

Strabane District Council Comhairle Ceantair an tSratha Báin Stràbane Destrick Cooncil



Draft Guidance Protocol on the payment of community benefits from Windfarms in West Tyrone

My presentation

Context
Community Benefit
Our Guidance Protocol

Concerns

- High wind energy resource
- Saturation/ Cumulative impacts
- West Tyrone against Windfarms
- Noise complaints (health)
- shadow flicker/TV reception
- Impacts on biodiversity
- Landscape heritage (Sperrins AOONB)
- Industrialisation of the landscape
- Lucrative industry which is heavily subsidised
- Rural communities suffering social and economic deprivation and fuel poverty

Community Benefit

Tokenistic

- An unclear and fragmented picture
- Substantially low levels of payments
- Higher levels of payments in Scotland, England and Wales.
- Industry treating NI communities less favourably

DECC Call for Evidence on community benefits and onshore wind

- An increase in the recommended community benefit package in England from £1,000 per MW of installed capacity to £5,000 MW for the year of the windfarm
- Compulsory pre application consultation
- Register of community benefits
- Clear evidence on the impacts

Our Guidance Protocol:

- Developers to pay £5,000 per MW per annum (index linked) to regenerate and sustain rural communities locally.
- 70% allocated to the community living within 5 miles of the site and the remaining 30% being allocated within 8 miles of the site

Conclusion

- First time a policy of this nature has been introduced
- Out for a period of 12 week consultation
- It is a means of support for host communities and councils
- Principles of sustainable development and fair and equitable treatment.



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