

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Throughout the lifespan of the wind farm Meall Buidhe Renewables LLP are committed to working with the community to ensure the benefits of the wind farm are maximised. We will be contributing the suggested contribution (£5000/MW of installed capacity each year) towards local community benefit.

## Community Benefits Package

If granted planning permission, the community benefits package would be set up to provide an annual fund available to the community. We are keen to ensure that surrounding communities gain meaningful benefits from the Meall Buidhe Wind Farm. At present, suggestions on the most suitable management structure and uses of the fund are welcomed.

The following are some examples provided at the first rounds of public exhibitions:

- Funding towards work apprenticeships for young people
- Community broadband
- Upgrades to local services
- Support for vulnerable people, including health care
- Funding for village halls
- Repairs to Brae Doune suspension footbridge



Formartine Under 17 Football Team sponsored by members of Meall Buidhe Renewables LLP, on behalf of a separate wind turbine project

# COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

In addition to the community benefit fund, Meall Buidhe Renewables LLP would like to discuss other options for the local community to become involved in the project. For example this can involve:

- **Community ownership in the form of a co-operative**
- **Community ownership of a turbine**

## Community ownership in the form of a co-operative

It is possible to set up a regulated co-operative that would allow local communities and individuals to invest varying amounts in the project in order to own a share of the wind farm development.

Shareholders of the co-operative would consequently profit from the sale of green electricity. Members can invest varying sums from between £250 to £20,000. The profits are then distributed to members through an annual dividend.

Preference for joining the scheme is given to people living in areas closest to the wind farm development in order to maximise the economic benefits to the local community.

The co-op would be run democratically with each individual member having one vote.

The Kilbraur Wind Farm, amongst others, is an example of where this type of community ownership scheme has been introduced.

## Community ownership of a turbine

Alternatively, Meall Buidhe Renewables LLP are willing to look into the possibility of the community ownership of either one of the wind turbines or a set proportion of the wind farm. This would allow a trust to receive an income from its stake in the wind farm to fund local initiatives over the lifetime of the project.

The Fintry Development Trust near Stirling started a process similar to this in 2003 and have since worked on a number of community projects to allow people in the local area to benefit and have a say in how the income generated is spent. Details of the process they undertook with the owners of the Earlsburn Wind Farm can be seen on their website ([www.fintrydt.org.uk](http://www.fintrydt.org.uk)).

## Other Local Benefits

If the proposal is granted planning permission, a local procurement strategy will be used to ensure that local businesses are given the opportunity to offer their services during construction and operation of the turbines.