



South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

This Fund will be providing at least £2,400,000 every two years to support activity that contributes to the wellbeing and sustainability of the four communities.

More than 13 years after it was first proposed, the South Kyle Wind Farm will soon be generating electricity and contributing to Scotland's net zero targets. This means that the South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund will also soon be starting for the communities of Carsphairn, Dalmellington, New Cumnock and Patna.

By **wellbeing** we mean everyone having what they need to live well now and in the future. By **sustainability** we mean that the communities have sufficient people living there, that services help meet people's needs and the natural environment is being respected and valued for future generations.

Over the last three years, interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns, representatives from the four communities have been working with the national charity and community benefit specialist, Foundation Scotland to decide what the South Kyle Fund will look like and how it will be used. This Fund development process has been influenced by the context, capacity and ambition of the communities, the approach of the project developer and learning from community benefit practice in other parts of Scotland.

And the result is a Fund with these **four key principles** at its heart:

purposeful – this means the Fund's purpose of contributing to the wellbeing and sustainability of the four communities will be like a golden thread guiding decisions on spend.

context specific – this means that the Fund's different components and governance and administration arrangements are tailored to each community's own context and capacity.

collaborative – this means that although much of the spend will be targeted at projects and activity happening within each of the communities (rather than area wide activity or initiatives) the communities are committed to sharing resources, ideas and learning.

accountable – this means that at all levels, the Fund will be transparent and promote and support deliberation and decision-making processes that are accountable, inclusive and community led.

Fundamental to how the Fund will work is the community benefit being paid out by the wind farm owner every two years providing more flexibility to support projects in a timeframe that works better for the communities.

Once the first tranche of funding arrives, each of the communities will have their own local fund which community groups can apply to and an Education & Training fund to help individuals access training and education opportunities to better equip them with skills to enter or retain employment. These funds will be administered locally. Alongside this each community will be recruiting specialist paid roles to help progress community ambitions and plans. And over a four year cycle major projects in each of the four communities will receive a significant amount of investment from the South Kyle Fund to accelerate project completion. The first two of these will be the **new inclusive Bike Track in Dalmellington** and the **redevelopment of the Castle Hotel in New Cumnock**.

The South Kyle Community Benefit Fund Advisory Group will work with Foundation Scotland to oversee the implementation of arrangements and ensure the Fund's principles are upheld.

One overarching fund **with** different components

Operating on an initial **four year cycle** to prototype a longer term approach to community benefit

Focused from the outset on **making a difference**