

Report

7

Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Pates Hill Windfarm
----------	----------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide an update on the development of Pates Hill Windfarm and agree that the associated community benefit payments are managed through the Renewable Energy Fund.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Council's Renewable Energy Fund incorporate provision for the receipt and disposal of community benefit payments in respect of the Pates Hill Windfarm; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) is authorised to conclude administrative matters in relation to the incorporation of the community benefit using the Renewable Energy Fund mechanism.

3. Background

- 3.1. Pates Hill Windfarm is located within West Lothian Council and is approximately 1 mile from the nearest South Lanarkshire Council settlement, Woolfords.
- 3.2. During the development phase, it was agreed between West Lothian Council and Your Energy, the developer, to make a contribution of community benefit to South Lanarkshire Council.
- 3.3. Pates Hill windfarm has 7 turbines. The windfarm was launched in November 2010 with the first payment of community benefit now received by the Council.
- 3.4. The Council has already established a Renewable Energy Fund (REF) for the collection and distribution of 'community benefit' payments at the Blacklaw, Whitelee and Stallashaw Moss Windfarms. The REF model was also used when developing the Clyde Wind Farm Fund.
- 3.5. It is proposed that the arrangements in place for the distribution of funds through the REF be used also to administer the Pates Hill Windfarm payments.

4. Criteria for Distribution of Pates Hill REF Grants

- 4.1. The eligible area for the fund generated from Pates Hill Wind farm is shown on Plan 1 and is broadly the area within 10km of the windfarm application boundary. This includes the communities of Auchengray, Forth, Carnwath, Carstairs Village, Carstairs Junction, Newbigging and Dunsyre among others.
- 4.2. Due to the small amount of funding being received each year of around £8,000, it is proposed that Regeneration Services work closely with colleagues at the South Lanarkshire Rural Partnership LEADER Programme to identify a suitable project within the eligible area each year to maximise the impact of the grant. The outcome of this process will form part of the annual REF update report.
- 4.3. Your Energy has also indicated a preference to see the grant being allocated to one project per annum.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed fund.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All necessary and appropriate consultations have been undertaken within the Council and with partner organisations.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

22 August 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Committee – Stallashaw Windfarm.

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004 “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.

Contact for Further Information

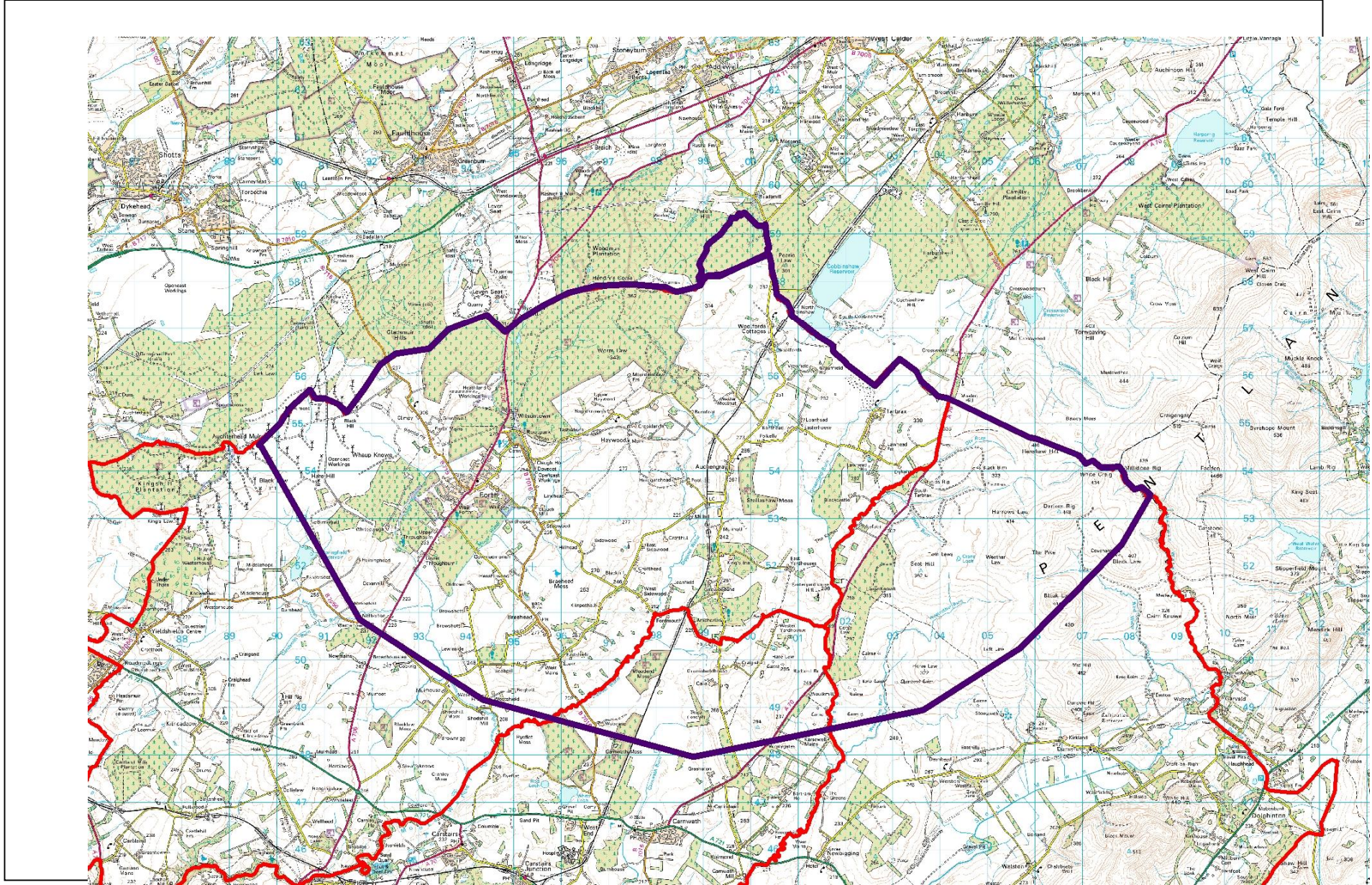
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services

Ext: 4759 (Tel: 01698 454759)

E-mail: stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Pates Hill Windfarm



Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 10002