to identify the potential on shore implications arising from the four O & M scenarios in order to best inform the community as to the likely socio economic and environmental impacts that may arise from the proposed Argyll Array.

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Further information, including the consultation document, can be viewed at
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/tiree-shore-windfarm-developmen