

Securing the benefits of Scotland's next energy revolution



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Aberdeen City Council

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Falconer

Forename

Jan

2. Postal Address

2nd Floor St Nicholas House

Broad Street

Aberdeen

Postcode AB10 1EZ

Phone 01224 522662

Email

jfalconer@aberdeencity.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

General questions

How can Scotland benefit fairly from the opportunities which will be created by the development of our renewable and low carbon energy sources?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. Such a fund may be created but greater clarity would be required as to how this was to be established and how it would be applied. Such an example of prioritisation may be would there be priority given to community low carbon initiatives such as investment in electric cars for community use?

How can we enable local communities to enjoy substantial, long-term and tangible returns?

Through Aberdeen City Council's own initiatives and that of partners we have been able to create return on investment to our tenants and to service users. With respect to the questions posed in this consultation there would need to be a clear relationship between the development and the community. It should be noted that whilst this Authority has no formal policy on this subject, Aberdeen City Council has been a consistent advocate for a fair funding formula.

To what extent can these issues be addressed within the range of legislative powers currently held by the Scottish Parliament? Which changes to those powers are desirable if Scotland is to grasp the opportunity to the fullest extent possible?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy specifically on this subject, but would suggest that a start to such transparency is the consideration to a fairer funding formula which reflects the origin as to where the resource is created.

Action 1: Reform of the administration of the Crown Estate in Scotland

1a: In what ways can the legal framework within which the Crown Estate Commissioners operate be reformed to ensure greater accountability for the management of the Crown Estate to the people and government of Scotland?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. The Crown Estate only takes up the 12 nautical mile limit, with no consideration of the area over and above this space.

1b: How could the administration of the Crown Estate in Scotland be made more accountable to Scotland's people, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. There are international examples of indigenous peoples rights that may be considered

1c: Should the revenue stream enjoyed by the Crown Estate Commissioners as a result of offshore renewable energy and future Carbon Capture and Storage projects in Scottish waters be retained within Scotland?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. It should be noted that not all renewable nor carbon capture developments will be the domain of the Crown Estate.

1d: Do you agree that the revenues from the Crown Estate in Scotland should be used to benefit Scotland at both a national and local level? How should the revenue be used to support local communities?

Aberdeen City Council has no specific policy regarding this. Public funding should be utilised for the good of all people and applied in a manner to reduce inequalities.

Action 2: Creating a Future Generations Fund

2a: Do you believe that the time is right to create a Future Generations Fund?

Aberdeen City Council has no specific policy regarding this. Any fund established for the benefit of the public will need clarity as to how it will be created, administered and allocations made.

2b: On what basis could the Fund best be established?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. It would be best to ensure a proximity benefit and utilise existing instruments to create a tangible return for those most affected.

2c: Should part of the revenues from the Crown Estate in Scotland be invested in the Future Generations Fund?

Aberdeen City Council has no specific policy regarding this. However, it would be equitable to do so as to ensure that there is a tangible return for those most affected.

Action
n 3:

Creating a "register of community benefit"

3a: Should a community benefit register, covering all renewables technologies, be placed on a statutory footing?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. A consistent approach for such a register would be advisable.

3b: Which specific aspects of a development should it make reference to?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy on this. Consideration to the opportunity cost could be considered as a type of reparation.

3c: Should information on existing community benefits flowing from operational onshore wind-farms be covered by these proposals for a register?

Aberdeen City Council has no current policy specifically on this. It would be of benefit to do so.

Action 4: Enhancing community benefit within the planning system

4a: Can the present arrangements within the planning system be developed to secure the benefits of Scotland's next energy revolution in a more creative way whilst maintaining the impartial and legal requirement for sound planning decision-making?

The risk of doing so is that the current Planning System, though streamlined is still difficult to navigate. Developers already undertake a variety of compliances and assessments. Some developers give voluntary development contributions which fall under Section 75 of the Planning Act (Scotland) 1997. Many initiatives undertaken are voluntary. Community Planning arrangements specifically for to address these issues are currently non-existent. There are no specific Community Planning powers with the exception of those within the Local Government Act (Scotland) 2003. Unless additional resources and powers are given to the Planning Authority to facilitate the ability to enable this, it would be doubtful that any Authority would have the capacity to do more than it already can do at this moment. In addition, the risk such an initiative would create may be to potentially manufacture a bureaucratic barrier to such renewable development and investors/ developers would go elsewhere.

4b: Is there merit in seeking to introduce a Statement of Community Benefit to accompany planning applications for wind-farm developments?

Yes but the risk is that the statement could be subjective rather than objective and subsequently create either another barrier or a box ticking exercise.

Action 5: Maximising community benefit opportunities from renewables project on Scottish land owned by the public sector.

5: How can the public estate better be exploited to ensure greater community benefit from onshore renewables? How best can this process be taken forward?

Aberdeen City Council has already undertaken a myriad of successful carbon reducing and renewable projects that have already provided a community and social dividend. Our combined heat and power initiatives have seen tenants receive affordable warmth at 50% of past costs. We have invested in biomass, photovoltaics, ground source heating; passive heating etc in order to ensure lower operating costs. In turn this frees up

revenue to apply to public services. This authority has already produced and approved, interim planning guidance to ensure low carbon technologies in new developments.

6. Encouraging debate

6: What other options are there for securing community benefit from renewables and other low carbon energy developments? Where should the revenue generated be directed and how should it be used?

It would be good to see a consistent fair allocation of resources across the public sector to recognise the origin of where the revenue was generated. This authority has been requesting this as part of the funding formula.

7. Equality assessment

The Scottish Government must ensure that any policies that it implements do not unduly discriminate against persons defined by age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race and religion and belief. We would welcome your views on whether you believe that any of the propositions set out in this consultation paper will unduly impact on any of these groups mentioned.

Positive impacts for better service provision and access- cheaper fuel for the elderly and low income, Young people – to be a learning tool. Negative impacts- Travellers -as they may wish to camp on unauthorised encampments where on-shore renewables may be. Local people who may perceive the proximity of a renewables and may not believe they will have any benefits. Those people out with the locality who may feel as citizens that they have a stake in these developments. Developers who see this as a barrier to development.