

Pen March Wind Farm Development of National Significance Collaborative Benefits Report (CBR)

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Prepared by Cadno Communications for RWE Renewables Swindon UK Ltd



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Prepared by	Sarah Jones
Checked by	Angharad Davies
Authorised by	Angharad Davies

Cadno Communications
Studio 210
The Creative Quarter
Morgan Arcade
CF10 1AF

www.cadnocomms.co.uk
info@cadnocomms.co.uk



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Foreword

1. This Collaborative Benefits Report (CBR) has been prepared in line with Welsh Government's guidance on Local and Shared Ownership of Energy Projects in Wales (June 2022)¹.
2. The CBR has been prepared by Cadno Communications Ltd on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Swindon Ltd (RWE) to illustrate the shared ownership journey taken by the developer and partners, and to summarise wider benefits of Pen March Wind Farm (referred to as the 'Proposed Scheme').
3. RWE is seeking to obtain consent for the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme located on Gelligaer and Merthyr Common, north of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road, north-west of the town of Rhymney and north-east of Merthyr Tydfil.
4. The Proposed Scheme will have a potential generating capacity of more than 10MW which means it falls within the definition of a Development of National Significance (DNS) under Regulation 4 of the Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016, for the purposes of section 62(D) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by s19 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.
5. The majority of the site of the Proposed Scheme is registered as common land and makes up part of Common Land Unit 38 Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. Therefore, the DNS application will be accompanied by applications for secondary consent to deregister and offer exchange common land and consent to carry out restricted works on common land (pursuant to sections 16 and 38 of the Commons Act 2006).
6. In 2017, the Welsh Government set an expectation that all new energy projects will have at least an element of local ownership from 2020, with a target that 1 GW of renewables electricity and heat capacity in Wales will be locally owned by 2030.
7. In June 2022, the Welsh Government published a guidance document on local and shared ownership of energy projects in Wales. In the accompanying statement, Julie James MS wrote:

"We have deliberately not been overly prescriptive in the models suggested as we welcome creative and innovative projects across Wales that meet our objectives and the needs of local communities. We anticipate that over time we will have further examples of projects onshore, and potentially offshore, which embrace these objectives and help Wales become a leading nation of shared and locally owned energy."
8. Whilst shared and local ownership on energy projects in Wales is a policy aspiration, it is not a planning requirement nor is the preparation of a Collaborative Benefits Report.
9. RWE began engaging with local stakeholders in 2019. Shared ownership has been a key element of the discussions with the two local planning authorities where the Proposed Scheme is located from the very first conversations.
10. RWE has been pleased with the enthusiastic response on the shared ownership opportunity from Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and the subsequent positive relationships that have been built. RWE also believes that the dialogue on shared ownership which has facilitated a good working relationship has led to other benefits, including: good early engagement with the supply chain, agreement to engage with young people, understanding of local need in relation to the potential community benefit fund, and support on marketing the pre-

¹ <https://www.gov.wales/local-and-shared-ownership-energy-projects-guidance>



application consultation to members of the public.

11. As a result of the dialogue and efforts from all sides, RWE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Caerphilly County Borough Council, and Heads of Terms (HoTs) have been signed with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.



Stakeholder Identification

12. RWE began stakeholder engagement in 2019 following a stakeholder identification process to map out the relevant electoral boundaries and elected representatives. Relevant local authority officers were also identified and engaged with from an early stage, including officers in the planning departments, and those involved in economic regeneration.
13. The process of identifying stakeholders related to the community investment package began in 2021.
14. The Proposed Scheme is located within the administrative boundary of two local authorities: Caerphilly County Borough Council to the east and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to the west.
15. A wide range of stakeholders were identified in terms of consultation on the planning application and the common land application. Details of these, including engagement methods and outcomes of the consultation are included in the Pre-Application Consultation Report. For the purposes of this CBR, we are describing how RWE identified and engaged with stakeholders specifically in relation to shared ownership and any wider benefits accruing from the Proposed Scheme.

Shared ownership

16. The key stakeholders in relation to shared ownership were identified as:
 - Elected representatives and relevant officers at Caerphilly County Borough Council.
 - Elected representatives and relevant officers at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
 - The local MS and MP were also kept updated on the shared ownership opportunity and discussions taking place.

Community investment funding

The initial key stakeholders in relation to the community investment package were identified as:

- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisation (GAVO)
 - Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)
17. Initial meetings took place between RWE's Community Investment Manager and representatives of GAVO and VAMT in March 2021. This helped RWE's understanding of the potential opportunities for a community fund supporting the communities closest to the Proposed Scheme and to shape the approach for future consultation.
 18. More detailed conversations took place in the first proper phase of consultation on the community fund in 2022 (detailed below at paragraph 42).

Businesses

19. Local businesses and potential suppliers were identified through Caerphilly County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the local CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) Engagement Advisor. Cadno worked with relevant officers to identify local businesses who might have an interest in the Proposed Scheme. The officers sent information about the business breakfast to their databases and Cadno has maintained a database of contacts of people who registered to attend the business breakfast and their interest as a potential supplier.

Individuals with grazing rights ('commoners')



20. It is the responsibility of the Commons Registration Authority to continue to keep a map and register of those with grazing rights on common land. A list of commoners with grazing rights for Common Land Unit 38 of the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common was obtained from the Commons Registration Authority. On 3rd February 2022, RWE wrote to the people listed as commoners enclosing a questionnaire and pre-paid envelope, asking them to confirm their contact details, grazing rights, whether they exercise their grazing rights, and whether they are a member of the Commoners Association.
21. In addition, RWE have contacted and met with graziers whom we understand actively graze the northern section of the common, as well as the Commoners Association and representatives of the Dowlais Pony Improvement Society, during the development of the Proposed Scheme.

Caerphilly County Borough Council

22. The Proposed Scheme lies within the ward of Twyn Carno in Caerphilly County Borough. Twyn Carno is a single member ward, represented by Labour's Councillor Carl Cuss. Councillor Cuss retained the seat in the 2022 local government elections. RWE has maintained close contact with Councillor Cuss.
23. The community council is Rhymney Community Council. Similarly, RWE has maintained close contact with Rhymney Community Council throughout the development of the Proposed Scheme.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

24. The Proposed Scheme lies within the ward of Dowlais in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. The ward was served by four councillors until May 2022 when electoral boundary changes reduced the number of seats to three. At the time of Pre-application Consultation (PAC) the three councillors were Councillor David Hughes, Councillor Paula Layton and Councillor Declan Sammon. All are Independent councillors. The Proposed Scheme is within Pant Community, which does not have an active community council.
25. RWE has maintained close contact with the councillors for Dowlais and their predecessors throughout the development of the Proposed Scheme.

Powys County Council

26. At the time of the PAC, the access track to the northernmost turbine was due to cross the local authority boundary into Powys.
27. This area of only 0.04 of a hectare lies in the Llangynidr and Llangattock ward in Powys County Council. The ward is served by one councillor. At the time of the PAC the councillor was Liberal Democrat Councillor Jackie Charlton. The community council for the area is Llangynidr Community Council.
28. The electoral ward boundary was changed in May 2022 from Llangynidr to Llangattock and Llangynidr. Rosemarie Harris was the councillor for Llangynidr, and Leader of Powys County Council, until May 2022. RWE briefed Rosemarie Harris on the Proposed Scheme in March 2022. RWE subsequently met the new Councillor, Jackie Charlton prior to PAC, and met Llangynidr Community Council once, during PAC.
29. The track design subsequently changed slightly after PAC such that no part of the proposed access track crosses into Powys.

Engagement Process

Shared ownership



30. RWE's approach to stakeholder engagement is comprehensive. RWE began engagement very early in the development of the Proposed Scheme, in 2019, following a thorough identification of stakeholders. In addition to providing regular updates via email and meetings, RWE held an informal public consultation from 8th February until 31st March 2021, a business breakfast to engage the supply chain, and a consultation with the third sector on community benefits.
31. The PAC on the Proposed Scheme took place from 3rd November to 15th December 2022. The PAC Report provides details of this. During PAC with members of the public, information was put forward about the shared ownership opportunity and community investment in the information booklet sent to 4,914 households within a 3km radius of the Proposed Scheme, on the website² and virtual exhibition, and in the three public exhibitions held at Idris Davies School in Rhymney, Ael y Bryn Sports and Community Centre in Rhymney and Dowlais Community Centre.
32. The online and printed feedback form stated, 'RWE Renewables is discussing shared ownership with Caerphilly Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in relation to the Pen March project so that local communities get a direct stake in the project. Do you think that's a good idea?'
33. Of the 47 responses to the question, 45% (21 individuals) stated that they believed shared ownership was a good idea. 36% of respondents (17 individuals) did not think shared ownership was a good idea and a further 19% (8 individuals) were unsure whether shared ownership was a good idea.
34. A follow up question asked respondents, 'Do you have any further comments about shared ownership?'. Comments reflected a lack of understanding about shared ownership and what it means for residents. Some people asked whether shared ownership would result in cheaper electricity or council tax for residents.
35. Several people expressed concern that shared ownership was used as a way to achieve planning consent.
36. The following comments are illustrative of feedback on shared ownership:

"Shared ownership must directly benefit the population through cheaper electricity bills or council tax."

"I am concerned about potential maintenance bills being passed onto the residence of Merthyr and Caerphilly council under shared ownership."

"Bribery. Wave some money in front of local authorities and they will sell us all down the river."
37. In addition, there have been regular detailed meetings with officers at Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils on shared ownership.
38. Investment advisors Abundance Investment (Abundance) were first instructed to work on the Proposed Scheme in June 2021.
39. Abundance is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and specialises in helping communities and individuals invest in UK renewable energy and other Net Zero infrastructure projects. Abundance's remit with regard to the Proposed Scheme was to:
 - facilitate the building of understanding and discussion between all parties

² <https://penmarch.co.uk/>



- arrange the investment between RWE and host councils for the Proposed Scheme, ensuring that the offer is "fair, clear and not misleading" and complies with all the relevant financial services rules.
40. The Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) team were consulted by Caerphilly County Borough Council to obtain independent advice, and joint meetings were held between CCBC, WGES, Abundance and RWE. Abundance also met separately with CCBC.
 41. MTCBC also met with Abundance to receive advice on the shared ownership opportunity.
 42. As a result of good relationships established, CCBC and MTCBC are now also discussing the opportunity collaboratively.
 43. A timeline of stakeholder engagement activities and key moments in the Proposed Scheme's engagement process are provided below:

Date	Stakeholder	Summary of discussion
18 July 2019	Caerphilly County Borough Council (CBC): Cllr Sean Morgan (Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations), Rhian Kyte (Head of Planning and Regeneration), Allan Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager)	Introductory meeting. Opportunity for shared ownership was mentioned and received positively by the Cabinet Member.
22 July 2019	Alun Davies MS	Introductory meeting
6 Sept 2019	Gerald Jones MP	Introductory meeting
18 Sept 2019	Nick Smith MP	Introductory meeting
1 Oct 2019	Martin Eaglestone, Head of Office for Dawn Bowden MS	Introductory meeting.
23 Oct 2019	Councillor Carl Cuss	Introductory meeting
8 June 2020	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Councillor Kevin O'Neill (Leader), Judith Jones (Chief Planning Officer), Huw Roberts (Planning Department)	Introductory meeting.
29 Oct 2020	Martin Eaglestone, Head of Office for Dawn Bowden MS	Discussed local benefits and local stakeholders.
12 Nov 2020	Councillor Carl Cuss	Provided an update, shared indicative map.
29 Jan 2021	Allan Dallimore, Caerphilly CBC	Draft MOU had been presented to Corporate Management Team (CMT).
Feb/March 2021	Members of the public	Informal consultation on Pen March Wind Farm



Date	Stakeholder	Summary of discussion
11 March 2021	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Councillor Lisa Mytton (Leader), Cllr David Hughes (Cabinet Member for Planning and local Dowlais ward member), Judith Jones (Chief Officer for Planning), David Cross (Principal Planning Officer)	Provided an update.
11 March 2021	Rhymney Community Council	Attended council meeting and briefed members. Members discussed visual impact, shadow flicker, cumulative impact, national park, CBF, noise.
9 April 2021	Councillors of Dowlais and Vaynor wards: Cllr Tony Rogers, Cllr Julian Amos, Cllr David Hughes, Cllr Declan Sammon (all Dowlais). Cllr Howard Barrett (Vaynor).	Discussed history of the site with previous Bheara scheme, potential for jobs, access and visual impact.
15 April 2021	Caerphilly CBC: Allan Dallimore (Regeneration), Victoria Camp (Commercial), Rhiann Williams (Finance), Steph Crocker (Legal) and Jane Forshaw (WGES/Local Partnerships)	Caerphilly CBC agreed to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Discussed investment models.
July 2021	Caerphilly CBC	Signing of MOU with Caerphilly CBC. Signed by Mark Williams, Director for Economy and Enterprise, and Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning.
19 Nov 2021	Dawn Bowden MS	Provided an update. Discussed the importance of the CBF and local organisations to speak to about CBF, avoiding holding the PAC around election period and MOUs.
24 Nov 2021	Councillors of Dowlais ward: Cllr Tony Rogers, Cllr David Hughes, Cllr Declan Sammon.	Provided update on turbine layout, commons application, expected PAC dates, consultation zone, CBF, bat surveys.
30 Nov 2021	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Cllr Lisa Mytton (Leader), Judith Jones (Chief Officer for Planning & Neighbourhood Services), David Cross (Principal Planning Officer)	Agreed to take forward discussions about MOU.
6 Dec 2021	Councillor Carl Cuss	Provided an update.
8 Dec 2021	Caerphilly CBC: Alyn Owen (Deputy CEO) and Lance Whiteley (Orbit Business Centre Manager)	Discussed partnership working on a business breakfast.



Date	Stakeholder	Summary of discussion
6 Jan 2022	Caerphilly CBC: Cllr Philippa Marsden (Leader); Cllr Eluned Stenner (Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise); Rhian Kyte (Head of Regen and Planning)	Provided an update. Discussed skills and apprenticeships.
6 Jan 2022	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Cllr Lisa Mytton (Leader), Cllr Geraint Thomas (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Commercialisation), Judith Jones (Chief Officer, Planning), Alyn Owen (Deputy CEO)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC agreed to have an internal discussion about MOU and respond to RWE.
13 Jan 2022	Rhymer Community Council	Provided an update: number of turbines reduced from seven to six. Discussed transport and access to site and land ownership.
20 Jan 2022	Gerald Jones MP	Provided an update: number of turbines reduced from seven to six. Discussed engagement with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, engagement with councillors and shared ownership.
24 Jan 2022	Caerphilly CBC: Allan Dallimore	Abundance met with Allan Dallimore (see presentation at Appendix A)
2 Feb 2022	Caerphilly CBC: Allan Dallimore	Abundance met with Allan Dallimore
9 Feb 2022	Local businesses	Business Breakfast/ Supply Chain event (more detail provided under Economic impact)
9 Feb 2022	Caerphilly CBC	Social Value workshop. More detail provided under Shared Ownership offer and negotiations (See presentation at Appendix B)
15 Feb 2022	All stakeholders	Pen March newsletter sent to all stakeholders (Appendix C)
14 March 2022	Powys County Council: Cllr Rosemarie Harris (Councillor for Llangynidr ward and Leader), Nigel Brinn (Executive Director for Economy & Environment) and Di Reynolds (Head of Service).	Discussed visual impact, community benefits, common land and shared ownership.
17 June 2022	Caerphilly CBC	Education Workshop. More detail provided under Shared Ownership offer and negotiations . (See presentation at Appendix D)



Date	Stakeholder	Summary of discussion
7 Oct 2022	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Paul Davies (Head of Commercial Unit), Adam Price (Accountant), Adam Richards (Commercial Manager). Karl Harder from Abundance attended.	Discussed MOU. Council is very interested in the opportunity to help fulfil decarbonisation targets and commercial aspirations. Merthyr CBC to discuss a joint approach with Caerphilly CBC.
13 Oct 2022	Councillor Jackie Charlton, Llangynidr Ward	Provided a project briefing, including an overview of the shared ownership opportunity.
17 Oct 2022	Caerphilly CBC: Cllr Jamie Pritchard (Deputy Leader), Allan Dallimore (Regeneration)	Provided update on project, MOU and plans for PAC.
24 Oct 2022	Merthyr Tydfil CBC: Richard Adams (Commercial Manager)	Abundance met Richard Adams
3 Nov 2022	Statutory consultees General public	Pre-application Consultation (see information board on community benefits displayed at the public events Appendix E)
10 Nov 2022	Rhymney Community Council	Provided update on project and information about PAC, and an overview of the shared ownership opportunity.
25 Nov 2022	Dawn Bowden MS	Met at Dawn Bowden's request to discuss queries raised by constituents. Update provided on the shared ownership opportunity.
29 Nov 2022	Llangynidr Community Council	Provided update on project and information about PAC, including an overview of the shared ownership opportunity.
7 Dec 2022	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS	Provided a project briefing, including an overview of the shared ownership opportunity.
14 Dec 2022	Natasha Asghar MS	Provided a project briefing, including an overview of the shared ownership opportunity.
15 May 2023	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Signed HoTs
6 July 2023	Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils	Attended site visit to RWE's Mynydd y Gwair Wind Farm

Community investment package

44. Initial meetings took place between RWE's Community Investment Manager and representatives of GAVO and VAMT in March 2021.
45. More detailed conversations took place in the first proper phase of consultation on the



community fund in 2022 where a set of questions were put to each of the following:

Date	Stakeholder
July 2022	GAVO (Alison Palmer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Gina Jones, Regional Strategic Lead).
July 2022	VAMT (Karen Vowles, Community Development Lead).
Nov 2022	Merthyr County Borough Council (Adam Richards, Commercial Manager and Chris Long, Head of Housing and Regeneration).
Oct 2022	Caerphilly County Council (Sean Rees, Community Development Manager and Paul Cooke, Team Leader Sustainable Development & Living Environment).
16 & 23 Nov 2022	The Community Investment Manager attended public exhibitions on 16 th and 23 rd November 2022 and held a consultation session with pupils from Idris Davies School on 16 th November 2022. A more detailed consultation questionnaire aimed at members of the public was also made available at the public exhibitions and online.
23 Nov 2022	Caerphilly County Councillor Carl Cuss was offered a one to one meeting. An informal conversation with RWE's Community Investment Manager took place at a public exhibition during PAC.
Date TBC	Local Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors, Declan Sammon, Paula Layton and David Hughes have been offered a joint meeting which they have accepted.
Date TBC	Rhymney Community Council were invited to take part in RWE's initial consultation in October 2022 but decided to engage at a later date, post planning consent.

46. It should be noted that at this stage RWE has not finalised the details of any community investment package associated with the Proposed Scheme but has committed to work with neighbouring communities to develop the approach to supporting the local area.
47. Future potential consultation plans include wider promotion of the online questionnaire to encourage greater participation and holding focus groups (hosted by an independent third party) to encourage voluntary sector representatives to give their views.



Business Breakfast

48. On 9th February 2022, RWE Renewables held a Business Breakfast to start RWE's engagement with local businesses.
49. RWE worked in partnership with officers from Caerphilly County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council who marketed the event to their networks, and attended and spoke about the support they offer to businesses wishing to tender for work.
50. Due to Covid-19 restrictions at the time, the event was held online from 08.00 to 09.00. The format of the event was:
 - Welcome and overview of project (RWE)
 - Construction (RWE)
 - Opportunities and procurement process (RWE)
 - Support for businesses (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
 - Support for businesses (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
 - Q&A
 - Next steps
51. The event was attended by 18 people.
52. The theme of questions was the process to register as a supplier and timescales.
53. Twelve businesses later registered their interest as a supplier.

Wider Benefits

54. RWE anticipates a range of wider benefits could be realised by the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme. These are discussed below.

Renewable energy generation

55. In April 2019, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency, and has since accepted the advice of the UK Committee on Climate Change to reach net zero by 2050 (with a reduction of 63% by 2030).
56. The energy targets for renewable generation in Wales announced by the Energy Minister in 2017 are:
 - Wales to be generating 70 per cent of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030.
 - One Gigawatt of renewable electricity and heat capacity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030.
 - All new energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership, from 2020.
57. In 2021, 55% of Wales' electricity consumption came from renewables and currently 90% of the locally owned target has been achieved (Energy Generation in Wales 2021³).
58. The Proposed Scheme comprises up to six three-bladed wind turbines up to 180 m to blade tip height.
59. It is estimated that the average annual generation expected at the site could be equivalent to the

³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-11/energy-generation-in-wales-2021.pdf>



approximate domestic needs of around 24,500 average UK households⁴.

Carbon saving

60. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) details the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government, with the objective to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. PPW notes that energy demand is expected to grow due to the growing electrification of transport and heat, and that significant investment will be needed in energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. PPW identifies that low carbon electricity must become the main source of energy in Wales. Renewable and low carbon energy are seen as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security. PPW also recognises that wind energy forms a key part of meeting renewable energy production due to Wales's considerable wind resource.
61. Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 provides a framework for planning change and development in Wales and has development plan status. Policy 17 on renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure and Policy 18 on renewable and low carbon energy developments of national significance, provide the strategic spatial and detailed criteria-based policies for renewable and low carbon energy developments.
62. Caerphilly County Borough Council has declared a climate emergency, with the aim of becoming a carbon neutral local authority by 2030.
63. Based on present day carbon dioxide savings figures, the Proposed Scheme will save the emission of around 120,400 tonnes⁵ of carbon dioxide over the course of a year.
64. The carbon payback of the Proposed Scheme is expected to be 1.4 years.

Local/shared ownership

65. As stated above, Welsh Government has a target for all new energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership, from 2020.
66. In order to meet this target, RWE is offering Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils the opportunity to invest in the Proposed Scheme up to 20%.
67. Investing in the Proposed Scheme would offer Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils a Return on Investment (ROI) which could be used to support local spending on public services.
68. Caerphilly County Borough Council signed a MOU with RWE in July 2021. In May 2023 Merthyr

⁴ It is estimated that the average annual generation expected at the site could be equivalent to the approximate domestic needs of around 24,500 average UK households. Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area and correlating to longer term historical weather data using meteorological models seeded with data obtained from satellite, surface-based and airborne measurement systems. The calculations are based on an installed capacity of 28.5MW. Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 3748 kWh. This figure is supported and published by RenewableUK <https://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEExplained> and based on the most recent statistics from Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), showing that annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3748kWh

⁵ The figure for CO₂ savings depends on which source of electricity generation wind power displaces at any given time during the year. This range reflects CO₂ displacement factors with respect to coal-fired and gas-fired generation. It should be noted that future changes in the power generating mix and fuel costs in the UK may result in changes to these figures over time. Calculations assume emissions of 931g CO₂ / kWh for coal generated electricity and 378g CO₂ / kWh for gas generated electricity, 2016 figures as stated in The Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2018.



Tydfil County Borough Council signed HoTs with RWE in relation to the Proposed Scheme.

69. As a result of discussions, RWE is pleased to note that the two local authorities are also now liaising together on the shared ownership opportunity to explore potential to collaborate.
70. More detail on this is in the [Shared Ownership Offer and Negotiations](#).

Community Investment Package

71. RWE has a long history of supporting the communities in which it operates. In the last decade, wind farms operated by RWE in Wales have provided over £10 million into local communities. In 2022 alone, £2.6 million was invested into the communities neighbouring RWE's renewable energy projects in Wales.
72. Although a final figure has yet to be determined, RWE is committed to providing a Community Investment Package linked to the Proposed Scheme operational throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Scheme.
73. Some practical uses for the fund were suggested, including enhanced lighting on the main road and support for local charities.
74. The following comments are illustrative of feedback received on community benefits:
"The community benefit fund is great for the community."
"Some of the money from the community benefit scheme should be reinvested into the common to support sustainable land management, access, ASB issues etc"
75. During consultation with children and young people at Idris Davies School, the following question was asked: 'If Pen March Wind Farm goes ahead, there will be some money to help in the community. What could it be used for?' Of the 89 young people who answered the question, the most popular suggestion, made by 23 young people, was for the money to be used to help the local community, for example used to fund local social and sports clubs, to build more facilities for the local community including shops, attractions, parks, improve roads and support local schools.
76. The second most popular suggestion, suggested by 24 young people, was for the money to be used to tackle climate change locally. Of these respondents, 17 stated the money could be used to build more wind farms while a further 5 respondents stated the money could be used to run educational visits to the Proposed Scheme.
77. The current cost of living crisis was referenced by eleven of the young people who responded. Three young people explicitly mentioned 'cost of living', four explicitly mentioned 'lower energy prices', whilst another four mentioned 'bills'. They suggested the Community Benefit Fund could be used to help local people with the cost of living.

Economic impact

78. RWE commissioned socioeconomic consultants Wavehill to report the economic benefits that the Proposed Scheme could deliver at a local, national and UK level. They found that⁶:
79. The development and construction phase of the Proposed Scheme is estimated to deliver:

⁶ Pen March Economic Impact Report, Wavehill (October 2022)



- £11m in Gross Value Added (GVA) and 185 in full time equivalent (FTE) job years are expected to be created or safeguarded across the UK
 - Of this £6.8m in GVA and 105 in FTE job years are expected to be created or safeguarded across Wales
 - And of this £1m in GVA and 14 in FTE job years are expected to be created or safeguarded in the local area
80. During the indicative 30-year operation (as assessed in the Economic Report), the Proposed Scheme is expected to deliver:
- £44.2m in GVA and 24 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded in the UK
 - Of this £32.2m in GVA and 18 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded in Wales
 - And of this £5.3m in GVA and 2 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded for the local area
81. During operation, there are opportunities for additional benefits through a return on investment from a potential shared ownership model being developed with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council, as well as a community benefit fund.
82. Beyond the direct impacts from the Proposed Scheme itself, other economic impacts may arise including skills development, as the scheme contributes to the wider shift towards sustainable jobs and industries within Wales.
83. RWE is committed to using the local supply chain wherever possible in the construction and operation of its sites.
84. RWE could pay in the region of £500,000 in business rates per annum for the Proposed Scheme.

Ecological enhancement

85. The majority of the Proposed Scheme is registered as common land and makes up part of Common Land Unit 38 (Gelligaer and Merthyr Common), which also extends to the south of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road. The site is grazed, predominantly by sheep and horses. The site comprises a broadly sloping area of purple moor grass dominated grassland, with small, scattered areas of dense scrub, exposed rock, dry heath and standing open water habitats.
86. The Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) proposes habitat restoration and management measures within the site of the Proposed Scheme, which would remain in place for the lifetime of the scheme. These measures are designed to provide compensation for the loss of upland habitats located within the Pen March / Traed y Milwyr Llechrhyd and Merthyr Common North Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The measures also aim to provide biodiversity enhancements, in accordance with planning policy requirements.
87. The OHMP proposes to undertake restoration and management activities over an area of 22.6 ha that should in time lead to increased cover of dwarf shrubs and other heathland plant species and facilitate the area's recovery back to upland heathland.
88. RWE is proposing further compensation for the loss of peat and potential displacement of breeding waders (notably curlew), in addition to offsite biodiversity enhancement, with up to 156.9 ha of additional upland habitats, including modified bog and heathland, to the east of the site. This is because the potential to provide beneficial measures within the site is limited due to: a) most of the site being actively grazed common land, making delivery of habitat enhancements very difficult; and b) the highly degraded nature of the peatland habitat within the site means that peatland restoration is unlikely to succeed.





Shared Ownership Offer & Negotiations

Caerphilly County Borough Council

89. The subject of a shared ownership was first raised on 18th July 2019 in RWE's first meeting with Caerphilly County Borough Council. Then Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead on environmental and regeneration matters, Councillor Sean Morgan, took a keen interest in RWE's shared ownership offer and asked that the opportunity be explored with officers in the regeneration team.
90. On 31st March 2021 the Caerphilly Observer published the article, 'Council could invest in proposed wind farm development' ([Appendix F](#))
91. Following detailed discussions, the MOU was signed on 20th July 2021 ([Appendix G](#)).
92. RWE issued a press release about the MOU ([Appendix H](#)) in October 2021.

Social value workshop

93. On 9th February 2022 a social value workshop was held, attended by representatives of RWE's development and community investment teams, Abundance, representatives from Caerphilly County Borough Council (Regeneration, Business Development, Employability, Policy, Supplier, and Education teams) and Cadno.
94. The group discussed areas where Caerphilly County Borough Council would wish RWE to add social value, for example: education and skills, supply chain and Community Benefit Funds. RWE provided examples of ways they have added social value through other renewable projects in the UK. It was agreed that further, topic-specific workshops would take place with relevant people in attendance.

Education workshop

95. Following the Social Value workshop, a second workshop to focus on education and skills took place on 17th June 2022, and attended by representatives of RWE's development and community investment teams, representatives from Caerphilly County Borough Council (Regeneration and Education Teams, and Principal Officer), Idris Davies School, Coleg y Cymoedd and Cadno.
96. The group discussed Caerphilly County Borough Council's priorities for education and skills and identified opportunities to work together.
97. RWE outlined the consultation collateral that was being specially prepared for children and young people.
98. As a direct outcome of the discussions, RWE planned a consultation event with school pupils at Idris Davies School.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

99. Early discussions have also now begun with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on shared ownership.



Project Benefits Summary

100. This CBR identifies a number of benefits that have been identified as part of the Proposed Scheme. These are:

101. Energy generation equivalent to the approximate domestic needs of around 24,500 average UK households.

102. A saving of around 120,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the course of a year.

103. Up to 20% shared ownership with Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

104. Community investment for local communities.

105. The development and construction phase of the Proposed Scheme is estimated to deliver:

- £11m in Gross Value Added (GVA) and 185 in full time equivalent (FTE) job years are expected to be created or safeguarded across the UK
- Of this £6.8m in GVA and 105 in FTE job years are expected to be created or safeguarded across Wales
- And of this £1m in GVA and 14 in FTE job years are expected to be created or safeguarded in the local area

106. During the indicative 30 year operation (as assessed in the Economic Report), the Proposed Scheme is expected to deliver:

- £44.2m in GVA and 24 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded in the UK
- Of this £32.2m in GVA and 18 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded in Wales
- And of this £5.3m in GVA and 2 FTE jobs each year are expected to be created or safeguarded for the local area

107. Habitat restoration and management measures to provide compensation for the loss of upland habitats and to provide biodiversity enhancements. Measures include providing compensation for curlew conservation and a potential contribution to peatland restoration offsite.

108. Access tracks on site will improve access to the common for graziers and those using the area for recreation.

109. Furthermore, the discussions between RWE and the local authorities and wider stakeholders have led to a greater understanding amongst all parties of the critical role they play in society and the challenges and opportunities. For the local authorities, there is a greater appreciation of the complexities of developing a large-scale renewable energy scheme, the strategic policy context, and the local contribution that can be made in the fight against climate change. From RWE's perspective, discussions have led to a greater awareness of the challenges of delivering public services with constrained budgets, and a wider appreciation of the value that large scale infrastructure projects can bring to an area. The goodwill and trust that has been established between all sides will inevitably lead to delivering a better project.



Appendices

Appendix A: Abundance presentation



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a.

Local Ownership
Pen March Wind Farm
RWE & Caerphilly Council

abundance.

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3

All information contained in this document should be considered private and commercially sensitive.

This document does not constitute a formal offer of an investment and should not be considered financial advice. Any reference to financial return are indicative only.

A formal offer of investment will be made following the agreement of a Heads of Terms and post planning consent.

a.

Contents

- Background
- RWE outline offer
- Indicative project structure
- Equity alternatives – pros and cons
- Key Investment Risks
- Council considerations
- Timeline

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Background

RWE is developing the Pen March Wind Farm located within both Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil, and intends to submit a Development of National Significance (DNS) planning application to the Welsh Ministers in 2022 and commission the wind farm in 2025.

RWE has engaged with the local council to explore whether it would be interested in becoming the local ownership partner for the project, which consists of up to 7 turbines with a capacity of up to 30MW.

RWE has employed Abundance Investment to facilitate the local ownership investment offer. (Abundance is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and specialises in helping communities and individuals invest in UK renewable energy and other Net Zero infrastructure projects. Separately it also helps councils raise money from residents to fund their climate emergency plans (using Municipal Investments).

Since July 2021 Abundance has been running a process to explore the local ownership opportunity with RWE and the Council. The aim is to agree an outline offer ahead of the project submitting a DNS application in early 2022. This slide deck provides an outline of the proposed Local Ownership offer from RWE to the Council. The document aims to facilitate the building of understanding and discussion between all parties ahead of the drafting of a Heads of Terms.

a.

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RWE outline offer

- **Equity:** RWE would like to make an offer to the Council for it to invest **equity** in the Pen March project. **The offer would be for 10-20% of the project company.**
- **Timing:** RWE are open to the Council:
- Investing prior to construction at Final Investment Decision ("FID"). The risk / reward is higher with an FID investment.
- Investing at Commercial Operation Date ("COD") which is after construction of the Wind Farm and when the project starts selling electricity.
- **Residents' investment:** RWE's preference would be for community investment to come into the project via the Council, using the Municipal Investment route as operated by companies such as Abundance
- **Business model and returns:** RWE is still at a relatively early stage of modelling the project. In broad terms the difference in expected equity return between investing at FID or at COD is thought to be in the order of 1-2% (as an IRR). Beyond construction the modelled equity return will be largely a function of whether the project over the lifetime has revenue coming from: a Contract for Difference ("CFD"); Corporate Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA"); is fully merchant; or a combination thereof. The source of revenue will impact the risk / return profile of the investment.
- **Indicative Return:** Based on recent data from UK government (detailed later in the slide deck) the average return on investment for a **CFD UK wind farm 100% equity financed is 5.2%**. Please note, this figure is only a guide, as we have seen over recent months energy prices and the cost of materials can change rapidly and this can impact the return.

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Indicative project structure

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Equity investment options

- At this time, the indicative estimate of project capital expenditure is in the order of circa £30m capital expenditure so a **10% investment at FID would need £3m.**
- The two times at which the Council could invest are at the Final Investment Decisions ("FID"), when RWE is committed, or at Commercial Operation Date ("COD") when construction is complete, and the project can sell the power that is generated.

Investment timing	Pros	Cons
Option 1: Investment at Financial Investment Decision (FID)	✓ Higher equity return	✗ How to finance cost or schedule overruns ✗ If unable to finance overrun, then RWE would probably dilute the Council's share
Option 2: Investment at Commercial Operation Date (COD)	✓ Project de-risked by time of investment ✓ RWE manages construction phase risks with possible "equity kicker" as its reward (essentially by selling a share of the project company)	✗ Lower equity return ✗ May need to account for holding an option to invest if revocable ✗ May have scrutiny concerns if irrevocable ✗ If irrevocable then may need to make a provision anyway (REWRITE)

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Key investment risks

- Construction risks if investing at FIC:** construction risks largely centre on delays to the construction schedule and costs or lost revenue stemming from that. Risks to understand will include problems in the civil engineering (common on wet ground) and the equipment supply chain (especially for imported items). NB most risk passed onto construction contractor
- Operating risks:** Relatively predictable and centre on having good warranties for equipment that fails in the first few years and having a good O&M contract
- Sales risks:** This includes volume risk (i.e. how much electricity can be sold) and price risk.
 - The volume is not predictable for wind generation as it is "intermittent". Any offer will provide forecasts for the wind resource and production and basis for the forecasts.
 - Price risk will come down to whether the electricity is sold at a fixed price over the long-term (through a Contract for Difference "CFD" or PPA) or is merchant. Or a combination thereof.

a.

Council Considerations - general

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Consideration	Detail	Status
Caerphilly return	Caerphilly should make an investment return commensurate with the risks but the level of return is not the primary driver.	The overall return is expected to be low to mid single digits in line with industry norms for projects of this type in the UK. UK Government recently estimated the average weighted cost of capital for onshore wind of 5.2% based on a project securing a CFD. The difference in return from investing at FID or COD is in the region of 1-2%. As detailed in the timeline further detail will be provided on the estimated return for the Pen March Wind Farm post planning consent. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911817/electricity-generation-cost-report-2020.pdf
Focus on economic benefit	Where possible, retention of economic value in the local area is a key driver. This includes the Community Benefit, employment and local companies' participation.	RWE will illustrate local economic benefits as part of the planning application. Investing in the project will not give the Council any greater legal control over the economic benefit. However, investing will strengthen the relationship over the long term, this will mean the Council will have greater scope to advocate and visibility of when to advocate for local solutions / benefits during the construction and operation of the project.

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Council Considerations - general

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Consideration	Detail	Status
Means by which influence can be exerted	The council would like to establish a process through which it can advocate or influence the wider social impact of the project.	RWE will provide the council with performance information on an agreed and regular basis as well as holding regular meetings to discuss the plans for the project. This forum will provide the council with scope to advocate for local solutions and have visibility on opportunities that can signpost local business where appropriate to prepare for any opportunities.
Focus on engagement	Local people should be able to feel connected to the project and have the possibility of sharing in the value that it creates.	Enabling community investment is one way to build engagement. This has value and could be delivered through a municipal investment model. RWE will carry out a consultation on the use of Community Benefit which will support engagement. RWE is happy to work with the council to engage the community with the wind farm.
Decarbonisation agenda and earning Carbon Credits	The investment being structured in a way that enables the Council to advance toward its Net Zero objectives is a key driver.	Current advice from the Welsh Government indicates that making an investment will not count for Carbon Credits , but would be seen as a positive action in support of Net Zero. WGES are helping the Council challenge this stance

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Council Considerations - general

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Consideration	Detail	Status
Ownership and PPA Procurement	If the council has an ownership stake in the project does this avoid the need for a procurement process for the PPA?	RWE are happy to contribute to the costs of understanding this issue and quotes have been received for a distinct piece of work to be conducted. Also relevant to Cwm Ifor solar farm
Community Benefit Payment	The Council would like influence over the distribution of the Community Benefit.	RWE's aim is to put the control of the community benefit payment in the hands of the community. For each project RWE establish a body to administer the funds on behalf of the community. This in turn usually recruits a Community Panel of local people for guidance on fund allocation. RWE is open to the Council nominating representation to such a Community Panel. The final Community Benefit Payment amount remains under consideration and will be settled once the project's economics are better understood.

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Council Considerations - financing

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Consideration	Detail	Status
Timing	Investment could take place between RWE's Final Investment Decision ("FID") and Commercial Operation Date ("COD"). The former should deliver a higher return as it would take account of the extra construction risk.	RWE are open to investment at either FID or COD. Decision on timing would be required 3-6 months before FID (even if not putting cash in until COD). The details of the process for assessing and making the investment will be worked up during the planning process.
Construction risk	The council would need to understand the construction risk in more detail ahead of making a decision on a FID or COD investment.	Detail will be provided during the process to help the council understand construction risk.

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Council Considerations - financing

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Consideration	Detail	Status
Future ownership	The Council would want to have the opportunity to sell its shareholding in the future. Similarly, should RWE wish to exit, the Council would like to have a right of first refusal to buy the project in its entirety.	Both sides have a first right of refusal, but any sale would need to be at the market rate.
Residents' participation via investment	The Council are keen to enable local people to directly participate in the financing of the Wind Farm and therefore become more active stakeholders in the project. In turn this enables more of the financial benefit of the project to stay within the community. Making an investment offer will only form one plank of any resident engagement strategy as it is recognised that not every resident will have the money available to invest in the project.	The route for investment will be via a Municipal investment. This is where the council in effect borrows money from residents as an alternative to borrowing from the PWLB. This model has successfully been used by Warrington and West Berkshire councils and is being introduced in Blaenau Gwent. The model is attractive as it is low risk and accessible by ordinary savers - minimum investment of £5. Residents are not taking project risk, their investment risk sits with the council. The investment process and ongoing investor relations can be used to tell the Council's story.

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Abundance

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Schedule and next steps

- Formalising the relationship:
 - RWE to produce a Heads of Terms detailing the offer and outlining the process for the council taking up the offer. This would bind RWE to make the Shared Ownership offer based on the principles detailed in the HoT, but not bind the council to take up the offer.
- Estimated Project schedule and key investment stages:

Sign HoT	Ahead of planning submission
Planning Submission	Q1 2022
Planning secured	Q4 2022

 - Key terms for FID and COD investment circulated
 - Option 1: Offer Document for FID produced
 - Option 1: Investment Made
 - FID
 - Q1 2024
 - COD
 - Q2 2025
 - Option 2: Offer Document for COD produced
 - Option 2: Investment Made

a.



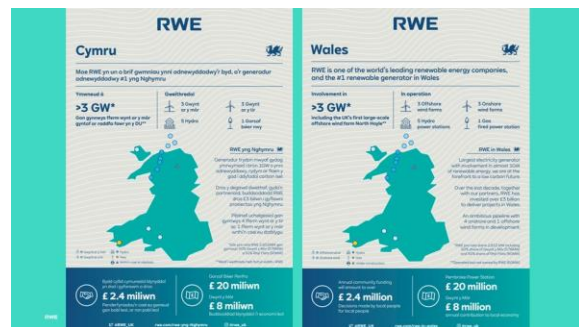
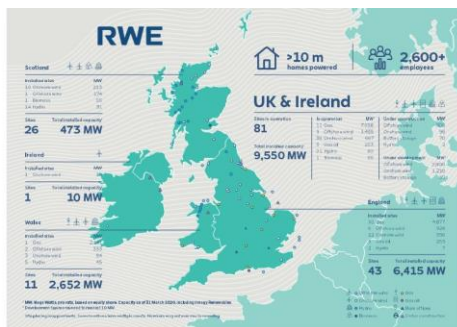
Appendix B: Social Value Workshop presentation

Pen March Wind Farm

Katy Woodington - UK Community Investment Manager
Jenny Cowley - Development Project Manager
Elen Davies - Head of Wales - Onshore Wind Development
9 February 2022

Commercial in Confidence

Introduction to RWE Renewables



RWE Recent Experience in Wales

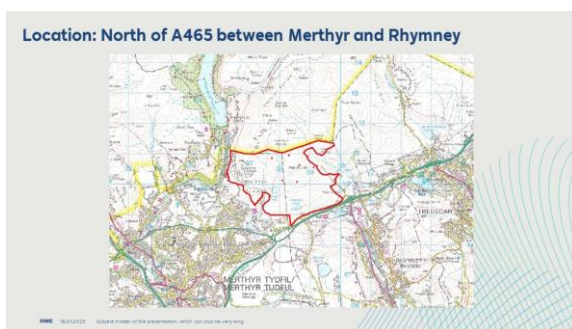
Onshore Wind Farm, Carmarthenshire
Capacity: 57.4MW
Number of WTGs: 28 Turbines
Community Funds: £11m

Onshore Wind Farm, Swansea
Capacity: 32.8MW
Number of WTGs: 16 Turbines
Community Funds: £6m

Onshore Wind Farm, Denbighshire
Capacity: 96 MW
Number of WTGs: 27 Turbines
Community Funds: £19m

Onshore Wind Farm, North Wales
Capacity: 376 MW
Number of WTGs: 160 Turbines
Community Funds: £13m

Pen March Wind Farm: Project Update



Programme:

- May 2022: Statutory Consultation (for 6 weeks)
- Q2/Q3 2022: Planning application submission to Welsh Government
- End 2023: Decision
- 2024: Condition Discharge
Pre-start Surveys
Procurement
FID
- 2025: Construction (~ 1 year) with commercial operations commencing end 2025/Early 2026

Pen March Wind Farm: Social Value Workshop

1. Education & Skills



1. Education & Skills

Galloper Offshore Wind Farm

Partnership working to securing local benefits - Example

- MoU between: Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Galloper Wind Farm Limited;
- The Parties intended to work together to maximise the economic benefits of the Wind Farm to the Local Area;
- The Local Area specifically referred to the East of England area and the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk;
- Steering group set up to identify and deliver skills and education opportunities;
- Focused on understanding, supporting and adding value to existing activities or filling gaps;
- Regular update meetings over two year construction period;
- Relationships have been maintained into operations



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1. Education & Skills

Working together on education & Skills Initiatives

- **icambea.org.uk** Online platform showcasing local businesses to young people, teachers and parents. Increasing knowledge of the sector and encouraging the employees of the future;
- **Job Centre Plus Energy Employment Advisor** - relationship building and sharing job opportunities;
- **East of England Energy Group** - Support the industry and skills association for energy producers and their supply chain with sponsorship, event speakers etc;
- **Secondary School engagement** - support for STEM enrichment weeks, STEM club, mock interviews and work shadowing days for their local secondary school;
- **STEM net Norfolk & Suffolk** - STEM ambassadors from the Galloper projects supported a range of local STEM events and activities, supported by RWE's volunteering policy;
- **Lowestoft Engineering Project** - Internship program funded by the Ogden Trust. Two students from Lowestoft Sixth Form College, worked at the Galloper Offshore Construction Base in Lowestoft for a four-week period over the summer. They completed research and design projects related to the construction of the wind farm;
- **Essex Enterprise Adviser Network** - O&M Manager has become an Enterprise Adviser with Tendring Technical College, working with the school on a range of activities to help enhance career education for students and increase the awareness of offshore wind and its career options. Building a relationship with the school over time they have helped advise on strategy, and planning, enhancing the curriculum and promote STEM for careers.



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RWE

Pen March Wind Farm: Social Value Workshop

2. Supply Chain (Construction Overview)

Pen March Wind Farm - Construction

4 principle work packages:

- Civil Balance of Plant - Tender 2024 (NEC Option A)
- Electrical Balance of Plant - Tender 2024 (NEC Option A)

The above contracts may be combined into a single contract

- Grid Connection - Western Power Distribution
- Turbine Supply - Tender 2024 (Bespoke Contract)

Potential Minor Work Packages

- Ecological Surveys
- Design
- Resident Engineer/Ecological Clerk of Works
- Legal Services
- Topographic Surveys
- Site Investigations
- Electrical Studies
- Highway Condition Surveys
- Land Agents
- Archaeological Services and Investigation works
- Service Diversion Works/Telecommunication works
- Site Clearance

Other Potential Opportunities

• Traffic Management • Plant & Equipment • Materials and aggregates • Geotextiles/Geogrids • Highways Materials • Concrete & Steel (rebar) • Gates, Cattle Grids • Vehicle Hire	• Fencing (including walls) • Drainage • Fuel • Security • Waste Management • Signage and Lighting • Hospitality • Accommodation & Welfare
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RWE

Pen March Wind Farm: Social Value Workshop

2. Supply Chain (Procurement Overview)

Where we would spend across a typical £6m civils contract :

• Local within 60 miles	75% (about £4.5m)
• Rest of region	15% (about £900,000)
• Rest of UK	10% (about £600,000)
• Europe	0.05% (a few thousand pounds!)

General Points

- Principal Construction/Electrical Contracts will be - NEC4 ECC Option A.
- Minor Works will be in the form of Individual Contracts, Framework Agreements, or depending on value, Purchase Orders.
- Suitably qualified companies/contractors will be invited to register for 'Approved Supplier Status' using the RWE SLC Process.
- Many of the smaller opportunities will be awarded directly by the Wind-Turbine Supplier or the Principal Civil & Electrical Contractors.

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2. Supply Chain

Section 106 Agreement: Social Benefit Terms (Example - Mynydd y Gwair, Swansea)

SCHEDULE 6 Social Benefit Terms	
1. General Terms In this Schedule, the following words and expressions have the following meanings: "Local Businesses" means businesses established in Wales; "Local People" means people living within the Swansea Bay City Region; "Local Services and Supplies" means supplying to Wales or using Welsh products.	2.3.2 A statement that any company invited to tender for work in relation to the construction of the Development is given clear written notice of the obligation to use all reasonable endeavours to use Local People and Local Businesses in relation to the construction of the Development.
2. The Developer and/or the Landowners shall cooperate with the Council (that) the Developer and/or the Landowners shall in connection with the construction of the Development use reasonable endeavours to use Local People and Local Businesses where appropriate materials, facilities, skills, relevant expertise and relevant opportunities is available and commercially reasonable.	2.3.3 The Developer and/or Landowners shall continue with the programme of supply chain events held in South Wales, Mid Wales and South Wales in order to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Development for Local Businesses.
2.4 The Developer and/or Landowners shall engage with the Council in respect of any appropriate and relevant employment initiatives proposed by the Council to promote the employment of Local People which could be applied to the Development.	
2.5 The Developer and/or the Landowners shall use reasonable endeavours to include within any contract: 2.5.1 A commitment to ensure that Local People and Local Businesses are given the opportunity to be considered for employment in relation to the construction of the Development; and	

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RWE

Pen March Wind Farm: Social Value Workshop

3. Community Benefit Funds

3. RWE Community Benefit Funds in Wales

Funds generated from community benefits are really flexible and can support a wide range of initiatives as well as attracting significant match funding.

A few examples of how community benefits from projects operated by RWE are supporting the sustainable development of Welsh communities.

- Improving local services - SaveEasy, a not-for-profit co-operative, was funded to set up 'pop up' branches of their credit union in two rural locations. SaveEasy won a 2020 Credit Union of Wales Awards for Access to Financial Services in recognition of this rural service point work.
- Supporting a sustainable future - Skanda Vale Hospice used a significant grant over 5 years to purchase a bunk house 'Coeddeyn'. This will be operated as self-catering accommodation and will allow them to greatly increase their hospice services while reducing their dependence on grants.
- Building community capacity - A project coordinator role has been funded for Abergele Place Plan to deliver projects already agreed by the community as part of the Place Plan programme.
- Supporting the tourism industry - Llandudno Museum received a grant towards a major refurbishment program, creating jobs, providing learning opportunities for young people and an all-weather attraction for visitors.
- Training local people - Penllegae Trust have used funding to provide a sustainable training facility to improve volunteer training and engagement, to attract new volunteers and trainees, and to provide opportunities to enhance pre-employment and employment training and development for local people.
- Helping local schools and keeping people active - Pontarddulais Comprehensive School have been able to refurbish their Sports Hall Flooring to provide an enhanced sporting facility for all current and future pupils at the School as well as the wider community who use the facility in the evening and on the weekend as a Leisure Centre.

3. Community Benefits – Options¹

Community Benefit Fund Options	Pros / Cons
Standard Model (Annual payment of up to £5k/MW installed capacity ²).	Well known and understood. Provides flexible long term funding. Decisions are made by local people.
Flexible Standard Model (based on a flexible package of benefits of value up to £5k/MW).	Can include non-financial benefits or ring fenced funding for specific local initiatives.
Generation-linked Model (based on a fixed % of gross revenue equivalent to up to £5k/MW installed).	Helpful to project economics to both RWE and Coerphilly (assuming Coerphilly have an ownership stake) and could provide 'upside' if generation projections / electricity price estimates are conservative.

UNDECIDED

Depending on project economics, variations on the above could include:

- A one off lump sum payment up front.
- Upside payment of community benefit in years where generation exceeds PSO. No payment in years where generation is less than PSO.

¹Indicating any to give or idea of alternative models that counter indicated / not to exclude list of RWE and RWE processes all dependent on project economics / options could potentially be covered. These options are subject to the entire scheme and all communities neighbouring the windfarm.
²A fixed amount will depend on the financial viability of the project.



Appendix C: Pen March Wind Farm Winter Newsletter



RWE

Pen March Wind Farm Newsletter

Winter 2021/2022

Introducing the Project Manager
Local Benefits
Shared Ownership
Business opportunities
Community fund
Next steps



The planning process and the race to net zero

Decision by Welsh Government with input from local people

Pen March – Timeline

- 2019 – 2022** – project development, including assessments of the site such as bat surveys, ecological and habitat studies, landscape and visual noise, wind gases, transport and access.
- 2019 – 2022** – discussions with local authorities, councillors, community groups, NGOs and IAP.
- March 2020** – informal public consultation.
- May-June 2022** – statutory pre-application consultation.
- July 2022 onwards** – consider consultation feedback and submit planning application.
- 2023** – re-examination of planning application and decision by the Welsh Government.

Wales is legally obliged to achieve net zero by 2050 and there are interim targets in place to keep the country on track, including that Welsh renewables should generate electricity equal to 70% of Wales' consumption by 2030.

To help achieve this, the planning process in Wales has changed and the Pen March Wind Farm proposal is categorised as a Development of National Significance. RWE must undertake a six-week pre-application consultation on the draft Environmental Statement with a number of different groups, including members of the public, community consultees, and statutory consultees. A central document in the planning process, the Environmental Statement, includes details of the landscape and visual impacts, transport and access, ecology and habitat assessments, and much more, and is a central part of the planning application.

After submission the planning application is considered by a planning inspector who will undertake their own consultation and may decide to hold hearings or an inquiry. The planning inspector is guided by laws and policies that shape decisions on large scale renewable energy projects, including Welsh Government's Future Wales: the national plan 2040. The planning inspector presents their findings and recommendations to the Welsh Government Minister, who takes the final decision based on the inspector's advice.



The local authorities of Ceredigion and Merthyr Tydfil are statutory consultees and provide their own views to the planning inspector. As Pen March is on Gelliger and Merthyr Common, a separate permission to develop on common land is also required, which will be applied for at the same time.

We intend to conduct the pre-application consultation in May or June and hope to be able to submit our planning application towards the end of 2022, with a decision expected in 2023.

A warm welcome from the Project Manager

Jenny Cowley gives an update on the Pen March Wind Farm proposal



Thank you for taking an interest in the Pen March Wind Farm proposal. In this newsletter you will find information about our plans and what to look out for in the next few months.

We have been developing the Pen March Wind Farm project for a number of years, undertaking ecology and land surveys, wind assessments, and more. In order to determine how suitable the site is for a wind farm, in March 2020, we undertook an informal public consultation to introduce the project to local people, and received valuable feedback.

We've also been speaking to political representatives to ensure that they are updated and can inform us about local factors that we need to take into consideration when developing the project. We are particularly pleased to be working with Ceredigion Council on ways that they can be shared to ownership partners in the project, discussed further below.

In 2022 we will be undertaking the formal pre-application consultation. This part of the planning process is required by law, and the feedback we receive needs to be included in our planning submission. You can find out more about the planning process below.

Climate change is at the forefront of our minds as we progress our plans, with members of the public and their political representatives telling us they also share our concern about the impact that a warming planet will have on future generations.

Renewable energy plays a critical role in enabling us to transition away from the fossil fuels which are causing the climate emergency. There is now a sense of urgency among policy makers at the global, national, and local level, who are all working to tackle climate change, with each and every one of us being urged to play our part.

I hope that you find this newsletter informative. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We'll be in touch again to let you know when the pre-application consultation is due to take place and to explain how you can get involved.

Jenny Cowley,
Pen March Development Project Manager



Pen March Wind Farm – at a glance

- Up to 6 turbines
- Each turbine will be up to 180m in height (to rotor tip)
- Generating up to 50 MW
- Shared ownership and community benefit funding



Local benefits

Shared ownership

The Welsh Government has said that it wants all new energy projects to have an element of shared ownership, and that's just what RWE hopes to offer on the Pen March project.

In 2021, RWE and Ceredigion Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together to deliver local benefits, chiefly to explore ways in which the Council could invest and own part of the project. The MoU will facilitate discussions on shared ownership and ensure that both parties work together to maximise local opportunities.

A Council spokesperson said: "This is an exciting opportunity that not only meets the Council's priorities to lower carbon emissions, making the county borough an even greener place, but also links to our commitments to maximise opportunities for commercial investment and deliver wider community benefits."



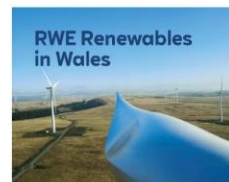
Opportunities for businesses and contractors

If the project gets the go-ahead, local companies will be encouraged to bid for contracts to help develop and construct the site. There are all sorts of skills, goods and services required to build a wind farm, and RWE would like to work with local businesses on the project. On 9th February 2022 RWE hosted an online business breakfast attended by local businesses, where RWE shared this potential opportunities arising from Pen March Wind Farm. Businesses who wish to register their interest as a supplier are invited to submit their details online here.

Community fund for local good causes

RWE is committed to supporting the communities that host renewable energy projects by offering flexible community benefits packages. In the first decade, wind farms operated by RWE in Wales have provided over £20 million into local communities. Once a wind farm gains planning consent our Community Investment Office, Kathryn Staples, starts to work closely with local communities to tailor the package ensuring local people are at the heart of how the farm works, and that it makes a lasting difference to the local area.

We'd love to know how you think a Community Benefit Package could help your area. If you'd like to share your ideas, please contact Kathryn by email: communityinvestment@rwe.com



RWE produces around 12% of the UK's electricity in Wales, we are currently operating almost 1,000 of renewable energy projects across onshore and three offshore wind farms, and hydropower plants, and we are the largest investor in renewable energy. In operating these renewable energy projects, we employ well over 100 people in Wales, with offices in Bangor, Llandudno, Gelliger, and Pen of Merthyr. We have a pipeline of new renewable energy projects in development across Wales in onshore, offshore, battery storage and hydrogen, including the Pen March Wind Farm proposal.

In the last decade, RWE has contributed more than £10m to neighbouring communities from funds associated with our renewable energy sites in Wales.

How to contact us

Keep in touch and let us have your views

You can contact the Pen March team by emailing us at penmarch@rwe.com

Further information can be found on the Pen March website www.penmarch.co.uk/

In our next newsletter, we hope to bring you news of our public consultation and ways in which you can get involved.



Appendix D: Education Workshop presentation

RWE

Pen March Wind Farm

Katy Woodington - UK Community Investment Manager
Jenny Cowley - Development Project Manager
Elen Davies - Head of Onshore Development - Wales & England
17 June 2022

Commercial in Confidence

Agenda:

- Project update - Pen March Wind Farm
- Education and skills introduction - RWE
- Education and skills priorities update - Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Open discussion - opportunities to work together
- Next steps

RWE

Pen March Wind Farm: Project Update

Location: North of A465 between Merthyr and Rhymney



Overview

- **Number of turbines:** 6
- **Tip Height:** Up to 180m
- **Installed capacity:** Up to 30 MW
- **Access:** Via M4 and A465
- **Grid Connection:** Dowlaits (Western Power)
- **Land Use:** Predominantly Common Land



Programme:

- **Sept/Oct 2022:** Statutory Consultation (for 6 weeks)
- **End 2022:** Planning application submission to PEDW
- **End 2023:** Welsh Ministers decision
- **2024:** Condition Discharge
Pre-start Surveys
Procurement
FID
- **2025:** Construction (~1 year) with commercial operations commencing end 2025 / early 2026

RWE

RWE: Education & Skills Introduction

1. Education & Skills
Gallop Offshore Wind Farm
Partnership working to securing local benefits - Example

- MoU between: Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Gallop Wind Farm Limited;
- The Parties intended to work together to maximise the economic benefits of the Wind Farm to the Local Area;
- The Local Area specifically referred to the East of England area and the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk;
- Steering group set up to identify and deliver skills and education opportunities;
- Focused on understanding, supporting and adding value to existing activities or filling gaps;
- Regular update meetings over two year construction period;
- Relationships have been maintained into operations



1. Education & Skills

Working together on education & Skills Initiatives

icanbee.org.uk Online platform showcasing local businesses to young people, teachers and parents, increasing knowledge of the sector and encouraging the employees of the future;

Job Centre Plus Energy Employment Advisor - relationship building and sharing job opportunities;

East of England Energy Group - Support the industry and skills association for energy producers and their supply chain with sponsorship, event speakers etc;

Secondary School engagement - support for STEM enrichment weeks, STEM club, mock interviews and work shadowing days for their local secondary schools;

STEM net Norfolk & Suffolk - STEM ambassadors from the Gallop projects supported a range of local STEM events and activities, supported by RWE's volunteering policy;

Lowestoft Engineering Project - internship program funded by the Ogden Trust. Two students from Lowestoft Sixth Form College, and worked at the Gallop Offshore Construction Coordination Base in Lowestoft for a four-week period over the summer. They completed research and design projects related to the construction of the wind farm;

Essex Enterprise Adviser Network - O&M Manager has become an Enterprise Adviser with Tendring Technical College, working with the school on a range of activities to help enhance career education for students and increase the awareness of offshore wind and its career options. Building a relationship with the school over time they have helped advise on strategy and planning, enhancing the curriculum and promote STEM for careers.



STEM event will aim to broaden young horizons

Page 1

RWE

Caerphilly County Borough Council: Education and skills priorities update



RWE

Opportunities to work together:
Open discussion

RWE

Next Steps



Appendix E: Information board at public exhibitions



Manteision Cymunedol
Community Benefits

Cronfa Budd Cymunedol

Yn ystod y 10 mlynedd diwethaf mae RWE yng Nghymru wedi cyfrannu dros £10 miliwn i gymunedau lleol.

Os rhoddir caniatâd, bydd gan Fferm Wynt Pen March gronfa budd cymunedol.

Community Benefit Fund

In the last 10 years RWE in Wales has contributed over £10 million to local communities.

If consented, Pen March Wind Farm will have a community benefit fund.

Effaith Economaidd-gymdeithasol

Bydd cyfleoedd cadwyn gyflenwi a swyddi i bobl leol. Os ydych yn ddarpar gyflenwr cofrestrwch ar www.tinyurl.com/penmarchsupplierregistration

Socio-economic Impact

There will be supply chain and job opportunities for local people. If you're a potential supplier sign up via www.tinyurl.com/penmarchsupplierregistration

Rhanberchenogaeth

Mae RWE yn gweithio gyda Chynghorau Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a Merthyr Tudful i roi cyfle iddyn gael rhan uniongyrchol yn y prosiect.

Shared Ownership

RWE is working with Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils to give them the opportunity to have a direct stake in the project.



Appendix F: Press coverage

1/6/23, 3:15 PM

Caerphilly Council could invest in wind farm near Rhydney

CaerphillyObserver
News Website of the Year - Wales Media Awards 2020

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Council could invest in proposed wind farm development

News | Rhys Williams | Published: 17:01, Wednesday March 31st, 2021.
 Last updated: 17:01, Wednesday March 31st, 2021

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Caerphilly County Borough Council could invest in a proposed new wind farm near Rhydney.

Seven wind turbines of up to 180 metres tall (590ft) could be built at Pen March Farm, to the north-west of the town.

Six of the turbines would be in Caerphilly County Borough, with one the side of the boundary in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

The council has entered a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with green energy firm RWE Renewables, which is behind the plans.

The council will "explore options" to invest in the wind farm through a shared ownership model.

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<https://caerphilly.observer/news/1000158/council-could-invest-in-proposed-wind-farm-development/>

1/3



1/6/23, 3:15 PM

Caerphilly Council could invest in wind farm near Rhymney

Latest News



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Friday, January 6, 2023



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Friday, January 6, 2023



[Possible contamination of woodlands near quarry being investigated](#)
Friday, January 6, 2023



[Car parking changes could be waived for parents during school run](#)
Friday, January 6, 2023



[12-year-old boy "lucky" after being hit by car](#)
Thursday, January 5, 2023

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The council's cabinet unanimously voted in favour of the agreement at a meeting on March 24.

► What is Caerphilly County Borough Council's cabinet?

It could see the council contribute towards the cost of building the wind farm, in return for a slice of the revenue generated by the project.

[Caerphilly Observer](#) has asked the council how much it would be looking to invest and what sort of return it would be expecting to get.

Councillor John Ridgewell, who is the council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure, described it as an "exciting opportunity".

He said it "not only meets the council's priorities to lower carbon emissions, making the county borough an even greener place, but also links to our commitments to maximise opportunities for commercial investment and deliver wider community benefits".

He added: "This project really demonstrates our ethos as an organisation with a commercial mind and social heart."

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<https://caerphilly.observer/news/1000158/council-could-invest-in-proposed-wind-farm-development/>

2/3



Appendix G: Signed MOU with Caerphilly County Borough Council

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

RWE Renewables UK Onshore Wind Ltd.
And
Caerphilly County Borough Council

This is an agreement between RWE Renewables UK Onshore Wind Ltd, hereinafter called RWE and Caerphilly County Borough Council, hereinafter called CCBC.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to outline how RWE and CCBC will work together, over the course of development and through to construction, to ensure that RWE's proposed development of an onshore wind farm near Rhymney, within the CCBC boundary, hereinafter called Pen March, to secure both a viable project and deliver local benefits in line with CCBC's and Welsh Government's aspirations.

II. BACKGROUND

RWE is Wales's biggest renewable energy generator. Assets include Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, and Clocaenog Forest, Mynydd y Gwair and Brechfa Forest West onshore wind farms. RWE directly employs over 200 people in locations across Wales, and the onshore development team project manages new onshore wind developments from securing land options through the planning process, to consent.

CCBC is a local authority delivering a range of services to citizens within its geographical boundary. CCBC is not responsible for consenting the Pen March Wind Farm, as this is the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

In 2017, the Welsh Government announced a target that all renewable energy projects should have an 'element of local ownership' from 2020 onwards. Guidance is under development.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

This MOU is *not* binding on either party and is only an expression of an intent to continue negotiations in good faith. This MOU is not necessarily exclusive to CCBC and may be replicated with other parties.

This MOU is intended to recognise and facilitate future discussions on:

- **Shared ownership:** where CCBC could benefit from owning a share of the Pen March Wind Farm, by investing in the project and receiving a return of net revenue appropriate to the size of investment and the amount of risk taken. Equity share and pure net revenue models will be investigated, as will the point of investment.
- **Local suppliers:** where RWE and CCBC will work with local businesses to increase the contract opportunities available for the local supply chain, especially during construction, as far as is practicable.
- **Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (cPPA):** either as part of shared ownership (in lieu of revenue) or otherwise, where RWE and CCBC will prior to Financial Investment Decision (FID) discuss the future opportunity for a possible cPPA relating to all or some of the electricity generation from the project.
- **Infrastructure:** that options for improving infrastructure alongside the development are explored, for example:



- fast broadband rollout in areas close by that are under served.
- installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

• **Community Benefit Fund:** RWE is committed to providing a community benefit fund. This money could be used to facilitate some of the above or develop new and exciting local projects. RWE will work with CCBC to develop the proposals for the geographical extent and uses of the fund. Consulting with local community representatives and wider stakeholders in line with industry best practice guidelines will help to shape delivery and maximise the benefits for local people.

IV. FUNDING

This MOU does not include the reimbursement of funds between the two parties.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of authorised officials from both parties. It shall be in force from (date) 20 JULY 2021 to (date) 20 JULY 2025

VI. Confidentiality

Each party agrees that it will keep confidential and not disclose, whether directly or indirectly, any confidential information belonging to the other. In this **clause**, 'confidential information' means all information of a confidential nature (in any **form**) which is imparted or disclosed to, or otherwise obtained by a party (whether directly or indirectly) including the other party's know-how, trade secrets, financial, commercial, technical, tactical, strategic, marketing or customer information, employee information, any information agreed to be or marked as confidential, any other information a party knows, or could be reasonably expected to know, is confidential and any other such information related to or concerning a party's business. Where confidential information is shared pursuant to the negotiations envisaged by this MOU, the parties will agree a mechanism for cooperation and compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and any other relevant statutory authority.

Signatures and dates

on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Onshore Wind Limited:

Signature: 
 Print Name: Cathal Hennessy
 Position: Director
 Date: 14 July 2021

Signature: 
 Print Name: Penelope Sainsbury
 Position: Company Secretary
 Date: 20 July 2021

on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council:

Signature: 
 Print Name: Mark S Williams
 Position: Director for Economy & Enterprise
 Date: 8 July 2021

Signature: 
 Print Name: Rhian Kyte
 Position: Head of Regeneration & Planning
 Date: 6 July 2021



Appendix H: Press release 18th October 2021 - MOU with Caerphilly County Borough Council



Press release

RWE pledges on behalf Pen March Onshore Wind Farm to maximise local benefits

- **Company signs Memorandum of Understanding with Caerphilly County Borough Council confirms joint commitment to communities.**

Baglan, Wales. 18 October 2021

RWE Renewables and Caerphilly County Borough Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together to deliver local benefits in line with the council's and Welsh Government's aspirations. Welsh Government has set targets for at least 1GW of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2030 and an expectation for all new energy projects in Wales to have an element of local ownership going forward.

RWE Renewables is developing Pen March Onshore Wind Farm near Rhymney, which is within Caerphilly council's boundary. The project could potentially consist of up to seven turbines and have an installed capacity of up to 30 megawatts (MW.) The MoU is intended to facilitate future discussions on shared ownership; local supply chain opportunities; the potential for a corporate Power Purchase Agreement as well as options to improve local infrastructure alongside the development. It ensures that both parties will work together to maximise local opportunities whilst at the same time delivering a viable onshore wind farm that would generate renewable energy for future generations.

Jenny Cowley, renewables developer at RWE Renewables said: "We are delighted to be working with Caerphilly County Borough Council. Onshore wind has the potential to play a key role in helping Wales to become a net zero nation whilst at the same time supporting local communities and bolstering local economies."

As the largest investor in renewable energy in Wales, RWE Renewables currently operates four onshore and three offshore wind farms. The company has four offices across Wales and through its employees, supply chain and community funds, has been present in Welsh communities for over 15 years. Over the last decade, RWE and partners have invested well over £3 billion to deliver energy projects in Wales, including £250m building onshore wind projects at Brechfa Forest West, Clocaenog Forest and Mynydd y Gwair. RWE has contributed over £8.6m to neighbouring communities from the community funds associated with the energy sites it operates in Wales, most recently including nearly £400,000 to support local communities in their response to the COVID pandemic.

RWE Renewables GmbH Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany
T +49 201 5179-5008 | communications@rwe.com | www.rwe.com/press



RWE

Cllr Andrew Whitcombe, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Planning and Fleet at Caerphilly County Borough Council said: "This is an exciting opportunity that not only meets the Council's priorities to lower carbon emissions, making the county borough an even greener place, but also links to our commitments to maximise opportunities for commercial investment and deliver wider community benefits. This project really demonstrates our ethos as an organisation with a commercial mind and social heart."

ENDS

For further enquiries:

Mark Fleming
RWE Spokesperson
RWE Renewables GmbH
M 07825 608096
E mark.fleming@rwe.com

Picture of a generic wind turbine to accompany this story (credit: RWE) are available at the [RWE Media Centre](#)

RWE Renewables

RWE Renewables is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. With around 3,500 employees, the company has onshore and offshore wind farms, photovoltaic plants and battery storage facilities with a combined capacity of approximately 9 gigawatts. RWE Renewables is driving the expansion of renewable energy in more than 20 countries on five continents. From 2020 until 2022, RWE Renewables targets to invest €5 billion net in renewable energy and to grow its renewables portfolio to 13 gigawatts of net capacity. Beyond this, the company plans to further grow in wind and solar power. The focus is on the Americas, the core markets in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

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RWE Renewables GmbH Group Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany
T +49 201 5179-5008 | communications@rwe.com | www.rwe.com/press

