

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Boralex will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that the project will bring tangible benefits to local people and help meet the national climate change and energy security needs.

Business, Jobs and Investment

We would like to hear from local businesses to ensure that we can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Proposed Varied Development receives approval.

The opportunities available would include those for:

- An engineering, procurement and construction contractor;
- Construction material suppliers: concrete, aggregate and building materials;
- Electrical contractors: supply and installation of plant, cabling, earthing, etc.;
- Plant and equipment hire contractors: excavation earthworks, cranes, welfare units, etc.;
- Labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers; and
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

Local Accommodation Providers

Construction projects of this nature typically require some specialist technicians who may have to come from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities.

Community Benefit

Community Benefit is something that comes as part and parcel of renewable energy developments these days and whilst it is not considered a 'benefit' in terms of planning applications, the Scottish Government has set the bar in terms of the amount a project is expected to contribute. The current level is £5,000 per MW of operational capacity, however a draft update to the Good Practice Principles guidance is suggesting an increase to £6000. The increased generating capacity of the Proposed Varied Development would therefore mean an additional £82,000 per year on top of the Consented Development amount, taking the community benefit sum up to £462,000 per year for the lifetime of the scheme, depending on the final number and capacity of wind turbines.

Working with the various existing bodies, we want to try to ensure that the funds help the surrounding communities achieve their ambitions to become more resilient and sustainable in the long term.

There are many options open to local communities on how to use community benefit funds to generate additional income. The Scottish Government would like to see communities maximising the potential a project such as a wind farm can bring through investment, and increasing the uptake of community shared ownership is a key ambition.

Please feel free to write any ideas that you have on how community benefit could make a positive contribution to your local community using the Voice Your Opinion forms available at the reception desk, or just tell us while you are here.

BORALEX