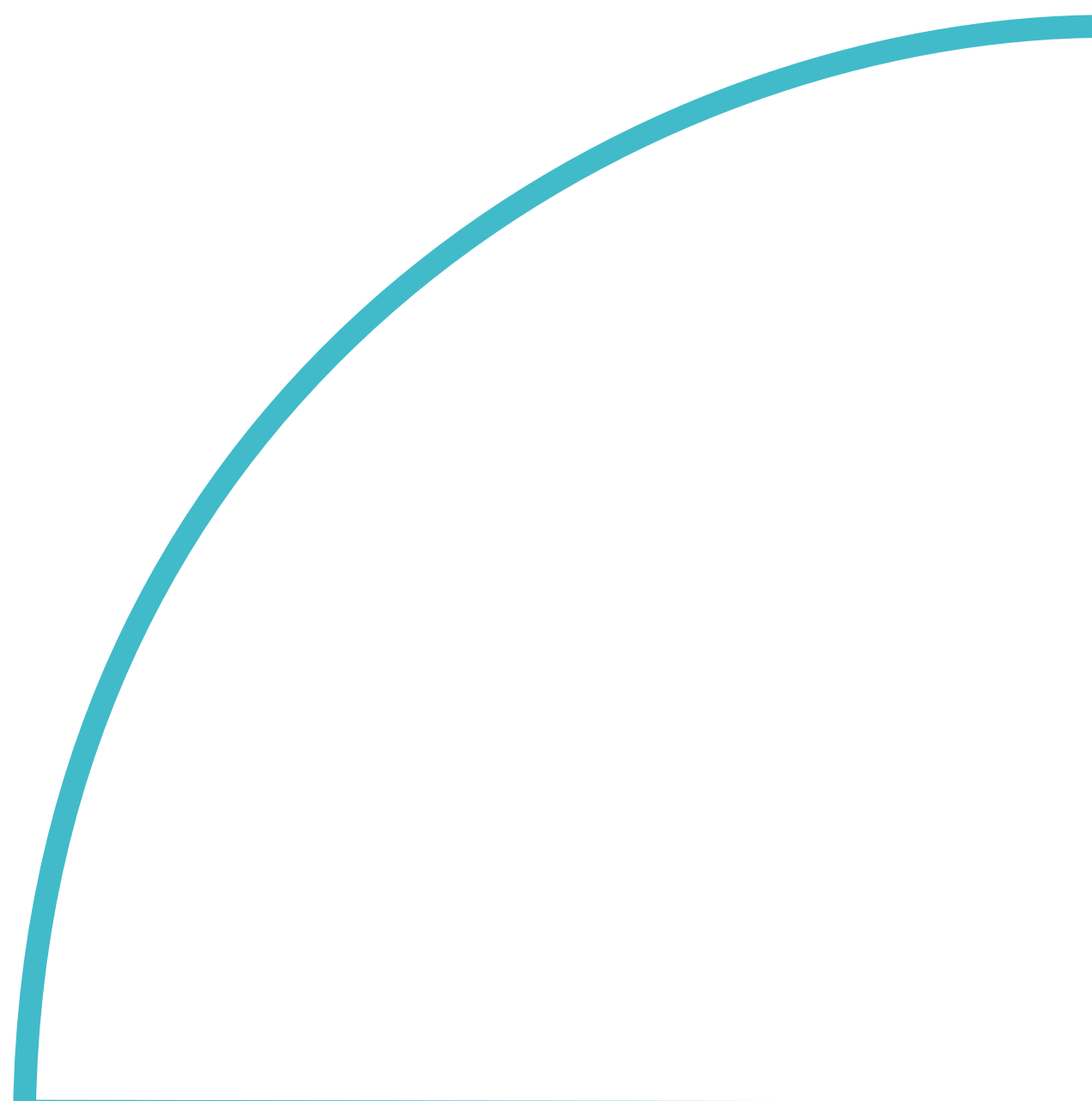


# Vale of Leven Wind Farm: Report on Net Economic Impact

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A report to Coriolis Energy Ltd.  
February 2025



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# 1.

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# Introduction and Policy

## Context

This report considers how the Vale of Leven Wind Farm (the Amended Development) will maximise its net economic benefit.

### 1.1 Background

BiGGAR Economics previously conducted a comprehensive socio-economic assessment of the Amended Development as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in 2023. The assessment evaluated the potential economic and community impacts of the wind farm development with a generating capacity of 72MW.

The Applicant proposes to amend the application as described in Chapter 2 of the Additional Information. The amendment is to reduce the tip heights of all the turbines by 30m to up to 220m to tip. While this change is not expected to materially alter the socio-economic assessment included in Chapter 12 of the EIAR, a description and assessment of the net economic benefits is provided in this Report.

The economic benefit that the project is expected to be capable of delivering is described. It is separate from the assessment of socio-economic impacts, including tourism, provided in terms of the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessments) Regulations 2017 in Chapter 12 of the EIAR. This Report accompanies the AI and is part of the suite of documents submitted as part of the application.

The key findings of the socio-economic assessment reveal substantial economic benefits for Scotland and West Dunbartonshire. During the development and construction phase, the project is projected to generate £20.7 million in Gross Value Added (GVA), creating 322 years of employment across Scotland. This includes £4.2 million in GVA and 54 years of employment specifically for West Dunbartonshire.

The operational and maintenance phase is expected to contribute £1.6 million in annual GVA and support 17 jobs in Scotland, with £0.4 million in annual GVA and 2 jobs for West Dunbartonshire. Beyond direct economic impacts, the project offers additional socio-economic advantages, including an estimated £14.4 million in community benefits over its 40-year operational lifetime and an annual contribution of £0.8 million in non-domestic rates.

A separate tourism impact assessment concluded that the wind farm is not anticipated to negatively affect the local tourism economy.



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The updated statistics used for the socio-economic baseline in this report do not result in changes to either the magnitude of impact or sensitivity of the receptors identified in Chapter 12 of the EIAR. Therefore, they do not result in any changes to the assessments of significance. Therefore, this report updates rather than replaces Chapter 12.

## 1.2 Policy Context: Maximising Net Economic Impact

In the last two years, there has been a clear policy intent to ensure that the potential economic benefits of onshore wind to Scotland and to local communities are realised. This is driven by the Scottish Government’s ambition to achieve Net Zero by 2045 and, in that process, to maximise benefits to Scotland. These policy ambitions are most clearly highlighted in the following two policies:

- NPF4; and
- Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

### 1.2.1 National Planning Framework 4

NPF4<sup>1</sup> is Scotland’s national spatial strategy, setting out the principles to be applied to planning decisions, regional priorities and national developments.

As part of Policy 11a of NPF4, “development proposals for all forms of renewable technologies will be supported”. This is subject to the test outlined in Policy 11c, that:

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**“Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.”**

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Whilst NPF4 does not provide details on how Amended Developments should be assessed against this test, what is meant by the Scottish Government when it states that it wishes to “maximise net economic impact” can be seen in other policy documents, including the Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

### 1.2.2 Onshore Wind Sector Deal

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal<sup>2</sup>, published in September 2023, establishes a series of commitments between the Scottish Government and the onshore wind industry to

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4.

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2023) Onshore Wind Sector Deal



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achieve Net Zero targets through a collaborative approach. This partnership aims to deliver 20GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030, whilst maximising the economic benefits for Scotland and prioritising community involvement and benefit.

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## **The Onshore Wind Sector Deal highlights what the sector can do collectively and in partnership with the Scottish Government.**

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Under supply chain, skills and the circular economy commitments, the onshore wind sector commits to address skills gaps by committing to apprenticeships, training opportunities, and skilled job creation across related industries for the duration of the sector deal. Onshore wind pipeline data will be used to identify geographic clusters for operations and maintenance, encouraging co-investment in facilities and infrastructure in Scotland to deliver local economic benefits.

The sector commitments also include publishing data on local content in supply chains and in operations and strategic action to promote supply chain opportunities and enhance local content.

The sector commits to early engagement with communities, ensuring agreements on benefits align with local priorities and are established before key financial decisions. Transparency in community benefit fund management and reporting is prioritised and efforts to encourage and simplify shared ownership models are also a key focus.

The Applicant is collaborating with the sector and Scottish Renewables to advance the shared objectives set out in the Deal. This Deal identifies measures to maximise economic and community impacts, offering further clarity and actions on the concept of maximising net economic benefit. This report highlights the actions undertaken by the Applicant in the context of the Amended Development.

This collective approach underscores a commitment to a just transition, where communities actively participate in and benefit from Scotland's renewable energy transformation. Sector initiatives to support this may include improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels, providing low-carbon heating for homes, and establishing EV charging stations in community areas.

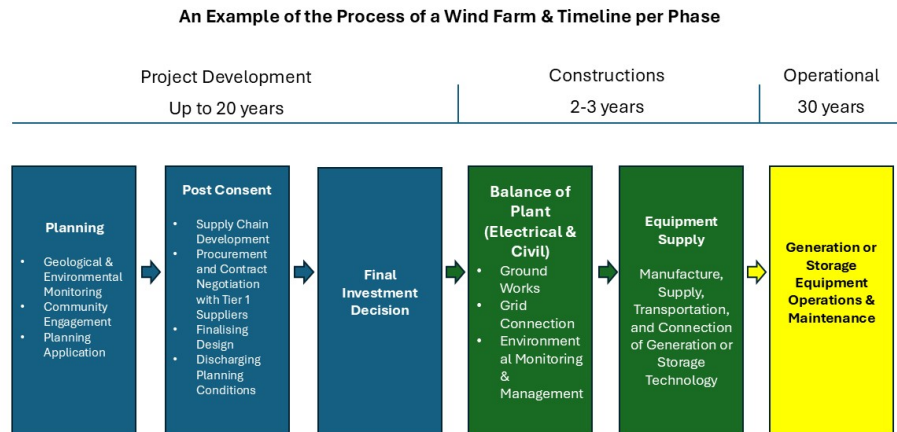
### **1.2.3 Maximising Net Economic Benefit**

The purpose of this report is to consider how the Applicant will maximise the net economic impact of the Amended Development.

The assessment of whether a project maximises the net economic impact is mindful of the process of building an onshore wind farm and the period in which this assessment takes place. The development timeline is outlined in Figure 1.1.



**Figure 1.1 Example of Onshore Wind Farm Development and Timeline**



Source: Scottish Renewables

Whilst there is currently no guidance on what this means, best practice is being established and the sector organisation, Scottish Renewables, intends to publish such guidance in 2025. That guidance is expected to identify a number of principles that can be used to make a judgement on whether Amended Developments are maximising net economic impact. These are expected to include:

- **Bespoke:** every project and every community is slightly different, so packages of benefits that are tailored around the needs and capacity of the community in question are likely to generate greater benefits than standardised approach.
- **Innovative:** many of the benefits that have been realised by renewables to date have happened because of innovation at the project level. To maintain this culture of continuous improvement it is important that developers continue to innovate.
- **Collaborative:** many of the benefits of renewable energy developments are not directly within the gift of developers. They will require input and support of others in the public, private and third sector to realise, making a collaborative approach essential.
- **Transparent:** effective collaboration requires the parties involved to trust each other and an open and transparent approach is crucial for establishing this trust.
- **Flexible:** a lot can change between project inception and completion, and these changes can make a big difference to the benefits ultimately realised. A flexible approach that responds positively to such changes is therefore important.

These principles highlight that in considering whether the Amended Development maximises net economic impact, it is necessary to consider both the economic impacts that are expected and the approach that the Applicant is taking to ensuring these benefits are consistent with community needs.



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The focus of the assessment is on proposed approaches across supply chain engagement, skills development, and community empowerment. This is mindful of the development timelines outlined in Figure 1.1 and the point at which impacts are likely to occur.

## 1.3 Report Structure

The structure of this report is:

- this Section presents the introduction and outlines the strategic policy context for maximising net economic impact, in particular NPF4 and the Onshore Wind Sector Deal;
- Section 2 summarises the local labour market context and economic impact and the Applicant's commitments to maximising these benefits;
- Section 3 describes how the Amended Development can contribute towards community empowerment and the Applicant's commitments to maximising these benefits; and
- Section 4 reaches a conclusion on whether the Amended Development and the Applicant's approach can be considered to be maximising net economic impact.

There are two supporting appendices also attached:

- Appendix 1: Labour Market Context
- Appendix 2: Economic Impacts



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## 2.

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# Economic Impact

This section estimates the economic impact of the construction and operation of the Amended Development and provides a summary of the local labour market context.

## 2.1 Summary of Labour Market Context

A revised and up to date labour market context, presenting the socio-economic context of the Amended Development, including population structure, economic activity, skills, relative deprivation and wellbeing is provided in Appendix 1: Labour Market Context.

In West Dunbartonshire, 40% of the population resides in areas classified among the 20% most deprived in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This means that nearly half of the population lives in areas facing significant socio-economic challenges, including lower educational attainment and poorer health outcomes.

These statistics indicate that West Dunbartonshire exhibits different socio-economic characteristics when compared to Scotland overall. There is a higher concentration of deprivation and divergent patterns of educational attainment and occupational structure with a lower level of individuals involved in professional occupations (19%) than those in the whole of Scotland (27%). This is also reflected in the educational qualifications in West Dunbartonshire, where 36% of residents have achieved at least a higher education certificate, compared to 50% across Scotland and a larger proportion have no qualifications (14%) as compared to Scotland (8%).

West Dunbartonshire's employment is skewed towards the public sector, notably in health, education, public administration and defence, exceeding the employment shares in these sectors compared to Scotland overall.

Addressing these disparities will likely be a key priority for the region's economic development efforts. This may be achieved by creating jobs in high productivity sectors and reducing reliance on public sector employment by attracting investment other sectors. Providing opportunities to improve skills and education and enhance educational attainment which lead to improved employability outcomes. Investing in communities to improve living conditions and overall quality of life presents an opportunity to maximise positive local impact.





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## 2.2 Commitments to maximise economic impacts

The Applicant is proactively taking steps to maximise the economic benefits that the Amended Development will bring to the local area. These actions target both building the supply chain capacity in the local area and promoting skills development.

### 2.2.1 Supply Chain Capacity Building

The Amended Development will be built in West Dunbartonshire, an area that has not experienced many onshore wind projects. Therefore, the Applicant is focusing its supply chain capacity-building activities on increasing the awareness within the business community of the likely scope of works that will be available and the requirements there are likely to be regarding procurement. This approach acknowledges that to maximise the economic benefits to West Dunbartonshire, the Amended Development will need to be the first onshore wind project that many local companies work on.

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## Maximising supply chain benefits in West Dunbartonshire will require many local businesses to work in onshore wind for the first time

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Therefore, the supply chain development activities that the Applicant is taking are designed to remove any knowledge or administrative barriers to new entrants in the supply chain. This has included building an ongoing relationship with the Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce, who have the contacts and local knowledge needed to identify these barriers.

### 2.2.2 Skills Development

The Applicant's support for skills development is also designed to build the future capacity in the area so local companies are able to support the Amended Development and any future onshore wind projects developed in the area.

Skills development is a collaborative process, and the focus of the Applicant to date has been to build good working relationships with the key education and training providers in the area. This has included the local colleges and universities that offer courses most relevant to the economic opportunities that the Amended Development will present. As with the local supply chain development, the lack of significant onshore wind activity in West Dunbartonshire could mean that the career opportunities in the sector are less obvious to current students. Therefore, the Applicant is working with the education providers to raise awareness and offer opportunities for experience in the sector prior to the Amended Development's construction.



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Skills development and meeting any future skills gaps is also a collaborative effort across the onshore wind sector in Scotland. Mapping the future skills needs and pathways into the sector has been a key workstream that has emerged from the Onshore Wind Sector Deal for Scotland and the Applicant is actively supporting these workstreams through Scottish Renewables.

### 2.2.3 Specific Activities

The specific actions that the Applicant has already taken or will commit to take as the Amended Development progresses are listed below. This section outlines how these actions are bespoke, innovative, collaborative and transparent.

The Applicant has already, or is committed to, the following activities and policies:

#### ▪ **Bespoke**

- **Working with local business groups and Dunbartonshire Chambers of Commerce** to map out and identify opportunities. Local business networks are being actively engaged to comprehensively identify potential economic opportunities. This approach ensures a structured and collaborative mapping of the local business landscape and potential project interfaces. The Applicant participated in various events including the 'President's Club' launch on in September 2024, where key local businesses and stakeholders were involved.
- **Identification of gaps and diversification opportunities in the local supply chain.** A detailed assessment will be conducted to identify existing gaps in local supply chains and potential diversification pathways. This will build on the initial supply chain paper that is provided in Appendix 3. This analysis will help strategic positioning of local businesses to maximise engagement with the project.
- **Proactively collate a list of potential subcontractors and services they provide which will be shared with Tier 1 contractors.** A comprehensive database of local subcontractors has been developed, detailing their specific service capabilities and competencies. This resource will be directly shared with Tier 1 contractors to facilitate local business integration.
- **To date, the Amended Development has already invested over £1.5 million primarily benefiting the local, regional, and Scottish economy.** This includes supporting businesses such as ZeroSeven Graphics, Lomond Radio, and the Bellsmyre Development Trust for services like advertising and community engagement.

#### ▪ **Innovative**

- **Progressive employment and progressive recruitment practices.** Recruitment strategies will prioritise local talent, ensuring fair and inclusive hiring practices. The approach will focus on creating meaningful employment opportunities with clear progression pathways.

#### ▪ **Collaborative**



- **Working with West College Scotland and UWS to support courses and skills initiatives that are relevant to the industry.** Collaborative partnerships will be established with West College Scotland and UWS to develop targeted training programs aligned with project requirements. These initiatives will focus on creating relevant skills pathways and supporting workforce development in renewable energy sectors.
  - **Exploring Scholarships Opportunities.** Discussions are currently ongoing between The Applicant, West College Scotland and UWS to explore opportunities for green energy, engineering and construction related scholarships.
  - **Engagement with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) workplace learning team underway.** The Applicant is actively engaging UWS to collaborate on developing pathways for industry-relevant courses that align with specific workforce needs.
  - **Work with Tier 1 contractors to understand requirements around insurance and accreditation that will be required in advance as possible to give local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) time to get things in place.** Early engagement will be undertaken to communicate precise insurance and accreditation requirements for potential local contractors. This proactive approach provides local SMEs sufficient time to prepare and meet necessary compliance standards. Regular updates are provided to the Scottish Government's Community Benefit Register.
  - **The Applicant has committed to host 'Meet the Developer' events in the local area to engage with the local supply chain.** These events will provide businesses – both those already involved in renewables and those with transferable skills – the opportunity to understand the project's requirements and potential opportunities.
  - **Skills and workforce development efforts.** These include training opportunities through local educational partnerships, addressing local skills shortages in renewables by developing pathways for career progression, and using the Chamber's Building Bridges programme to support workforce development, including placements and apprenticeships.
- **Transparent**
    - **Reporting:** asking Tier 1 contractors to estimate the local content at the tendering process and report against it throughout during the contract. Transparent reporting mechanisms will be implemented requiring contractors to estimate and track local content throughout the project lifecycle. Regular reporting will ensure accountability and demonstrate commitment to local economic value creation.
    - **Applying Policy Guidance:** Clear economic impact assessment is essential to demonstrating the project's local and national benefits. While Policy 11c of NPF4 lacks specific guidance, past decisions have accepted standard assessments covering employment, CapEx, OpEx, and gross added value. To enhance consistency, Scottish Renewables is developing a standardised framework under the Onshore Wind Sector Deal, set for review by the Scottish



Government, ECU, and HOPS. This ensures transparency in measuring supply chain contributions, including sourcing materials, labour, transport, and services—reinforcing the project’s economic value. The Applicant is supportive and keen to implement this process for the Amended Development.

- **Flexible**

- **Informing supply chain of project updates:** considering how each project milestone or significant decision could impact the ability of local supply chain companies to benefit from the economic opportunities of the Amended Development. Engaging with local supply chain and skills stakeholders to enable them to adapt to any changes.

## 2.3 Summary of Economic Impact

The Amended Development will have a total installed capacity of approximately 72 MW, with an additional 20 MW battery energy storage system (BESS). The total development and construction cost is estimated at £76.3 million.

The full impact analysis is provided in Appendix 2: Economic Impacts. This section represents a summary of the key findings from that analysis.

### **Economic Contribution:**

- West Dunbartonshire: Contracts worth £5.9 million (8% of total expenditure) could be secured, with significant opportunities in balance of plant contracts (£2.8 million). This phase is projected to generate £3.4 million GVA.
- Scotland: A broader impact, with £25 million (33% of total expenditure) worth of contracts, generating £12.7 million GVA.

### **Employment Opportunities:**

- West Dunbartonshire: 44 direct job years during construction, with additional opportunities through supply chain activities.
- Scotland: A total of 204 direct job years, peaking at approximately 140 jobs during the balance of plant phase.

### **Skill Development and Workforce Benefits:**

- Provides pathways for apprenticeships and technical skills in renewable energy.
- Prepares local workers for sustainable, high-value careers in the green energy sector.

### **Operations and Maintenance Phase:**

- Annual expenditure of £3.0 million, with £0.5 million (16%) in West Dunbartonshire and £2.6 million (85%) in Scotland.



- Generates £0.4 million GVA and 2 jobs in West Dunbartonshire and £1.7 million GVA and 17 jobs across Scotland annually.
- Indirect and induced impacts further amplify these economic benefits.

## 2.4 Conclusion of Economic Impact and Commitments

A tailored approach includes engaging with local business groups, Chambers of Commerce, and Tier 1 contractors to identify and promote supply chain opportunities, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Specific actions, such as mapping local business capabilities, addressing supply chain gaps, and supporting SMEs in meeting accreditation and insurance requirements, ensure that local businesses will be well-positioned to participate effectively in the Amended Development.

Collaborative partnerships with institutions like West College Scotland further enhance workforce resilience by creating targeted training pathways that equip workers with skills relevant to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure sectors.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Applicant commits to monitoring and reporting local content estimates from contractors throughout the project lifecycle. This approach aligns with principles of best practice by embedding fairness, inclusivity, and adaptability in recruitment and supply chain engagement.

Initiatives such as progressive recruitment practices, fostering diversity in employment, and maintaining open communication channels with local stakeholders demonstrate a commitment to long-term economic development.

Supply chain development includes potential contracts worth £5.9 million in West Dunbartonshire and £25 million in Scotland. To date, the Amended Development has already spent in excess of £1.5 million, focussed largely in the local, regional and Scottish economy through various suppliers.

In conclusion, this project effectively addresses local needs by generating high-quality jobs, stimulating economic activity in West Dunbartonshire, and strengthening workforce resilience through targeted training. Additionally, it supports local businesses and the wider community by increasing spending during both construction and operation. These efforts align with NPF4 Policy 11(c), ensuring long-term economic and employment benefits while contributing to climate change targets.



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## 3. Mechanisms for Community Empowerment

The Amended Development maximises net economic benefits through mechanisms like non-domestic rates, community benefit funding and opportunities for community ownership

The wider socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the Amended Development will extend beyond the physical construction phase, with mechanisms like the payment of non-domestic rates and community benefit funds which will contribute to local economic development.

While community benefit funding, community ownership and non-domestic rates payments are not material to planning, this section demonstrates how the Applicant will maximise the socio-economic benefit of these payments.

### 3.1 Community Benefit Funding

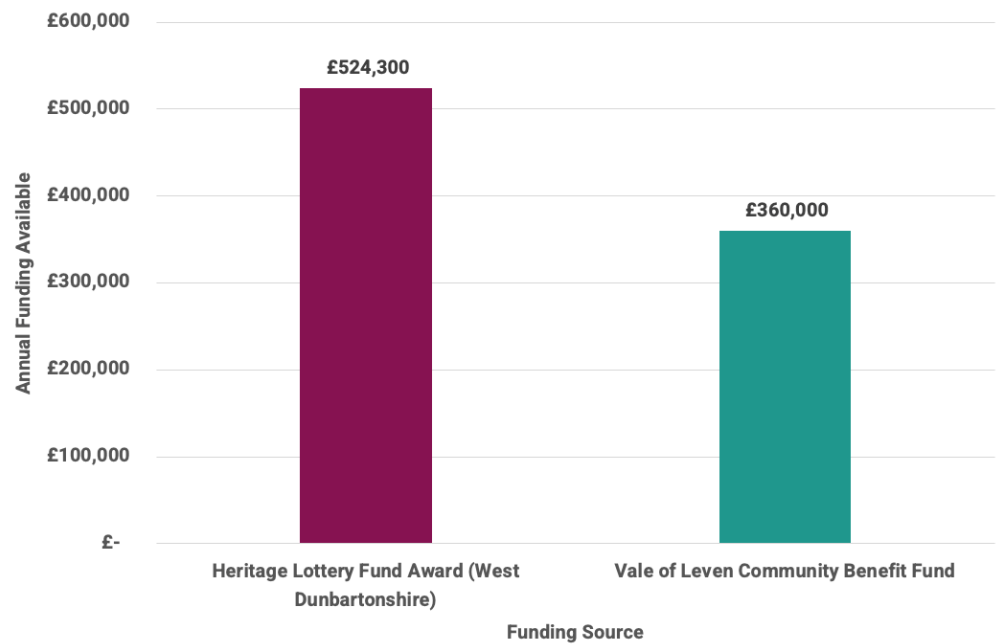
Community benefit funds offer direct financial support to local communities hosting renewable energy developments. Community benefit funding for onshore wind refers to financial or other contributions made by wind farm developers to the local communities where onshore wind projects are developed and are in accordance with Scottish Government Good Practice Principles on Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments published in 2019.

The proposed Community Benefit Fund will be worth £5,000 per MW and this will be index-linked for the operational lifetime of the Amended Development. The annual value of this will be equivalent to £360,000. This will be a substantial source of charitable and community funding in West Dunbartonshire.

For context, the Heritage Lottery Fund, one of the largest sources of charity funding in the UK distributed an average of £524,300 to projects in West Dunbartonshire between 2013 and 2024.



**Figure 3.1: Amended Development Community Benefit Funding in Context**



Source: BIGGAR Economics Analysis

The benefits of any community funding are maximised through effective governance and well-targeted investments, which can be just as important as the value of the awards granted.

Establishing and planning for effective governance is key for community empowerment to best utilise community benefit funding. The Applicant commits to fostering effective governance and ensuring the success of community-driven initiatives through a bespoke and innovative approach which prioritises collaboration, transparency and flexibility.

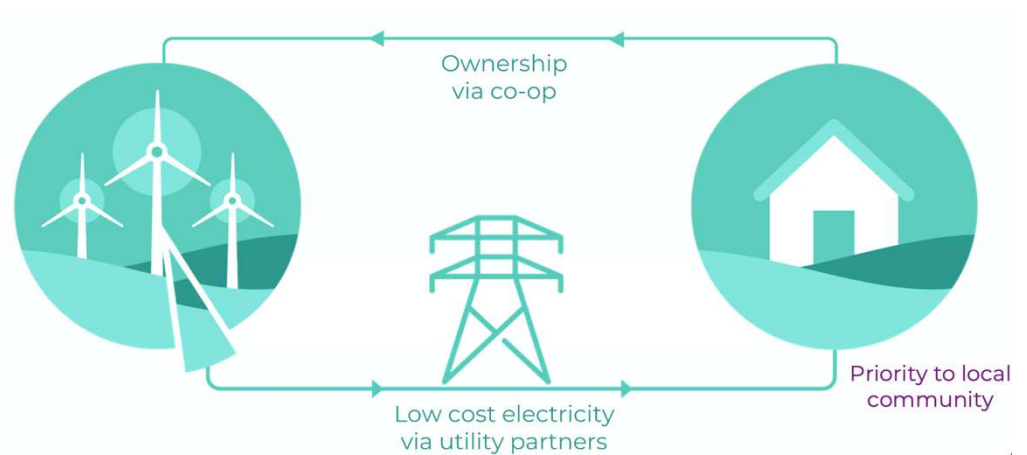
This includes establishing clear legal structures that empower communities and provide a solid foundation for governance. Building capacity through external support and proactive steps to engage with local groups and support areas of growth ensures local communities have the resources and knowledge to identify needs and utilise the resources available.

The Applicant has actively engaged with local communities by attending multiple Community Council meetings—both before and after submitting the application—including those hosting or neighbouring the Amended Development. During these meetings, the Applicant has reaffirmed its commitment to a Community Benefit Fund for the local area and the potential opportunity for community ownership. Additionally, the Applicant has provided detailed information and participated in discussions alongside Local Energy Scotland, who are able to offer impartial advice to support community involvement.

## 3.2 Community Ownership

The Applicant has engaged with Ripple Energy to develop a community ownership opportunity for the Amended Development.

**Figure 3.2 Ripple Shared Ownership Model**



Source: Ripple

A typical community ownership development through Ripple results in community owners receiving an annual return of equivalent to 5-10% of their initial investment through lower energy bills. For example, if a household were to invest enough to cover their typical annual electricity use this would mean they would:

- pay £2,000 for a 2,700kWh share of a wind farm;
- pay the operational cost of electricity production, rather than market value; and
- save £100 - £190 per household from their electricity bill.

Community ownership schemes, such as those developed by Ripple, require members of the community to invest upfront. The lower limit that households can invest is £25, and the investment can be up to the equivalent of 120% of a household's annual electricity consumption.

As discussed in Section 2.1 the West Dunbartonshire area has higher levels of deprivation and lower levels of income than the Scottish average. Therefore, those households that are likely to benefit most from a scheme that reduces energy bills are also least likely to have the capital available to invest in a shared ownership scheme.

There are proposals to use community benefit funding to provide subsidies or gifted shares to community members who would be unlikely to participate in the scheme at standard market rates. For example, the first year of the community benefit fund could be used to give free shares to 175 low-income households.





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### 3.3 Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) represent a critical revenue stream for local authorities, providing financial resources that support public services and infrastructure.

Non-domestic rates are a property tax levied on non-domestic properties. These rates are collected by local councils, and the revenue is then pooled at a national level. The pooled funds are redistributed to local authorities as part of the broader process of strategic funding allocation from the Scottish Government. This system helps support the delivery of public services across Scotland.

Given the attention to the significant financial pressures facing local authorities. Audit Scotland<sup>3</sup> reports indicate that non-domestic rates are experiencing a real terms decrease in collection, which compounds the existing budget constraints. The Amended Development offers a potential opportunity that bucks this trend of reducing non-domestic rates receipts.

The Amended Development is estimated to contribute £0.8 million annually in non-domestic rates. Over its 40-year operational lifetime, this would amount to a total contribution of £32.9 million to public sector finances.

West Dunbartonshire Council relies more heavily on funding from NDR compared to other local authorities in Scotland, as it receives a greater level of funding per head than the Scottish average. Consequently, any increase in the total amount of NDR collected at the national level would have a proportionately greater positive financial impact on West Dunbartonshire Council, boosting its resources to support local services and initiatives.

Such receipts represent a potential lever for local economic development, infrastructure investment, and community strategies. This is particularly relevant for West Dunbartonshire, given the area's high levels of deprivation and relatively few wind farm projects. Wind farms are one of the growing sources of non-domestic rates income and the Amended Development provides an opportunity for West Dunbartonshire to generate revenue.

### 3.4 Commitments

To maximise the benefit derived through community engagement, the Applicant will engage with relevant stakeholders to design a funding and ownership model that reflects the needs of the local community and maximises the long-term benefit of any funding. This will include a commitment to the following activities and policies

- **Bespoke**

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<sup>3</sup> Audit Scotland (2024), Local governments budgets 2024/25



- **Understanding local needs and aspirations:** The Applicant will provide funding to support the communities that will benefit from the Community Benefit Fund to develop a clear set of objectives for this funding, based on their needs and aspirations. This may include commissioning an independent third party to facilitate this strategy development.
  - **Engaging with local stakeholders:** The Applicant is actively consulting with the Bellsmyre Development Trust to better understand local needs and explore opportunities for community benefit and ownership. As part of this effort, meetings have been held with various Community Councils, including Balloch and Haldane CC (6th April 2022), Kilmarnock CC (12th September 2022), and Bonhill and Dalmonach CC (13th February 2023), to gather insights on community priorities. Additionally, focused discussions on community benefit and shared ownership took place on 25th January 2024 (Balloch House) and 30th October 2024.
  - **Investing in local sports and wellbeing:** The Vale of Leven Wind Farm is supporting community development by sponsoring the Renton and Craigandro 2009s football team and the Loch Lomond Rugby Club. This investment helps promote youth participation in sports, encourages active lifestyles, and strengthens community connections.
- **Innovative**
    - **Enabling wider participation in community ownership models using community benefit funding:** The Applicant will enable the Community Benefit Funding to be used to support low income households to invest in the community ownership of the Amended Development.
  - **Collaborative**
    - **Engaging other third sector and public sector bodies:** The Applicant will involve local stakeholders and third sector bodies in the area, to ensure that the community benefit funding compliments, rather than duplicates, any wider efforts to improve economic and social outcomes in the local area;
  - **Transparent**
    - **Commitment to an index-linked community benefit fund:** The Applicant will establish a community benefit fund, worth £5,000 per MW, that will be paid throughout the operational lifetime of the Amended Development. This will be index linked.
    - **Commitment to offering a community ownership option:** The Applicant will enable the local community to invest in the Amended Development through a partnership with Ripple, which will allow the local community to own and financially benefit from the electricity produced by the Amended Development through lower electricity bills.
    - **Establish effective governance:** the Applicant will work with community bodies to establish effective governance, administration, monitoring and



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evaluation arrangements consistent with best practice and providing data to enable the national community benefit register to be regularly updated.

- **Flexible**
  - **Enable evolving priorities:** the Community Benefit Fund will be set up in a way that will support regular reviews of its objectives and funding priorities, to ensure these are continually reflective of the needs and aspirations of the communities.

### 3.5 Conclusion of Community Empowerment

The Applicant has developed a comprehensive and tailored approach to community engagement and benefit, ensuring the Amended Development delivers meaningful, long-term outcomes aligned with local needs and aspirations. To achieve this, the Applicant is actively engaging with relevant stakeholders, including the Bellsmyre Development Trust and various Community Councils such as Balloch and Haldane CC, Kilmarnock CC, and Bonhill and Dalmonach CC, through a series of focused meetings held between April 2022 and October 2024. These discussions have facilitated a deeper understanding of community priorities and shaped strategies for shared ownership and community benefit.

The Applicant is committed to supporting the development of a funding and ownership model that maximises community benefit. This includes commissioning independent third parties to facilitate the creation of clear, objective-driven strategies for the Community Benefit Fund. Proposed initiatives, such as sponsoring local sports teams like the Renton and Craigandro 2009s football team and the Loch Lomond Rugby Club, underscore the Applicant's commitment to promoting youth participation, active lifestyles, and community cohesion.

To enable inclusive community ownership, the Applicant proposes to utilise Community Benefit Funding to support low-income households in investing in the Amended Development. Partnerships with third-sector bodies and organisations like Ripple will further empower the community by enabling local ownership and financial benefits through reduced electricity bills.

A transparent and adaptable governance structure will underpin these efforts, ensuring the Community Benefit Fund, indexed at £5,000 per MW annually throughout the project's lifetime, is administered effectively and evolves with the changing needs of the community. Regular reviews and collaboration with local stakeholders will ensure that funding priorities remain aligned with local aspirations.

The Amended Development will also generate £0.8 million annually in non-domestic rates, contributing a total of £32.9 million over 40 years, which will support public services and infrastructure through the Scottish Government's redistribution framework.



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Through a collaborative and flexible approach, the Applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to optimising the delivery of community benefits, fostering economic and social development, and empowering the local community to actively participate in the Amended Development's success.

These funding mechanisms transform infrastructure projects (such as the Amended Development) into strategic investments that can generate tangible economic value, support local resilience, and create opportunities for community-driven initiatives and development.



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## 4.

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# Conclusion

The Amended Development aligns with Policy 11(c) of the NPF4 by maximising net economic impact and delivering local and community socio-economic benefits.

The socio-economic structure of West Dunbartonshire highlights significant socioeconomic challenges, including higher levels of deprivation, lower educational attainment and a workforce concentrated in lower-skilled service roles. Future demographic pressures are expected to exacerbate these trends making job creation a priority to retain the existing population and attract more working age people to the area.

The Applicant has undertaken a tailored, collaborative, and transparent approach to maximise economic, social, and community benefits associated with the Amended Development. This approach has evolved through engagement with local stakeholders, educational institutions, and public and private sector bodies. Key activities and initiatives have been proposed, demonstrating the Applicant's commitment to addressing local needs and aspirations. These include:

### **4.1.1 Bespoke initiatives to support local businesses and communities:**

- Active collaboration with Dunbartonshire Chambers of Commerce and local business networks to identify and map economic opportunities, including participation in events such as the 'President's Club' launch in September 2024.
- Conducting detailed assessments of supply chain gaps and diversification opportunities, alongside the proactive creation of a comprehensive database of local subcontractors, shared with Tier 1 contractors to encourage local integration.
- Funding support to help communities develop objectives for the Community Benefit Fund, including consultations with groups like the Bellsmyre Development Trust and Community Councils, such as Balloch and Haldane CC and Kilmarnock CC, through focused meetings held from 2022 to 2024.
- Investing in local sports and wellbeing through sponsorship of Renton and Craigandro 2009s football team and Loch Lomond Rugby Club, strengthening community connections.
- Offering a community ownership option through a partnership with Ripple, enabling local residents to benefit from reduced electricity costs.

### **4.1.2 Innovative practices for inclusive economic and community growth:**

- Promoting wider participation in community ownership models by enabling low-income households to invest in the Amended Development using community benefit funding.



- 
- Partnering with West College Scotland and the University of the West of Scotland to develop industry-relevant training pathways and explore scholarship opportunities in renewable energy and construction fields.

#### **4.1.3 Collaborative efforts to enhance workforce and supply chain engagement:**

- Partnering with Tier 1 contractors to ensure local SMEs understand and meet insurance and accreditation requirements, giving them time to adapt and prepare.
- Organising 'Meet the Developer' events to foster engagement with businesses that have relevant or transferable skills for project opportunities.
- Supporting workforce development through initiatives like West College Scotland's targeted training programs and the Chamber's Building Bridges program.

#### **4.1.4 Transparent and flexible governance:**

- Establishing an index-linked Community Benefit Fund of £5,000 per MW, paid throughout the project's lifetime, and maintaining clear reporting mechanisms with Tier 1 contractors to track local content.
- Ensuring governance frameworks align with best practices, allowing for regular review and updates to the Fund's objectives based on evolving community priorities.

Based on these community and economic benefits expected and the approach being taken by the Applicant, it can be concluded that the Amended Development will maximise the local net economic benefit. Therefore, it will meet the requirement for renewable energy proposals set out in Policy 11(c) of NPF4.

Through its support for employment, opportunities for local businesses, and contributions to public sector finances, the project demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainable economic development and community wellbeing.



## 5.

# Appendix 1: Labour Market Context

This section discusses the socio-economic context of the Amended Development, including population structure, economic activity, skills, relative deprivation and wellbeing.

### 5.1 Study Areas

The aim of the socio-economic baseline is to set the Amended Development and its potential for economic benefits within existing socio-economic conditions. This section considers the socio-economic structure of West Dunbartonshire in comparison to Scotland.

### 5.2 Demographics

#### 5.2.1 Population Estimates

In 2023, West Dunbartonshire had a total population of 88,750. The age profile of West Dunbartonshire is similar to Scotland as a whole (Table 5-1).

**Table 5-1: Population Estimates, 2022**

	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,750</b>	<b>5,490,100</b>
0-15	17%	16%
16-64	62%	63%
65+	21%	20%

Source: NRS (2024), Mid-2023 Population Estimates

#### 5.2.2 Population Projections

Over the period between 2022 and 2043, the population of West Dunbartonshire is projected to decrease from 88,750 to 82,537, a reduction of 7.3%. However, the population of Scotland is projected to increase by 1.5% during the same period.

If the current differences in population structure between the local area and West Dunbartonshire were to remain in the future, the local area would be more susceptible to pressure on public services. By creating opportunity for well-paid employment, the Amended Development could contribute to offset existing depopulation projections.



**Table 5-2: Population Projections, 2023-2043**

	West Dunbartonshire		Scotland	
	2023	2043	2023	2043
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,750</b>	<b>82,537</b>	<b>5,490,100</b>	<b>5,574,819</b>
0-15	17%	15%	16%	15%
16-64	62%	59%	63%	60%
65+	21%	26%	20%	25%

Source: ONS (2023), Population Estimates – Local authority based by five-year age band; National Records of Scotland (2020), Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based).

### 5.3 Industrial Structure

In 2023, the most significant sectors in West Dunbartonshire were human health and social work activities accounting for 24% of employment compared to 16% in Scotland. Wholesale and retail trade was the second largest sector and similar to levels in Scotland as a whole (13%). Accommodation and food services account for 9% of employment in West Dunbartonshire which is also in line with Scotland as a whole.

Construction, a sector which could particularly benefit from contracts relating to the Amended Development, accounted for 3% of employment in West Dunbartonshire which was less than in Scotland as a whole (5%).

Manufacturing employment (7%) in West Dunbartonshire was the same as the wider Scottish economy. Administrative and support services were underrepresented in West Dunbartonshire, encompassing 5% of total employment, which was less than in Scotland (7%).

Financial and insurance activities were overrepresented in West Dunbartonshire, accounting for 7% of employment which was higher than Scotland (3%). Public administration and defence were also higher in West Dunbartonshire at 9% compared to 6% in Scotland.





**Table 5-3: Industrial Structure, 2023**

	<b>West Dunbartonshire</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
Human health and social work activities	24%	16%
Wholesale and retail trade	13%	13%
Public administration and defence	9%	6%
Accommodation and food service activities	9%	9%
Education	9%	8%
Manufacturing	7%	7%
Financial and insurance activities	7%	3%
Administrative and support service activities	5%	7%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	4%	7%
Transportation and storage	3%	5%
Construction	3%	5%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3%	3%
Other service activities	1%	2%
Information and communication	1%	3%
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>34,135</b>	<b>2,657,000</b>

Source: ONS (2023), Business Register and Employment Survey, 2022.

## 5.4 Economic Activity

In 2023, the economic activity rate in West Dunbartonshire was 75.8%, which was lower than across Scotland where the economic activity was 77.9%.

The median annual gross salary of residents of West Dunbartonshire was £29,659, only slightly lower than for Scotland as a whole (£29,842).

**Table 5-4: Labour Market Indicators**

	<b>West Dunbartonshire</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
Economically Active (%)	75.8%	77.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.1%	3.4%
Median Annual Gross Wage (resident analysis)	£29,659	£29,842

Source: ONS (2024), Annual Population Survey Oct 2022-Sept 2023; ONS (2024), Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – resident analysis.



## 5.5 Education

The workforce in West Dunbartonshire has lower levels of qualification than the wider Scottish population. Across West Dunbartonshire, 36% of people have achieved at least a National Vocational Qualification Level 4 (NVQ4) qualification, equivalent to a higher education certificate. This is lower than the share of people in Scotland of 50%, with a higher education certificate. The proportion of people with no qualifications in West Dunbartonshire (14%) is higher than across Scotland as a whole (8%).

**Table 5-5: Qualification Levels, 2022**

	<b>West Dunbartonshire</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
NVQ4+	36%	50%
NVQ3+	53%	65%
NVQ2+	68%	80%
NVQ1+	79%	86%
Other Qualifications	7%	6%
No Qualifications	14%	8%

Source: ONS (2023), Annual Population Survey Jan 2022 – Dec 2022.

The occupational breakdown for those employed in West Dunbartonshire are presented in Table 5-6. For professional occupations, the proportion employed in West Dunbartonshire is 19% compared to 27% in Scotland. This indicates West Dunbartonshire has a lower share of highly skilled professional jobs.

In the category of caring, leisure and other service occupations, West Dunbartonshire has a higher proportion at 15% compared to 8% for Scotland. This highlights that the area has a much more pronounced emphasis on these types of service-oriented roles. Skilled trades occupations make up 9% of the West Dunbartonshire workforce, which is slightly lower than the 10% seen across Scotland. Administrative and secretarial occupations account for 12% of jobs in West Dunbartonshire, which is notably higher than the 9% nationally for Scotland.



**Table 5-6: Occupational Structure, 2021**

	<b>West Dunbartonshire</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
Professional Occupations	19%	27%
Caring, Leisure and other service Occupations	15%	8%
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	12%	9%
Associate Prof & Technical Occupations	11%	16%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	10%	8%
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	10%	7%
Elementary Occupations	10%	10%
Skilled Trades Occupations	9%	10%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	5%	5%

Source: Annual Population Survey, Data for Oct 2022 – Sep 2023

## 5.6 Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation which ranks small areas of Scotland across seven dimensions: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing. These areas can be ranked based on which quintile (fifth of the distribution) they belong to, with a small area in the first quintile being in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

West Dunbartonshire is divided into 121 small areas, with a significant proportion (40%) located in the most deprived quintile. This is followed by 26% in the second quintile, 17% in the third, 12% in the fourth, and 5% in the least deprived quintile.

Overall, West Dunbartonshire has a high level of deprivation compared to Scotland. 40% in the most deprived quintile is double what you would expect and one of the lowest shares of data zones in the least deprived quintile (6%). This disparity underscores the need for targeted social and economic interventions in West Dunbartonshire.



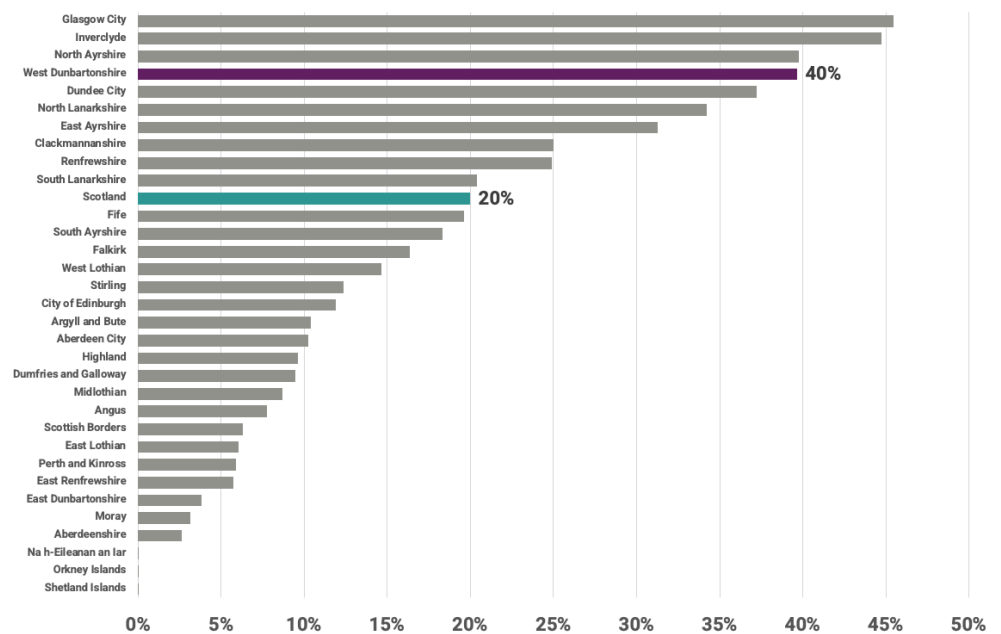
**Table 5-7: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation by Quintile, 2020**

	West Dunbartonshire
1 (most deprived quintile)	40%
2	26%
3	17%
4	12%
5 (least deprived quintile)	6%

Source: Scottish Government (2020), Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

Across the Scottish local authorities, West Dunbartonshire has one of the highest share of neighbourhoods considered to be the most deprived. As shown in Figure 5.1, only Glasgow City, Inverclyde and North Ayrshire have a greater share of neighbourhoods in this category.

**Figure 5.1: Share of Datazones in most deprived quintile, by Local Authority**



## 5.7 Wellbeing

One way of gauging the social welfare of a local area is through calculating the Wellbeing-Adjusted Life Years, known as WELLBYs. WELLBYs are calculated by multiplying life expectancy of an area by its average self-reported life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale. WELLBYs can be compared and contrasted across Scotland and the UK<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> BiGGAR Economics (2023). Toward a Wellbeing Economy: The Distribution of Wellbeing in the UK.



Underpinning this approach is the 2021 World Happiness Report, Layard and Oparina<sup>5</sup>, which makes the case that people want to experience lives that are both long and happy. With that in mind, they advocate that a society should aim to maximise the number of WELLBYs across their population both now and in the future. That is, maximising a combination of both life expectancy and self-reported wellbeing.

As shown in Table 5-8, West Dunbartonshire has a lower life expectancy (76.5) than the Scottish average (78.9). The region also experiences a lower level of life satisfaction than Scotland as a whole (7.2 versus 7.4). This gives West Dunbartonshire an overall WELLBY score of 554, which is lower than the Scottish score of 587.

**Table 5-8: WELLBYs in West Dunbartonshire**

	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland
Life expectancy (years)	76.5	78.9
Life satisfaction	7.2	7.4
WELLBYs	554	587

Source: BiGGAR Economics (2023). Toward a Wellbeing Economy: The Distribution of Wellbeing in the UK.

Self-reported life satisfaction, and consequently WELLBY scores, are dependent upon a variety of factors, including local economic conditions, health, community vitality and involvement, as well as culture and the natural environment.

The WELLBY score demonstrates a lower quality of life in West Dunbartonshire than in Scotland as a whole. It is important to consider why this might be and other indicators of wellbeing in the area to may help to understand the WELLBY and where there might be room for improvement.

There are areas of concern when it comes to wellbeing. For example, 25.5% of children live in low-income families against an average of 20.8% in Scotland. Young people’s participation is lower (93%) than the Scottish average (94.3%), and in the ten weakest outcomes as presented in Table 5-9. Healthy life expectancy for females (56.7) and males (56.4) is lower than Scottish averages and the gender pay gap is also higher (10.1%) than in Scotland overall (8.7%).

It is worth noting that a lower proportion of people in West Dunbartonshire report feeling lonely (17.7%) than in Scotland (23.1%) overall.

<sup>5</sup> Layard, R. and Oparina, E (March 2021)., Living Long and Living Well: The WELLBY Approach, Chapter 8 of World Happiness Report 2021 (Sustainable Development Solutions Network).



**Table 5-9: Wellbeing in West Dunbartonshire**

	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland
Lonely “some, most, almost all or all of the time” % (2022)	17.7%	23.1%
Children living in low-income families (2022)	25.5%	20.8%
Young people's participation (2023)	93.0%	94.3%
Low or no qualifications (2022)	11%	9.9%
Gender pay gap (2023)	10.1%	8.7%
Female healthy life expectancy (2019-2021)	56.7	61.1
Male healthy life expectancy (2019-2021)	56.4	60.4

Source: Community Ownership in Scotland 2022, Scottish Government (2022); Wellbeing Economy Monitor: Excel Tool, Public Health Scotland, Scottish Health Survey.

Note: Cells highlighted in red contain values that are within the ten weakest outcomes. Cells highlighted in yellow contain values in neither the top ten nor the bottom ten. Cells highlighted in green contain values that are within the ten strongest outcomes.

## 5.8 Summary of Labour Market Context

In West Dunbartonshire, 40% of the population resides in areas classified among the 20% most deprived in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This means that nearly half of the population lives in areas facing significant socio-economic challenges, including lower educational attainment and poorer health outcomes.

These statistics indicate that West Dunbartonshire exhibits different socio-economic characteristics when compared to Scotland overall. There is a higher concentration of deprivation and divergent patterns of educational attainment and occupational structure with a lower level of individuals involved in professional occupations (19%) than those in the whole of Scotland (27%). This is also reflected in the educational qualifications in West Dunbartonshire, where 36% of residents have achieved at least a higher education certificate, compared to 50% across Scotland and a larger proportion have no qualifications (14%) as compared to Scotland (8%).

West Dunbartonshire's employment is skewed towards the public sector, notably in health, education, public administration and defence, exceeding the employment shares in these sectors compared to Scotland.

Addressing these disparities will likely be a key priority for the region's economic development efforts. This may be achieved by creating jobs in high productivity



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sectors and reducing reliance on public sector employment by attracting investment other sectors. Providing opportunities to improve skills and education and enhance educational attainment which lead to improved employability outcomes. Investing in communities to improve living conditions and overall quality of life presents an opportunity to maximise positive local impact.



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## 6.

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# Appendix 2: Economic Impacts

## 6.1 Development and Construction

Development and construction of the Amended Development consists of ten turbines, each with a capacity of up to 7.2 MW, giving a total installed capacity of 72 MW. Using research undertaken by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK in 2015<sup>6</sup> and more recent data from evaluations of onshore wind farm developments; the average expenditure on development and construction of wind farms can be estimated based on the average spend per MW, the average spending per turbine, or a combination of the two, as appropriate. In addition, the Amended Development includes a 20 MW battery.

Based on this methodology, the total development and construction cost for the Amended Development was estimated to be £76.3 million<sup>7</sup>.

The expenditure was split into four main categories of contract:

- development and planning;
- turbines;
- balance of plant;
- grid connection; and
- battery storage.

It was assumed that 50% of capital expenditure would be on turbine contracts, with 22.2% spent on balance of plant contracts, 7.5% on development and planning and 7.2% on grid connections.

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<sup>6</sup> (RenewableUK, 2015)

<sup>7</sup> Note this is an estimate in 2021 prices to align with the original EIA chapter





**Table 6-1: Development and Construction Contract by Type**

	<b>% CAPEX</b>	<b>Value (£m)</b>
Development and Planning	8%	5.8
Wind Turbines	50%	38.2
Balance of Plant	22%	16.9
Grid Connection	7%	5.5
Battery Storage	13%	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>76.3</b>

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis of case study evidence from comparable previously constructed wind farms. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding and values are presented in 2021 prices to align with the EIA Chapter

The economic impact of the development and construction phase for a wind energy project was assessed for West Dunbartonshire and Scotland as a whole. This involved estimating the share of contracts likely to be secured locally based on industry data, regional capabilities, and previous analysis by BiGGAR Economics. The analysis calculated the potential expenditure on each type of contract within the study areas by applying these proportions to the estimated total costs of development and construction.

In West Dunbartonshire, the value of secured contracts was estimated to be up to £5.9 million, representing 8% of the total capital expenditure. The largest opportunities were in balance of plant contracts, where local companies could secure 17% of the contracts, valued at £2.8 million. Across Scotland, including West Dunbartonshire, contracts worth £25.0 million (33% of total expenditure) could be secured, with balance of plant contracts offering the most significant opportunities, valued at £14.0 million.

To estimate the direct Gross Value Added (GVA) from development and construction contracts, each contract was divided into sub-contracts. Turnover-to-GVA ratios from the Scottish Annual Business Statistics (2022) were applied to these sub-contracts. This approach estimated that contracts could generate £3.4 million GVA in West Dunbartonshire and £12.7 million GVA across Scotland.

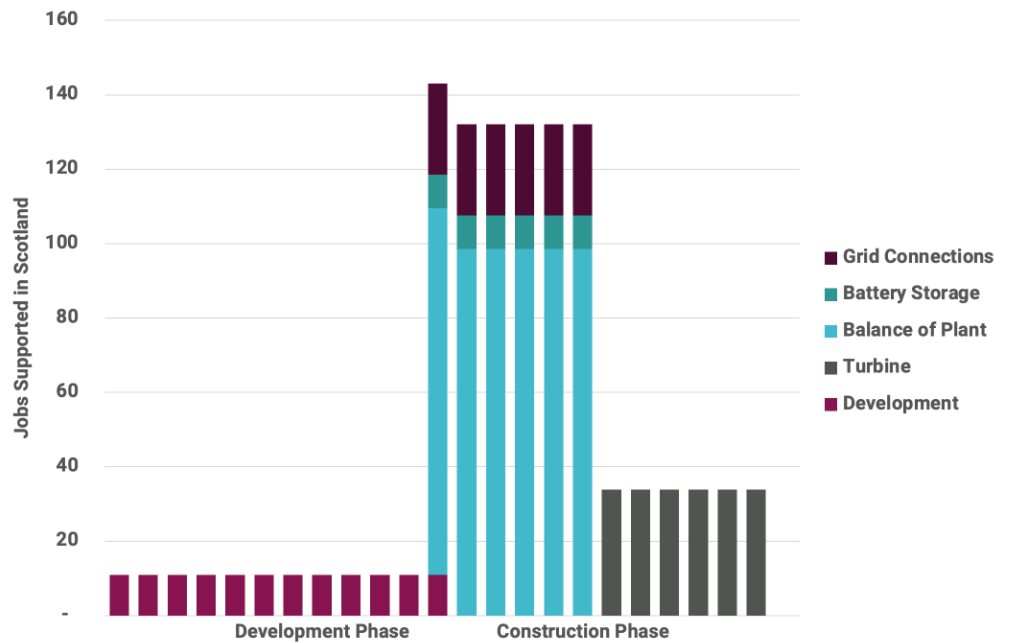
### **6.1.1 Construction Impacts and Economic Opportunity**

The Amended Development presents significant employment and economic benefits for West Dunbartonshire and Scotland. During the construction phase, the project is projected to generate 44 direct years of employment within West Dunbartonshire, with an additional 204 direct employment years across Scotland.

The majority of the employment will be during the construction phase In Scotland, this is estimated to peak at the start of the construction phase when the balance of plant contracts are undertaken. At this point, approximately 140 jobs will be supported across Scotland.



**Figure 6.1: Employment impacts over time during the Construction Phase**



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The development is estimated to produce £4.2 million in Gross Value Added (GVA), with £0.5 million directly secured by local businesses in West Dunbartonshire. This financial injection can provide critical economic stimulation in the region.

The wind farm project offers a crucial opportunity for workforce development and skills enhancement. The Amended Development can:

- provide specialised training in green energy technologies, helping local workers transition to high-value, sustainable careers;
- create pathways for apprenticeships and technical skill development in emerging renewable energy sectors; and
- build long-term workforce resilience by equipping local professionals with skills aligned with global decarbonisation efforts.

The Amended Development would generate additional economic benefits through multiplier effects, which account for supply chain spending (indirect effects) and employee spending in the local economy (induced effects). Using adjusted national multipliers for West Dunbartonshire, it was estimated that the Amended Development could generate a total of £4.2 million GVA and support 54 years of employment locally. Across Scotland, the combined direct, indirect, and induced impacts were estimated at £20.7 million GVA and 322 years of employment



## 6.2 Operations and Maintenance

The initial stage in determining the economic impact stemming from the operations and maintenance of the Amended Development involved assessing the annual total expenditure necessary for its operation. Based on the number of wind turbines and the Amended Development’s capacity, it was estimated that the annual cost of operations and maintenance (OPEX) is likely to amount to approximately £3.0 million.

It was further assumed that businesses in West Dunbartonshire could benefit from a total of £0.5 million in operations and maintenance contracts (16% of OPEX) annually, and that annual expenditure in Scottish contractors could be up to £2.6 million (85% of OPEX).

**Table 6-2: Operations and Maintenance Expenditure by Study Area**

	West Dunbartonshire		Scotland	
	%	£m	%	£m
Operations and Maintenance	16%	0.5	85%	2.6

Source: BIGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The total turnover generated in each study area was then divided by the turnover per GVA and turnover per job ratios of the sectors expected to carry out operations and maintenance contracts. In this way, it was estimated that the Amended Development is likely to generate £0.3 million direct GVA and 2 direct jobs in West Dunbartonshire, and £1.0 million direct GVA and 9 direct jobs across Scotland.

As with the development and construction of the Amended Development, it was necessary to estimate the indirect and induced impacts associated with operations and maintenance contracts. This was done by applying the relevant Type 1 and Type 2 GVA and employment multipliers.

By combining the direct, indirect, and induced impacts it was estimated that the operations and maintenance of the Amended Development will generate:

- £0.4 million GVA and 2 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £1.7 million GVA and 17 jobs in Scotland.

Similarly to the Development and Construction phase, the estimated figures show that the Amended Development would contribute to the provision of high-quality local employment opportunities and help maximise the value of local expenditure throughout its operational lifetime.



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**7.**

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## **Appendix 3: Supply Chain Paper**

[See next page]

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Glasgow  
G2 6PH

15th June 2023

**Vale of Leven Wind Farm - Supply Chain Paper  
(Construction & Maintenance)**

**Prepared by Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce  
on behalf of Coriolis Energy**



(1) Background/Context:

Dunbartonshire Chamber has undertaken research on behalf of Coriolis Energy into the range of companies/capabilities outlined in the summary provided for the West Dunbartonshire Council area. Additional disciplines/companies have also been included.

It was agreed that using the keywords in the list provided<sup>1</sup> (combined with geographical area) the Chamber would undertake the following to gather relevant information and develop a basic database:

- Utilise its own databases (members and Loves Local)
- Undertake partner engagement (Business Gateway, West Dunbartonshire Council (Procurement, Regeneration), Chamber Members)
- Undertake desk research (online search)
- Utilise Chamber Comms channels to seek referrals

It was agreed that a wide range of suppliers would be included to take in smaller businesses for whom an opportunity to scale-up to meet requirements may exist. Basic contact information to include Name of Business, Address, Email and/or Phone Number. Additionally, web links have been included where available together with selected businesses in the neighbouring local authority areas that may be of relevance (East Dunbartonshire/Argyll & Bute/Glasgow).

Filters added and new broad categories<sup>2</sup> created to the spreadsheet headings to assist with sorting and filtering of the records and for grouping for analysis.

(2) Gaps/Analysis

A breakdown of the broad categories<sup>2</sup> provides the following indication:

Construction – 67  
Consultancy - 2  
Hospitality - 31  
Services - 51  
Suppliers - 20  
Transport and Hire - 31

## Vale of Leven Wind Farm - Supply Chain Paper cont./-

There is good provision for construction and related services, materials, fuel and waste management, hire and hospitality, Areas where provision may prove to be light include consultancy and specialised haulage. Businesses could be encouraged to fill the gaps via both the Chamber and partners activity, meet the buyer events as well as ensuring local procurement is influenced (build in local impact/jobs/skills as part of any planning applications).

There is also an opportunity to create new skills, workforce and businesses locally via support for skills development in the West Dunbartonshire area (ie. via the Chamber's Building Bridges programme to include placements, apprenticeships).

(3) The Chamber is keen to help co-ordinate a Business Engagement/Meet the Buyer Event to highlight the business opportunities connected to the project. Details TBC.

### *Addendum:*

Original list of disciplines provided by Coriolis Energy<sup>1</sup>

- Construction, Drainage and Fencing Contractors
- Materials Suppliers and Building Merchants
- Fuel Providers and Waste Management
- Plant Hire
- Local Hospitality Providers and Car Hire
- Electrical Contractors
- Specialised Haulage Firms
- Environmental Consultancies for Construction and Post Construction Monitoring Work
- Engineering and Groundworks Consultancies

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