



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by Councillor John Letford, Council Business Manager

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Item 3

21st March 2019

**POLICY PRIORITIES FOR RENEWABLES IN SCOTLAND: INVESTMENT,
PLANNING, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPING OFFSHORE ENERGY
SOURCES CONFERENCE**

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval for member attendance at the Policy Priorities for Renewables in Scotland: Investment, Planning, Technology and Developing Offshore Energy Sources Conference.

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to approve the attendance of Councillor Maggie McTernan at the Policy Priorities for Renewables in Scotland: Investment, Planning, Technology and Developing Offshore Energy Sources Conference to be held on 24th April 2019 in Edinburgh.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 Background

- 1.1 The Council received an invitation from Scotland Policy Conferences to attend its Policy Priorities for Renewables in Scotland: Investment, Planning, Technology and Developing Offshore Energy Sources Conference to be held on 24th April 2019 in Edinburgh.
- 1.2 This seminar will bring together stakeholders and policymakers to discuss the future for renewable energy and the renewables sector in Scotland. There will be a keynote contribution from **Paul Wheelhouse MSP**, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands. It takes place in the context of key governmental strategies, including the implementation of the Scottish Government's energy strategy, as well as changes in UK Government energy policy and Brexit.
- 1.3 Delegates will assess the next steps for enhancing grid capacity and developing storage solutions for renewable energy to support the flexibility of the system, and increased use of renewable sources of energy, particularly following the Capacity Market (CM). Delegates will also discuss the future of the CM - in light of the Court of Justice of the European Union ruling suspending the CM, the Commission's in-depth investigation into British Capacity Market scheme and the UK Government's expected publication of the wider review into the CM - and will look at what more is needed from policy to support cost-effective energy security in Scotland.
- 1.4 Delegates will consider the future for the offshore sector in Scotland - following the expected publication of the UK Government's Offshore Sector Deal and The Scottish Government's response to the National Marine Plan Review. The seminar will also discuss the next steps in diversifying renewable generation in Scotland, including in community-orientated energy generation, and will look at lessons which can be learnt from examples of good practice within localised projects.
- 1.5 Delegates will also look at how the changes to the planning system in Scotland through the Planning Bill will impact on renewable development - including the focus renewables are given through the planning system, the increased use of Local Development Plans to shape infrastructure development in each area and the impact on major and local developments, as well as the role of communities in future development - including addressing community and environmental concerns.
- 1.6 Attendees will also discuss the way forward in tackling the challenges to current funding and investment - particularly in best utilising the Energy Investment Fund for those with gaps in commercial funding, and for community and low-carbon projects - as well as the next steps in the Contracts for Difference auction due in May 2019, and supporting the less established renewable technologies.
- 1.7 It is proposed that Councillor Maggie McTernan attend the conference.

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The conference fee is £276. Travel costs are approximately £25.
<i>Legal:</i>	None
<i>Personnel:</i>	None
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

Council Strategic Plan:	Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports
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Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22</i>	n/a
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	no significant impact
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage</i>	n/a

Sustainability Impacts:

<i>Environmental:</i>	The carbon footprint of this journey by train from Glasgow to Edinburgh and return is 0.01 tonnes of CO _{2e}
<i>Social, including Article 19 opportunities:</i>	None
<i>Economic:</i>	None

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:	None
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3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The committee is asked to approve the attendance of Councillor Maggie McTernan at the Policy Priorities for Renewables in Scotland: Investment, Planning, Technology and Developing Offshore Energy Sources Conference to be held on 24th April 2019 in Edinburgh.