



# Economic & Social Benefits Statement

**Scout Moor II**  
**Further Environmental Information**

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June 2026

# **Economic and Social Benefits Statement**

## **Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm**

June 2026

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## Executive Summary

1. This Economic and Social Benefits Statement has been prepared by Turley Economics on behalf of Cubico Sustainable Investments, to present the economic and social benefits that could be generated by the development of the proposed Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm (Scout Moor II).

### **Proposed development**

2. Scout Moor II is a proposed onshore wind farm located adjacent to the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm ('SMWF').
3. The application for full planning permission proposes to deliver 12 no. turbines together with a total generation capacity of between 68 to 72 megawatts ('MW'), with associated ancillary infrastructure, on land at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor. The Site (and the existing SMWF) occupies an area of open moorland between the urban areas of Rochdale, Bury, Blackburn, Accrington and Halifax, consisting of Rooley Moor, Cowpe Moss, and Brandwood Moor, which collectively form part of the Southern Pennines. This area spans the administrative boundaries of both Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC'), which collectively are referenced within this report as forming the 'Local Impact Area'. A Wider Impact Area is also defined which covers the North West region.

### **Strategic and policy alignment**

4. The Proposed Development aligns closely with the Government's national missions, including its commitment and stated ambition to secure clean energy and achieve net zero targets and its expectation that the wider economic benefits of related investments are realised within local communities. These national ambitions are also reflected in regional and local policies and strategies, and as this report establishes, the Proposed Development has the potential to generate a comprehensive package of economic and wider benefits, which Cubico are committed to ensuring are maximised in their impact for local communities.

### **A commitment to ensuring economic and community benefits**

5. This commitment recognises Cubico's role as a leading global renewable energy business, and its core values which are set out in their corporate ESG report<sup>1</sup>. This commitment has also been captured within a draft Community Benefit Charter, which is a binding framework for how Scout Moor II will deliver real, long-term benefits for the communities across the two authorities. This Charter is included in full in **Appendix 1** of this report. The framework provided by this charter has been used in the presentation of the benefits of the Proposed Development in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Cubico Sustainable Investments (2026), Energy for Tomorrow: ESG Report 2025

## Economic benefits

6. Socio-economic profiling of the Local Impact Area and more specifically, the proximate communities (defined as a separate community impact area) and insights obtained through community engagement, has highlighted the need for, and value in creating new job opportunities. This recognises persistent challenges associated with comparatively high economic deprivation and low skills when compared to national benchmarks as well as a projected continued growth in local populations.
7. The economic benefits generated over the lifetime of the Proposed Development have been estimated and broken down into three phases.

### ***Phase 1- Pre-Development Phase***

8. During the 4-year pre-development phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:
  - **£3.4 million** total investment.
  - **25** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the pre-development period, inclusive of **15** in the North West, and **5** within the Local Impact Area.
  - **£2.1 million** GVA boost to the UK economy across the four year pre-development period, including **£1.9 million** in the North West, of which **£1.8 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

### ***Phase 2- Construction Phase***

9. During the 2-year construction phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:
  - **Between £95.0 -£100.6 million** total investment.
  - **Between 245-260** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the construction period, inclusive of between **220-235** in the North West, of which, between **75-80** could be contained within the Local Impact Area. This equates to between **120-130 FTE** jobs in the UK, inclusive of between **110-115** in the North West, and **35-40** within the Local Impact Area.
  - **Between £18.9-£20.0 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the construction period, including **between £17.9-£18.9 million** in the North West, of which between **£14.8- £15.6 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

### ***Phase 3- Operation and Maintenance Phase***

10. During the 40-year O&M phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:
  - Between £32.6 and £34.6 million of total investment over the operational period;

- **Between 90-95** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the operational period, inclusive of between **60-65** in the North West, and **40-45** within the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £12.7 - £13.4 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the operational period, including between **£10.8-£11.4 million** in the North West, of which between **£14.8- £15.6 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £580,000 -£610,000 in business rates** contribution **per year**, contributing towards the funding of public services and infrastructure in Rochdale, Rossendale and beyond.

#### **Total Economic Contribution**

11. The Proposed Development's total economic contribution to the UK economy across the entirety of the pre-development, construction and O&M phases is summarised in the table below, including:

#### **Total Economic Contribution**

| UK Impact Type:<br><i>Development,<br/>Construction and O&amp;M<br/>Phases</i> | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 1) | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 2) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Net Additional GVA                                                             | £33.7 million                               | £35.6 million                               |
| Net Additional Person<br>Years of Employment                                   | 355 person-years                            | 375 person years                            |

*Source: Turley Economics, 2026*

12. In addition to this, is estimated that the Proposed Development could contribute between **£580,000- £610,000 in business rates revenue per annum**. As part of the standard valuation process, this will be reviewed at 5-yearly intervals (i.e. every 5 years from 2031)<sup>2</sup>, and so have not been presented in totality.

#### **Community benefits and opportunities**

13. The assessment has identified opportunities to maximise the value of the above economic benefits for local communities, along with other benefits which will help address other identified challenges and priorities. These include, for example, enhancing and protecting the natural environment, which can assist in addressing identified comparatively acute local health and wellbeing challenges. A series of proposed initiatives to generate legacy positive benefits are captured within the Community Benefit Charter, and an Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan (OAEMP).

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by the Applicant

14. A series of initiatives are proposed which will be secured and delivered through planning agreement and a commitment to ongoing engagement with local communities and stakeholders. These include:
- Monetary funding for local communities during all phases of development, including a Construction Impact Fund and a Community Wealth Fund during operation which, in the case of the latter, will guarantee that communities will receive a minimum of **£408,000** per year<sup>3</sup> (£6,000 per MW), or 3% of gross project revenue — whichever is greater — with payments linked to inflation and rising over time;
  - Dedication of volunteering time from employees of Cubico and contractors;
  - A series of proposals to enhance recreational routes and proposed improvements to the natural environment. This will include opening **15.1km of access tracks to walkers, cyclists and horse riders**, comprising of 10.2km of new track, in addition to the existing 4.9km of existing tracks through SMWF which will be retained. It also includes the provision of new circular recreational routes and strengthened connections between existing mountain bike facilities;
  - Delivery of sustainable construction practice including the preparation of a Construction Environmental Plan (CEMP);
  - Preparing an Employment and Skills Plan which will:
    - Establish targets and mechanisms for local recruitment
    - Quantify apprenticeships to be provided in partnership with local training providers, with the potential to generate **c.2 apprenticeships** in the construction phase currently estimated
    - Provide mechanisms to optimise the use of local businesses as part of the wider supply chain; and
  - Delivery of a programme of education and careers engagement with local schools, colleges and community groups.
15. As well as these initiatives, another key community benefit will be the production of a new source of clean energy, which helps to both address issues of fuel poverty, as well as having environmental advantages, through reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

### **Tourism and recreation**

16. The most recent evidence on the relationship between wind farms and tourism suggest that there are no adverse effects on the tourism economy resulting from the development of onshore wind. The value placed on the environmental setting of the Proposed Development in attracting visitors locally is recognised and a series of enhancements are proposed within the *Outdoor Access Enhancement and*

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<sup>3</sup> Based on a total output of 68 MW. Under the 72 MW scenario, this would increase to a minimum of £432,000 per year

*Management Plan (OAEMP)* which will improve the recreational experience for all users, including for walking, cycling and horse riding, along with interventions specifically aimed at elevating the visitor experience and promoting understanding of the moor's natural, historic and climate value. These would be expected to bring wider economic benefits associated with increased visitor spend, supporting and sustaining local businesses within or related to the tourism sector.

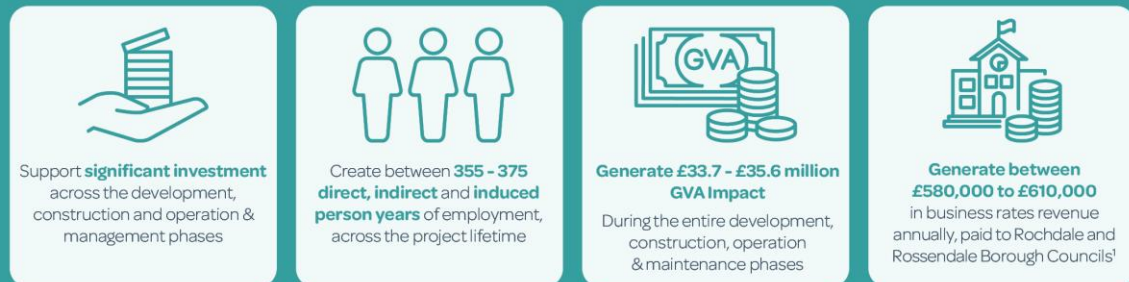
# Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm

## Economic and Social Benefits Infographic

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Construction and Operation of 12 wind turbines, together with a total regeneration capacity of between 68 - 72 megawatts ('MW'), with associated ancillary infrastructure  
**SITE:** Land at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor, Rochdale and Rossendale

### Estimated Economic Impacts

The project offers the potential to:



Stimulate investment in local supply chains including opportunities in:



### Wider social benefits for local communities

Delivered at all stages of the project's lifetime, supported by a Community Benefits Charter

 The Proposed Development will produce clean energy, bringing environmental benefits and helping to address fuel poverty



#### Commitment 1: Listening and Engaging with Transparency

Through continued community engagement, via public communication channels, a Community Liaison Group (CLG) and annual impact reporting



#### Commitment 2: Investing in the Community

- **Monetary funding for local communities**, including through a Construction Impact Fund and Community Wealth Fund during Operation
- **Dedicated volunteering time** from Cubico employees and contractors
- **Enhanced access to green space and recreational routes**, improving health and wellbeing for all users
- **Developing sustainably**, to minimise and mitigate environmental impacts during all phases of development



#### Commitment 3: Creating Local Opportunities

- **Creating jobs accessible to local people**, prioritising employment for the community
- **Supporting skills, training and apprenticeship opportunities**, creating a diverse and inclusive workforce
- **Capturing local supply chain benefits**, supporting local SMEs to grow, and retaining specialised skills locally
- **Bespoke educational engagement programme**, to inspire the next generation of workers, including via site visits

<sup>1</sup> For the initial valuation period (2026-2031), which is to be reviewed every 5 years.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Economic and Social Benefits Statement has been prepared by Turley Economics on behalf of Cubico Sustainable Investments ('the Applicant' or 'Cubico').
- 1.2 It is submitted as part of Further Environmental Information in respect of the cross-boundary applications for full planning permission ('the Applications') relating to the construction and operation of a new onshore wind farm (to be known as 'Scout Moor II'), alongside a comprehensive moorland restoration scheme (the 'Proposed Development'), on land at Rooley Moor ('the Site'). It presents the economic and social benefits that could be generated by the Proposed Development.
- 1.3 The Site crosses the administrative boundaries of Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC') (collectively referred to as 'the Councils'). The Councils are the Local Planning Authorities ('LPA's') responsible for the determination of the Applications, which were originally submitted on 23 July 2025 and were validated by the Councils on 07 August 2025 (RBC ref. 2025/0267 and RMBC ref. 25/00680/FUL).
- 1.4 Following the completion of an extended period of statutory consultation on the Applications, the Applicant has evolved the Proposed Development to respond to comments received from statutory and non-statutory consultees, the public and other interested stakeholders and is hereby formally amending the Applications through the submission of Further Environmental Information ('FEI'). The FEI supersedes the information submitted in July 2025 ('the 2025 Submission') and will be subject to further statutory consultation by the Councils. A summary of the amendments to the Applications is set out in detail the Planning, Design and Access Statement (prepared by Turley), but in summary includes the reduction in turbine numbers from 'up to 17 turbines' to 'up to 12 turbines', alongside the relocation/repositioning of turbine positioning, access track layout and the layout and design of other associated infrastructure.

## **Cubico Sustainable Investments**

- 1.5 Headquartered in London, with its UK development team based in Manchester and Glasgow, Cubico Sustainable Investments is one of the world's largest privately-owned renewable energy companies and has a growing footprint in the UK where it owns and operates more than 250 MW of onshore wind and solar assets, and a development pipeline of circa 438 MW.
- 1.6 Cubico is committed to helping deliver reliable, homegrown and affordable energy for British homes and businesses. The company takes a long-term approach to partnerships with stakeholders, working closely with local communities to deliver projects that bring both economic and environmental benefits and create lasting value for the people who live and work near its projects. This involves working with local communities, authorities and businesses to understand their needs and concerns, to be able to operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. By expanding access to affordable, safe and clean energy, Cubico intend to improve health outcomes,

reduce negative environmental impacts and support broader social and economic development<sup>4</sup>.

### The Proposed Development

- 1.7 Scout Moor II is a proposed onshore wind farm located adjacent to the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm ('SMWF'), which is an existing onshore wind farm (26 no. turbines), that has been operational since 2008, with an installed capacity of 65 MW.
- 1.8 The application for full planning permission proposes to deliver 12 no. turbines together with a total anticipated generation capacity of between 68 to 72 megawatts ('MW')<sup>5</sup>, with associated ancillary infrastructure ("the Proposed Development"), on land at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor ("the Site"). A full description of the Proposed Development is included within the accompanying Planning, Design & Access Statement<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.9 It should however be noted that for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has a grid connection agreement for 2029, for up to 99.9MW. However, so as to not overstate this, given the reduction to 12 no. turbines, economic benefits have been presented in relation to the anticipated generation capacity between 68-72 MW, with total output to be confirmed at the procurement stage, one specifics of the individual turbines are known.
- 1.10 The Site (and the existing SMWF) occupies an area of open moorland between the urban areas of Rochdale, Bury, Blackburn, Accrington and Halifax, consisting of Rooley Moor, Cowpe Moss, and Brandwood Moor, which collectively form part of the Southern Pennines. This area is spans the administrative boundaries of both Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC').

### Structure of Report

- 1.11 The remainder of this statement is structured as follows:
- **Section 2: Policy and Strategy Context** – considers national, regional and local economic policy ambitions and how the Proposed Development could support their delivery.
  - **Section 3: Cubico's Social Value Ambitions** – provides an overview of Cubico's social value ambitions and objectives, including the specifically developed Community Benefits Charter, which provide a framework for assessing and maximise social value generation from the Proposed Development.
  - **Section 4: Assessment Methodology** – presents and explains the study area and statistical geographies used along with a description of the methodology used to assess the economic impact of the Proposed Development.

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<sup>4</sup> Cubico Sustainable Investments (2026), Energy for Tomorrow: ESG Report 2025

<sup>5</sup> To be confirmed at procurement stage

<sup>6</sup> Turley (May 2026), Scout Moor II Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

- **Section 5: Local Needs Assessment** – presents the socio-economic context and identifies the needs of the area, relative to the wider comparator geographies, to which the identified economic and social benefits respond positively.
- **Section 6: Community Engagement Insights** – provides an insight into the consultation responses and priorities identified by key local stakeholders.
- **Section 7: Economic Benefits** – quantifies the potential scale of investment and job creation that will be generated by development expenditure, capital expenditure and operational expenditure phases, drawing on figures provided by Cubico Sustainable Investments and economic modelling undertaken by Turley Economics.
- **Section 8: Community Benefits and Opportunities** – provides a summary of the Proposed Developments’ social benefits – including activities to be delivered by Cubico under its Community Benefits Charter – and how these impacts respond to local economic, community and environmental needs and priorities.
- **Section 9: Tourism and Recreation** – sets tourism in the area in context and considers the relationship between the proposed wind farm and the local tourism economy.
- **Section 10: Conclusion** – draws from the preceding sections to clearly articulate the net socio-economic benefits of the Proposed Development.

## 2. Policy and Strategy Context

- 2.1 From a national to a local level, delivering sustainable, clean growth is a key priority, which in turn creates beneficial economic, social and environmental outcomes for communities. This is articulated through ambitions and objectives set out in strategies and through policy requirements.
- 2.2 This section identifies the ambition captured within national, regional and local strategies and the expectations of policy. Consideration is given as to how the Proposed Development could support their delivery.

### **National Strategic and Policy Context**

#### **Plan for Change: Milestones for mission-led government**

- 2.3 The Government published within its Plan for Change<sup>7</sup>, a set of ambitions and milestones it aims to reach by the end of the current Parliament. The Plan is predicated on the delivery of a set of ‘missions’. Two of these missions are of particular relevance to the potential impact of the Proposed Development, these being the mission to:

- Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower
- Kickstarting Economic Growth

- 2.4 Further explanation is provided within the Plan for Change as to the importance of and expectations associated with successfully achieving their ambition. A summary of which is presented in turn below.

#### ***Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower***

- 2.5 The Government states its intention to harness the UK’s abundant natural resources and advancements in clean technology to deliver the opportunity for growth and good jobs in clean technology. Achieving this mission will bring energy security, protect billpayers, create good jobs and help to protect future generations from the cost of climate breakdown. This in turn, will help to revive the strength of British manufacturing, bringing jobs and investment into Britain’s industrial heartlands- unleashing the power of British technological innovation, and subsequently bringing private investment and good jobs into all part of the UK.

- 2.6 It states a clear aim to deliver clean power by 2030 and accelerate to net zero. To achieve its mission the Government has committed to, inter alia:

- **Ensuring the economic benefits of clean energy and net zero are felt by workers and billpayers across the country**
- **Work in partnership with businesses and the sector, to provide long term certainty, with catalytic public investment.** This includes attracting inward investment through Great British Energy and the National Wealth Fund, and by

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<sup>7</sup> HM Government (December 2024), Plan for Change: Milestones for a mission-led government

committing to reforming and speeding up the planning process to **remove barriers in the planning process and grid**

- **Power up infrastructure across the country.** This has included the **lifting of the ban on onshore wind**
- **Harness cutting-edge technology** – In recognition of the fact that the UK is home to world-leading green-tech companies and researchers, the Government has identified an industry target for **at least 50% of the supply chain to be UK based**
- **Ensure the public enjoy the full benefits of home-grown clean power.**

2.7 The Proposed Development would contribute directly to this mission as both a generator of, and investment in, clean energy which will create jobs in the local area.

#### ***Kickstarting Economic Growth***

2.8 The mission to ‘Kickstart Economic Growth’ is also of pertinence to the Proposed Development.

2.9 To raise living standards across the UK, the Government has confirmed that: *‘Economic growth is the number one mission of the government.’* It has established an aim *‘for the highest sustained growth in the G7 – with more people in good jobs, higher living standards, and productivity growth in every part of the United Kingdom’*<sup>8</sup>.

2.10 In setting the milestone for establishing progress, the Government has retained the essence of the previous Government’s commitment to ‘Levelling-up’ by acknowledging that *‘growth must be felt by everyone, everywhere, so we will track GDP per head at both a regional and national level to drive prosperity across the United Kingdom’*.<sup>9</sup>

2.11 In this context the Government has affirmed that *‘the main route to higher living standards is through good, productive jobs, stable employment, and a thriving business environment, and we believe that growth must be felt in every nation and region.’*<sup>10</sup> It further identifies a commitment to help people get a job, stay in work, and progress in their careers. It confirms that this will be supported by the newly established Skills England and the Industrial Strategy Council, along with a reformed jobs and career service.

2.12 The Proposed Development, as referenced above, will create local employment opportunities with a commitment to supporting training through opportunities created during construction and operation.

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<sup>8</sup> [Kickstarting Economic Growth - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

## The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy: Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan

- 2.13 On 23 June 2025, the Government published 'The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy'<sup>11</sup>, to *'help seize the most significant opportunities and create the most favourable conditions in key UK sectors for the companies of the future to emerge here'*.
- 2.14 Published alongside it are a number of supporting plans, including the 'Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan'<sup>12</sup>. This recognises that growing clean energy industries, and boosting domestic supply chains is fundamental to supporting wider industry to decarbonise, highlighting that the net zero economy has grown three times faster than the wider UK economy, with over £40 billion of private investment in clean energy announced since July 2024.
- 2.15 The Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan establishes the following Vision:
- 'by 2035, the UK will be a global leader in Clean Energy Industries, creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs at good wages across the country, supported by strong trade union recognition. We will become a world- leading exporter of low- carbon products, services and innovation.*
- As a global leader, by 2035, we want the UK to:*
- *Be the most attractive place in Europe to invest in Clean Energy Industries;*
  - *Have grown exports in all frontier Clean Energy Industries;*
  - *Have created hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs across the country;*
  - *Have driven higher domestic commercialisation of evolving clean energy technologies;*
  - *Have secured more resilient and robust supply chains<sup>13</sup>.*
- 2.16 The Plan places a particular focus on the provision of 'good jobs', recognising that employees working in the industry, directly or indirectly, tend to secure higher wages than the national average. The Government establishes an intention to publish a Clean Energy Workforce Strategy to detail how it will work with different stakeholders to take advantage of the skills of the existing energy workforce and give a new lease of life to industrial and coastal communities, ensuring that benefits are spread across the country.
- 2.17 The Plan recognises that until July 2024, there was a de facto ban on onshore wind in England, and so the sector is comparatively underdeveloped in the UK. It estimates, however, that by 2030, the sector could support up to 45,000 direct and indirect jobs in Great Britain, with installed capacity planned to almost double. It identifies that this has the potential for significant economic opportunity in areas of existing strengths: development, balance of plant and operations in the onshore wind sector. To realise

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<sup>11</sup> UK Government (June 2025), The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, page 11

<sup>12</sup> UK Government (June 2025), The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy: Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, page 9

the opportunities associated with onshore wind deployment the Plan confirms that the Government intends publish its first Onshore Wind Strategy and support the establishment of a new joint Government industry forum . The Proposed Development represents one of the initial phases of the realisation of this opportunity and responds to the opportunity to contribute to creating a new skilled workforce in this growing sector.

### **National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance**

- 2.18 Since its election in July 2024, the Government has been clear in its view that “sustained economic growth is the only route to improving the prosperity of our country and the living standards of working people”<sup>14</sup>. It has stated that its “central mission” is to “restore economic growth” and it also aims to deliver the infrastructure that the country needs<sup>15</sup>.
- 2.19 The revised NPPF, published in December 2024, remains the adopted policy, and is built around a policy commitment to sustainable development. Like every version since the NPPF was first introduced in 2012, this sets clear expectations around how new development meets economic, social and environmental objectives, as follows:
- **“An economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
  - **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being” and
  - **an environmental objective** – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”<sup>16</sup>
- 2.20 In the context of supporting economic growth, the NPPF establishes the intention for the planning system to *‘help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt’*. In this context it confirms that: *‘Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity’<sup>17</sup>*. This is further supported in the latest draft NPPF, released for consultation in December 2025, which states that *‘to support business growth, substantial weight should be given to... the economic benefits of proposals for commercial development which allow businesses to invest,*

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<sup>14</sup> MHCLG (August 2024) Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

<sup>15</sup> Speeches by the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, on 5/8 July 2024

<sup>16</sup> MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation, para 8

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, paragraph 85

*expand and adapt; especially where this would support the economic vision and strategy for the area; the implementation of the Industrial Strategy...and/or reflect proposals for Industrial Strategy Zones*<sup>18</sup>.

- 2.21 In the context of achieving its environmental objective, Section 14 of the NPPF, titled *'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'* states that in order to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places, planning policies and decisions should support the transition to net zero by 2050. In particular, this includes a commitment to increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, and should:
- (a) *'provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);*
  - (b) *consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and*
  - (c) *identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers*<sup>19</sup>.
- 2.22 The Proposed Development accords with the objectives of national policy and guidance as described above, with further consideration of policy alignment within the accompanying Planning Statement.
- Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030 (2024)**
- 2.23 The Clean Power 2030 report published in November 2024<sup>20</sup> was prepared by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) – an independent body set up by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to advise on strategy for achieving the Government's clean power ambitions by 2030.
- 2.24 NESO's vision for a clean power system for Great Britain in 2030 envisages that domestic demand is exceeded by energy generated by clean sources, mainly renewables.
- 2.25 The Clean Power 2030 report confirms that onshore wind, alongside solar, is one of the cheapest clear power options available. NESO anticipates a doubling of onshore wind capacity from 13.7GW in 2023 to 27.3GW by 2030 (in both of NESO's scenarios), recognising that the lifting of planning restrictions in July 2024 provides scope for growth of this technology in England specifically.
- 2.26 The report advises the Government that to achieve its ambition will require things to be done differently. Specific reference is made to the importance of improving

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<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2025), National Planning Policy Framework: Plan-making and national decision-making policies: Policy E2, page 40

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, paragraph 165

<sup>20</sup> [Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030](#) (NESO, November 2024)

community engagement, where it is recognised that power projects have significant impacts on the wider environment and local communities, making it crucial to consider these factors in their development:

*‘Communities will be at the heart of the delivery of net zero in Great Britain and the planning process is a key route through which they can have their say on plans for energy infrastructure in their area and raise concerns about the impact on their local environment’.*<sup>21</sup>

2.27 It recommends: *‘Conducting thorough environmental impact assessments, engaging with stakeholders and affected local communities and implementing mitigation measures can help minimise negative impacts and enhance projects’ sustainability.’*<sup>22</sup>

2.28 It proceeds to suggest, by way of actions needed to drive the change required to address challenges in the planning and consenting processes that:

*‘Those asked to host energy infrastructure should continue to be effectively engaged throughout the development process, even as it accelerates, and should feel tangible benefit from the critical role their areas play in building a clean, secure and low-cost electricity system.’*<sup>23</sup>

2.29 The report also affirms the potential to create opportunities for both local growth and good jobs and in the generation of positive impacts on nature, the environment and public health.

2.30 These are recognised within this report in the context of understanding the potential benefits attributable to the Proposed Development.

**Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity (2024)**

2.31 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (December 2024)<sup>24</sup>, informed by the above mentioned NESO report, set out the UK Governments commitment to delivering clean power by 2030 by tackling three identified challenges:

- To maintain a secure and affordable energy supply
- To create new industries and investments around the county
- To protect the environment that we live in from the damaging effects of climate change.

2.32 The Action Plan outlines the steps towards achieving a clean power system, detailing government actions to support and accelerate the delivery of necessary infrastructure, and how the government will collaborate with all stakeholders to reach this goal.

2.33 The Action Plan confirms that *“there is no path to clean power without mass deployment of offshore wind, together with onshore wind and solar”* (Page 07,

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, page 60

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, page 70

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, page 61

<sup>24</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2024), Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

emphasis added). It identifies onshore wind as one of the “key supply-side technologies” which the UK will “need to deploy more on average each year to 2030 than ... ever done in a single year before” (Page 09).

- 2.34 The Action Plan pathways see a doubling on onshore wind capacity from 14GW in 2023 to 27GW by 2030, which means massively scaling up annual delivery. The Action Plan draws upon research from Trowers and Hamlins<sup>25</sup> and notes that: *“onshore wind with a capacity of 27 GW would require around 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land, representing 1% of the total Great Britain land area. Approximately 99% of this land area would remain available for other uses between the turbines, allowing for shared land use, such as agriculture and pasture. Only a small portion, approximately 30 km<sup>2</sup>, would be occupied by the turbines”*.
- 2.35 In recognition of the need to continue to improve the planning process, beyond the reforms implemented to date and referenced above, further commitments are made to update National Policy Statements. Specific commitment is also made to *‘ensure communities directly benefit from clean energy infrastructure they host by building upon existing approaches and encourage consistency in community benefits across communities.’*<sup>26</sup>
- 2.36 The Government has recently consulted upon the potential introduction of a mandatory community benefits scheme for low carbon infrastructure<sup>27</sup>. This affirms that community benefits can include both monetary (in-cash) and non-monetary (in-kind) contributions that improve the local economy, society and environment. It suggests that this could include funding to support community projects, funding to support community priorities such as local tourism, education and skills development opportunities, or in-kind benefits, such as direct investment in local infrastructure or donation of equipment. It identifies that these are additional to the intrinsic benefits that come from development and construction, such as local employment opportunities.
- 2.37 The working paper states that:
- ‘Provision of flexible community benefit funds that can be tailored to local context and preferences could maximise the impact of community benefit packages, helping to ensure a lasting legacy that reaches a wide pool of beneficiaries. If a decision is taken to mandate, the government would expect developers to work with local people to deliver the types of community benefits suited to their individual circumstances, rather than to apply a one-size-fits-all approach.’*<sup>28</sup>
- 2.38 Supporting evidence to the Government’s consultation reviewed published research and reflected on contributions from key stakeholders to affirm the positive impacts of community benefits and their role in enhancing support for local energy infrastructure, specifically identifying that: *‘Community benefits are more likely to be accepted if it*

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<sup>25</sup> [How can landowners harness onshore wind power opportunities | Trowers & Hamlins law firm](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Clean Power 2030: Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity](#), page 52

<sup>27</sup> [Community Benefits and Shared Ownership for Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure: working paper](#)

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, page 6

*aligns with local needs and is embedded in public engagement strategies...Acceptance improves when community benefits surpass perceived negative externalities.'*<sup>29</sup>

- 2.39 Careful consideration has been given to the recommendations included within the above papers and the Government's response and proposals. These are reflected in the design and scope of the benefits identified as potentially attributable to the Proposed Development within this report.

**UK Government Clean Energy Jobs Plan: Creating a generation of good jobs to deliver energy security**

- 2.40 As set out above, the government's Plan for Change set out their mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower, intended to kickstart economic growth and break down barriers to opportunity, through the creation of good jobs across the country, delivering energy security. The aforementioned Clean Power 2030 Plan, also sets out the pathway to a clean power system by 2030.
- 2.41 Alongside this, the government has made clear it's intentions to deliver the skilled workforce needed to meet the clean energy superpower ambitions, and as announced in the Get Britain Working White Paper<sup>30</sup>, the Department for Work and Pensions is reforming the employment system to tackle economic inactivity, and building an inclusive, and thriving workforce.
- 2.42 The Clean Energy Jobs Plan<sup>31</sup> brings this wider context together, setting out the UK Government's vision that the UK will be a global leader in clean energy sector talent, by creating hundreds of thousands of good, clean, energy jobs. Action taken to date already delivering more than £50 billion in clean energy investment, since July 2024. This is underpinned by an ambition to deliver economic security for workers and their communities, creating secure, well-paid jobs, upgrades to homes and building out the domestic supply chain.
- 2.43 The Government has pledged to invest £20 million to support measures such as the expansion of the Energy Skills Passport (into further clean energy sectors, including electricity networks); developing a fair work charter to ensure clean energy jobs are always good jobs; launching targeted support for veterans and service leavers; and launching five Clean Energy Technical Excellence Colleges to support learners to access new opportunities.
- 2.44 Clean Energy is already providing good jobs, with jobs in wind, nuclear and electricity networks all advertising average salaries of over £50,000, compared to the UK average of £37,000. For young people, these jobs offer higher levels of pay across occupations, with entry level roles commanding a 23% average pay premium in around 60% of occupations, whilst also providing security of a rapidly growing sector. Whilst the clean energy workforce is growing by around 8-10% in the UK in 2022 and 2023, other

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<sup>29</sup> [Community benefits and shared ownership for low carbon energy infrastructure: analytical annex \(accessible webpage\) - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>30</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, HM Treasury and Department for Education (November 2024), Get Britain Working White Paper

<sup>31</sup> UK Government (October 2025), Clean Energy Jobs Plan: Creating a new generation of good jobs to delivery energy security

countries have more jobs per capita. Industry investment in skills has also been falling in the UK in recent years, compared to European neighbours.

- 2.45 The government has also laid the foundations for delivering the skilled workforce needed to meet the clean energy superpower ambitions, by breaking down barriers to opportunity.
- 2.46 The commitments set out in the Jobs Plan, to deliver the clean energy workforce of the future area:
- Setting out workforce expectations and building certainty – providing greater certainty for employers and create the conditions to increase investment into skills;
  - Delivering the pipeline of skilled workers – by training up the next generation of British workers to ensure future skills;
  - Harnessing the potential of the UK workforce- by ensuring that people with the right skills to work in clean energy have clear, simple routes to transfer across sectors, and that those already working in the sector have opportunities to improve their skills and advance their clean energy careers;
  - Delivering not just jobs, but good jobs: with the ambition to offer good wages, stability, and the opportunity to progress in a varied career, and by improving job quality, it is intended to ensure that jobs are attractive to enter and stay in; and
  - Ensuring benefits for every nation and region: ensuring that no part of the UK misses out on the job opportunities from the clean energy transition, by supporting local leaders to coordinate with industry and education providers to develop bespoke local workforce plans, and by working closely with partners.
- 2.47 The Government has also committed to investing over £100 million into the Engineering Skills Package, to support engineering skills in clean energy occupations, as well as other priority sectors, including £10 million to support the provision of engineering T levels and Higher Education Providers offering clean energy engineering courses at levels 4-5. As well as this, commitment has been made to establishing five Clean Energy Technical Excellence Colleges (TECs) to specialise in training skills clean energy workforces for local and national businesses, in addition to the ten Construction TECs already confirmed.

### **Regional Policy and Strategy Context**

- 2.48 The Proposed Development is located within North West England, and as it straddles the Greater Manchester city region and county of Lancashire, policy context from these geographies have also been considered at a regional level.

### **Whole System Smart Energy Plan: Greater Manchester**

2.49 The Whole Systems Smart Energy Plan for Greater Manchester<sup>32</sup> sets out the ambition for the region to play a leading role in the low energy transition. The Plan recognises the importance of stimulating skills and training in the sector in order to role out the provision of new infrastructure, alongside the role out of retrofit measures, at the scale required. It specifically identifies that energy transition costs would be offset by several socio-economic benefits, including:

- Cost reduction and/or avoidance related to reduced energy usage;
- Improved efficiency and comfort levels;
- Improved air quality and carbon reduction;
- Employment opportunities;
- Increased energy security; and
- Improvements in health

### **Greater Manchester Five- Year Environment Plan: 2025-2030**

2.50 This Plan<sup>33</sup> responds to the vision articulated in the above documents and establishes an ambition to create a 'Manchester-Energy Model', a low carbon energy system, to assist with meeting the target of being carbon neutral by 2038. It identifies that this would be based around the three pillars of energy efficiency, energy generation and smart energy innovation.

2.51 The Plan identifies a particular commitment for homes, businesses and transport to be powered through renewable energy, built all over Greater Manchester, including onshore wind, to reduce transmission losses and give people more control over their energy bills.

2.52 The Environment Plan recognises the important role community wealth building can play in contributing to green growth, looking where possible to redirect wealth back into the local economy through progressive procurement of goods and services, which support the development of good social enterprises and shorter supply chains.

2.53 The strategy sets out eight key aims for the city region, the key ones being:

- Energy infrastructure is smart, flexible and fit for a low carbon future
- Our natural environment is enhanced, providing benefits for people, the economy and nature
- Our air quality enhances the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the city region

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<sup>32</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2019), SSH Phase 2, D40: Whole System Smart Energy Plan- Greater Manchester

<sup>33</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (December 2024), Five Year Environment Plan (2025-2030)

- Our economy will grow sustainably because of the interventions we make to benefit both our residents and businesses.

#### **Places for Everyone: Joint Development Plan**

- 2.54 Places for Everyone<sup>34</sup> provides the long-term plan for the nine Greater Manchester districts, including Rochdale (as well as Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan), to enable the provision of jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth.
- 2.55 Responding to the GM Strategy in particular, it recognises the target of becoming a carbon neutral city region by 2038 as well as the stated aim to create ‘good jobs’, and high-quality employment opportunities for local residents.
- 2.56 Ten objectives are established, with the following of direct relevance to the Proposed Development:
- **Objective 3: Playing a part in ensuring a thriving and productive economy in all parts of Greater Manchester**
  - **Objective 4: Maximise the potential arising from our national and international assets, by:**
    - Improve access for local people to jobs in these locations
    - Ensure infrastructure provision supports growth in these locations
  - **Objective 5: Reduce Inequalities and improve prosperity, by:**
    - Ensure people in all of our neighbourhoods have access to skills, training and employment opportunities
    - Reduce the number of our wards in the 10% most deprived nationally
  - **Objective 7: Playing our part in ensuring that Greater Manchester is a more resilient and carbon neutral city- region, by:**
    - Promote carbon neutrality of new development by 2028
    - Promote sustainable patterns of development that minimise the need to travel and contribute to cleaner air
    - Improve energy efficiency and the generation of renewable and low carbon energy
  - **Objective 9: Ensure access to physical and social infrastructure, by:**
    - Ensure that our communities and businesses are supported by infrastructure

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<sup>34</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (December 2024), Places for Everyone: Joint Development Plan

- Improve the capacity and network coverage of digital, energy, telecoms, transport and water in key growth locations
- 2.57 The Proposed Development provides the opportunity to make a positive contribution to Greater Manchester’s strategic ambition with regards the transition to clean energy and through the creation of inclusive employment opportunities.

**The Greater Manchester Strategy 2021 – 2031: good lives for all**

- 2.58 The Greater Manchester Strategy<sup>35</sup> establishes an ambition that the conurbation becomes *‘greener, fairer, more prosperous, driven by opportunities in all localities across the conurbation.’* It specifically responds to the identified need to respond to *‘the interconnected challenges of climate change and inequality’*, which it identifies as today’s most pressing issues.
- 2.59 In responding to the climate emergency the Strategy adopts a carbon neutral target date of 2038, which it recognises requires urgent action.
- 2.60 The Strategy affirms that in realising its ambition Greater Manchester will *‘ensure that those most vulnerable in our society benefit from innovation, investment and development. Delivering on Greater Manchester’s carbon neutrality ambition will drive levelling up across our city-region, providing opportunities for people and places, whilst also tackling issues such as fuel poverty.’*<sup>36</sup>

**Greater Manchester Strategy 2025-35: together we are Greater Manchester**

- 2.61 The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)<sup>37</sup> was published in 2025 by the GMCA, providing a plan for all communities, neighbourhoods towns and cities which make up the city-region. It establishes a shared vision of:
- ‘A thriving city region where everyone can live a good life.’*
- 2.62 One of the supporting goals of the Strategy is to create a *‘greener and more equal place’*. This includes reference to creating an environment where *‘everyone will have a safe, healthy, low carbon, nature rich environment, where they can live well and thrive, and which is resilient to climate change.’*
- 2.63 Of particular note, is the commitment to *‘increase the amount of renewable energy and heat generated in Greater Manchester, to increase energy security and reduce the cost of energy for all’*.
- 2.64 The Strategy sets out that the commitment to achieve net zero by 2038 is central to the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, to ensure the wellbeing of future generations. It notes that the region is already taking a leading role in the shift towards green energy, increasing solar, wind and green hydrogen in particular, helping to increase the contribution towards the UK’s renewable energy.

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<sup>35</sup> [GMCA Greater Manchester Strategy 2021–2031](#)

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid*, page 12

<sup>37</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2025) Greater Manchester Strategy (2025-2035)

### **Greater Manchester Local Growth Plan**

- 2.65 The GMCA published the Local Growth Plan (LGP) in January 2026<sup>38</sup>, which it observes is one of the supporting plans under the GMS. It is accompanied by a set of Sector Development Plans for five of GM's 'frontier' or growth sectors.
- 2.66 Of particular note is the Low Carbon Sector Development Plan<sup>39</sup>. This states that Greater Manchester has a growing concentration of businesses and employment in areas such as renewable energy and energy storage.
- 2.67 Energy geography is also noted to be an important dimension of Greater Manchester's future growth, and key opportunity area. It is stated that there is significant potential for onshore renewable energy generation, particularly wind. Harnessing this potential is highlighted as being key to supporting Greater Manchester's decarbonisation ambitions and to create opportunities for local supply chains and community energy initiatives.
- 2.68 The strength of Greater Manchester's renewable sector is also recognised on the global stage. The Plan notes that of the region's £1,050 million low carbon environmental goods and services (LCEGS), 56% were from the renewable energy sub sector.

### **Lancashire 2050**

- 2.69 The Lancashire 2050 Strategy<sup>40</sup> presents a framework around 8 priority areas.
- 2.70 One of these priority areas is 'Environment and climate' under which the Strategy affirms a commitment to meet low carbon ambitions through the promotion of clean energy and by enhancing the natural environment. It identifies a priority to *'increase energy generation from low carbon sources, including renewables'* and a further one to *'significantly growth the low carbon and environment sectors of Lancashire's economy.'*
- 2.71 The 'Economic prosperity' priority also affirms the ambition to realise growth potential in existing and emerging key sectors, with low carbon and renewables specifically picked out. Within this priority the importance of maximising the economic benefits of Lancashire's tourism offer is also stated.

### **Emerging Lancashire Growth Plan 2025-2035: Powering innovation to drive economic growth**

- 2.72 The Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA) – comprised of LCC plus the unitary authorities of Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen – was officially established in early 2025, and it has already launched a consultation on a Growth Plan for the period from 2025 to 2035<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>38</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (January 2026) Greater Manchester Local Growth Plan

<sup>39</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority (November 2025), Sector Development Plan: Low Carbon

<sup>40</sup> Lancashire 2050, Lancashire2050.co.uk

<sup>41</sup> Lancashire Combined County Authority (February 2025) The Lancashire Growth Plan 2025 – 2035, consultation version

- 2.73 The Plan establishes its intent to provide *‘a platform to restate our ambition, our potential, our innate strengths and the unique contribution we can make to our national growth mission.’*<sup>42</sup>
- 2.74 It identifies, amongst a series of priorities, the ambition to create an Economy Driving Clean Growth, recognising that *‘Lancashire’s significant capabilities in clean energy and nuclear not only provides energy security but also the availability of more cost-effective power to enable Lancashire’s (and the UK’s) other key sectors to remain globally competitive.’*<sup>43</sup>
- 2.75 Like the Places for Everyone Plan referenced above, the Plan cites the aim to *‘drive the growth of good employment opportunities, seeking inclusive growth that maximises opportunities for residents, enabling them to secure economic health and wellbeing.’* In this context it identifies a series of themes including ensuring a skilled and productive workforce and the integration and capturing of social value.
- 2.76 The Proposed Development will equally make a positive contribution to achieving Lancashire’s stated ambitions and priority areas to support growth, with specific reference to supporting the creation of clean energy and the creation of related employment opportunities.

## Local Policy and Strategy Context

### Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan: Rochdale

- 2.77 As set out in **Rochdale Council’s Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan**<sup>44</sup>, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed the Council and wider borough, to being carbon neutral by 2038, in line with the Greater Manchester Strategy. It highlights that the greatest health and wellbeing impacts of climate change are felt by the most disadvantaged or vulnerable in society, and that respiratory diseases in the borough are significant. A core commitment of the Council is to increase renewable energy generation in the borough (from 15 GWh to 141 GWh by 2030).

### Rochdale Adopted Core Strategy (2016)

- 2.78 Rochdale’s Core Strategy<sup>45</sup> also includes several key policies which support the development of renewable energy generation, such as:
- **SP1: Rochdale borough’s role in the city region:** *Rochdale borough will contribute to the success of the Manchester City region and the North West by playing its part in the delivery of sustainable development and investment that meets national and sub-regional objectives for housing and employment. To do this, we will.... deliver green infrastructure improvements and appropriate opportunities for renewable energy generation, where adverse impacts can be satisfactorily addressed to support wider sub regional development and environmental objectives;*

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<sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, Foreword 1

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, page 21

<sup>44</sup> Rochdale Borough Council (2021), Rochdale’s Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan

<sup>45</sup> Rochdale Borough Council (2016), Rochdale Adopted Core Strategy

- **E2: Increasing jobs and prosperity:** we will ensure a sufficient supply of suitable land, buildings and infrastructure to support the creation and retention of successful businesses, and increase the number and quality of jobs to create a prosperous lower carbon economy.
- **G1: Tackling and adapting to climate change:** we will address climate change and ensure growth does not increase CO2 emissions by... encouraging and promoting renewable energy developments...make best use of open space to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.... And secure planning obligations for energy infrastructure and climate change adaptation measures.
- **G3: Renewable and low carbon energy developments:** The Council will promote renewable, low and zero carbon energy generating developments, including wind, to contribute towards energy security for Greater Manchester and the North West. Planning permission will only be granted if the development is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy; and following consultation, it can be demonstrated that planning impacts identified by local communities have been fully addressed, and has community backing.

#### **Rossendale's Climate Change Strategy**

- 2.79 Rossendale Council has pledged to work towards ensuring that the Council and the Borough is carbon neutral by 2030. Rossendale's Climate Change Strategy<sup>46</sup> places an emphasis on 'actively' moving to more renewable sources of energy generation and acknowledges that a key contribution to helping climate change is through:

*"Both a reduction in the overall consumption of energy and the adoption of more renewable energy sources to fulfil our local demand".*

#### **Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 (Adopted December 2021)**

- 2.80 The Rossendale Local Plan<sup>47</sup> also includes several policies related to the generation of renewable energy, including:

- **Policy ENV7: Wind Turbines:** Commercial proposals for new wind turbines will be supported if:
  - *Impacts on the local community have been taken into account and fully addressed; proposals are appropriate to the area; and there is no unacceptable harm to neighbourhood amenity... or public rights of way;*
  - *It is recognised that in recent years, Rossendale has accommodated a considerable amount of wind energy development, reflecting the high wind resource in the area... larger turbines may be considered within, or adjacent to, the existing Scout Moor Windfarm.*
- **SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development:** presumption in favour of sustainable development, in line with the NPPF. The Council will work

<sup>46</sup> Rossendale Borough Council - Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030

<sup>47</sup> Rossendale Borough Council (2021), Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036

*proactively to find joint solutions and secure development which improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.*

### **Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale (2018-2033)**

- 2.81 The Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale<sup>48</sup>, includes an ambition for Rossendale's economy to show strong and sustainable growth, with high levels of investment and for residents to benefit from improved life chances and enhanced employment and skills opportunities. A particularly relevant priority is to work alongside the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, to support the expansion of the renewable energy sector locally, and to identify income generation opportunities, and to improve educational attainment and vocational skills to match the demands from industry.

### **Summary of Strategic Context**

- 2.82 As the subsequent sections of this report establish, the Proposed Development has the potential to create various socio-economic benefits. These are in line with national, regional and local strategy and policy documents.
- 2.83 The Government's commitment and stated ambition to secure clean energy and achieve net zero targets require investment such as that proposed by Scout Moor II. It has recognised this through its lifting of the ban for on-shore wind and its ongoing process of planning reform to rapidly see development of this nature permissioned and generating energy. It has also emphasised the importance of ensuring that the wider economic benefits of this investment, are realised within local communities, through the capturing of direct employment opportunities but also wider in-direct community-led benefits. This is particularly noted as a key ambition of the Clean Energy Jobs Plan, the vision of which is that the UK will be a global leader in clean energy sector talent, by creating hundreds of thousands of good, clean, energy jobs across the country.
- 2.84 In responding to recommendations on achieving this specific mission, the Government has recognised the importance of engagement with communities and an understanding of their local challenges and issues to ensure that benefits are tailored accordingly. Subsequent sections of this report consider the outcomes of a detailed socio-economic local needs assessment and the insights gained through community engagement exercises which are documented in more detail within the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 2.85 National ambitions are reflected in regional level strategies and policies with both Greater Manchester and Lancashire having developed or developing strategies which recognise the importance of addressing the need to develop clean renewable energy and capture the opportunities it presents to generate inclusive employment opportunities.
- 2.86 Alignment with local policy has also been identified, where it is recognised that it will generate renewable energy and create high-quality employment opportunities, further diversifying the region's economic base and generating spend in the local economy through wage expenditure. Additional opportunities have been identified, and are

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<sup>48</sup> Rossendale Borough Council (2018), Economic Development Strategy for Rossendale 2018-2033

presented in this report, which will ensure that additional societal and health and wellbeing benefits are optimised.

### 3. Cubico's Social Value Ethos and Ambitions

- 3.1 The review of policy and strategy in the preceding section has highlighted the expectations that the Government places on 'developers' of new clean energy infrastructure.
- 3.2 This section presents an overview of Cubico's Environmental, Social and Governance credentials highlighting that with operations in nine countries, and a diverse portfolio of various renewable energy projects, there are many economic and social benefits associated with Cubico's existing activities as an organisation.
- 3.3 It proceeds to introduce the ***Scout Moor II Community Benefits Charter***, which Cubico has developed, which has taken into account the outcomes of community engagement and the appreciation of identified local socio-economic issues and needs (considered in more detail in subsequent sections). This provides an important overarching framework for the consideration of the associated benefits identified in this report and Cubico's commitment to maximising their impact locally.

#### **Cubico Environmental, Social and Governance Priorities**

- 3.4 Cubico is a leading global renewable energy business, committed to combating climate change and accelerating the transition to a sustainable, net-zero future. As set out in their corporate ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) report<sup>49</sup>, their strategic plan, and ethos of the business, is centred around **powering the clean energy transition**, that is, to deliver reliable, locally sourced, clean energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, in partnership with local communities. This is underpinned by three core principles:
- **Protecting the environment:** with a commitment to make best efforts to safeguard the environment, reduce emissions and lower their environmental footprint. Environmental stewardship is central to operations, shaping decisions across the business and throughout the lifecycle of assets.
  - **Caring for our people and communities:** with a recognition that people's lives are improved through access to affordable, reliable and cleaner energy; and
  - **Ensuring ethical governance:** with robust governance central to responsible business and sustainable long term performance.

- 3.5 The ESG report outlines Cubico's strategy relating to each element of ESG, as follows:

#### ***Environmental***

- 3.6 Cubico's mission extends beyond providing clean, affordable and reliable energy; it includes a commitment to environmental stewardship. This includes commitments towards:
- Building a cleaner energy future;

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<sup>49</sup> Cubico Sustainable Investments (2026), Energy for tomorrow: ESG Report 2025

- Emissions reductions;
- Protecting land and wildlife;
- Promoting efficient water usage; and
- Improving waste management.

3.7 To ensure that commitments are adhered to, Cubico have implemented a Environmental Management System (EMS), to provide a risk management framework, and a degree of accountability towards the environmental impacts of schemes, whilst also helping to enhance operational efficiency. New methods to reduce the environmental impact of operations are also continually explored, both associated with their direct activities, as well as within their wider supply chain (Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions).

### ***Social***

3.8 As well as increasing access to renewable energy, Cubico also commit to enhancing the wellbeing of both employees and staff, as well as contributing to economic prosperity through policies targeted towards:

- Enhancing our communities;
- Fostering a culture of health and safety;
- Championing communities ;
- The next generation of energy champions;
- Valuing the wellbeing of staff; and
- Prioritising diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I);

3.9 Before applying for planning permission for new projects, independent evaluations of the potential environmental and social impacts are undertaken (such as this report), as well as fostering open dialogue and collaborative partnerships, to identify local needs and priorities.

3.10 Central to the company ethos, is a strong commitment to diversity, recognised as being central to driving innovation and improvising decision making, and intended to build a workforce that reflects the diverse communities that are served by their projects.

3.11 Safety is also a central consideration across all projects, adhering to the strictest protocols, and committing to “zero harm” across all aspects of the business, which includes, for example, ensuring the safety of employees through controls and regular site safety walks.

3.12 As well as promoting this culture of inclusion within the workforce, engaging with communities is at the heart of Cubico’s strategy. The importance of being a committed delivery partner is recognised, adopting long term, sustainable approaches, whilst also maximising tangible impacts in the communities which are operated within.

- 3.13 Under the company's CSR programme, a range of educational, social and economic initiatives are supported, intended to foster sustainable development and positive change. In 2025 alone, c.\$2.92 million (USD) was invested in communities through their corporate CSR programme.

#### **Governance**

- 3.14 The importance of transparent, ethical and effective governance structures is also recognised, to ensure that sustainability is systematically integrated throughout all aspects of the organisation. This includes policies targeted towards:
- Strengthening sustainable growth;
  - Board and management composition;
  - Driving a strong governance culture;
  - Operating ethically and with integrity; and
  - Managing risk and accountability.
- 3.15 Governance and risk management practices are continually reviewed to ensure commitments towards long term value creation and sustainable growth objectives are met. This is reflected in the leadership ethos of the organisation, and a core pillar of the strategic plan, to ensure lasting benefits for communities, as industry experts.

#### **Commitment to Sustainable Development**

- 3.16 This ethos of sustainability is also embedded throughout the business operations, from generating clean energy and managing resources efficiently, to engaging with local communities and supporting employees, Cubico's goal is to create long term value, whilst minimising environmental impact. In 2024, this was externally recognised by GRESB, a global sustainability benchmark, that assesses and recognises companies, funds and assets that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in sustainability. Cubico received a score of 92 (out of 100), well above both the GRESB average of 86, and peer average of 87, an important validation of how ESG has been integrated throughout the business<sup>50</sup>.
- 3.17 Cubico have also aligned their existing work to 9 of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), an internationally recognised method to demonstrate social value impact, as presented in **Figure 3.1**, below.

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<sup>50</sup> Cubico Sustainable Investments (2025), Powering a greener tomorrow: ESG Report 2024

**Figure 3.1: UN SDGs aligned with Cubico's ESG priorities**



#### **Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm Community Benefits Charter**

- 3.18 Cubico's *Scout Moor II Community Benefits Charter* (**Appendix 1**) sets out the clear community benefit commitments being made to communities surrounding the Proposed Development. It provides the framework through which the project's social value ambitions will be delivered, ensuring a positive and lasting socio-economic and environmental legacy for Rochdale, Rossendale, and the wider area.
- 3.19 At its core, the Charter makes three overarching commitments:
1. **Engaging the Community with Transparency** – ensuring that local voices help shape the project and guide key decisions through open, honest engagement.
  2. **Investing in the Community at Every Stage** – including the establishment of the Scout Moor Development Trust; an independent organisation to manage and administer the Community Wealth Fund. This will direct long-term financial support into the communities most impacted by the wind farm. The fund will be independently managed, and a Community Liaison Group (CLG) – secured through planning conditions – will ensure Cubico's commitments are upheld with community-led oversight and transparency.
  3. **Creating Local Opportunities** – supporting local businesses to provide apprenticeships, training, and economic growth close to home.
- 3.20 The Charter has been shaped by the extensive public consultation undertaken prior to submission of this application. It sets out a clear proposition to the community, responding to the local priorities identified through that engagement. These include:
- **Protecting green spaces** and improving the local environment
  - **Tackling illegal off-roading** to make the area safer and more sustainable

- **Supporting local businesses** and boosting the local economy
  - **Providing targeted funding** to help with cost-of-living challenges
  - **Preserving local heritage** and community identity
- 3.21 The Charter is considered a 'living document', meaning that local residents, businesses, and community groups will continue to have the opportunity to shape how the benefits of the Proposed Development are realised over time.
- 3.22 Cubico is committed to working closely with communities throughout the lifetime of the project and will continue to build on this framework to ensure that a binding community benefit proposition is in place by the time construction begins.
- 3.23 Cubico's Community Benefits Charter should be read in conjunction with this assessment and is included in full in **Appendix 1**.

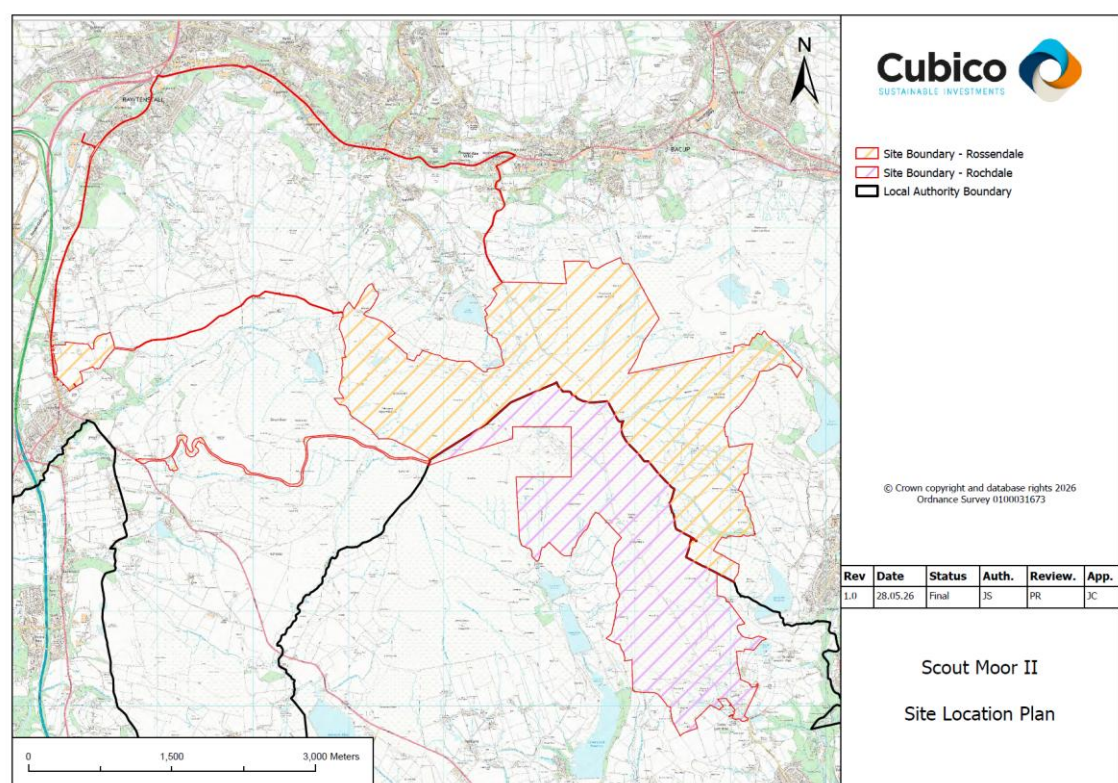
# 4. Assessment Methodology

4.1 This section explains the study area and the statistical geographies used in the assessment of current socio-economic condition, as well as the methodology used to assess the economic impact from the Proposed Development.

## Study Area for the Assessment

4.2 The site’s location within the wider geographical areas is shown in **Figure 4.1**.

**Figure 4.1: Site Location**



*Source: Cubico Sustainable Investments, 2026*

4.3 The site boundary is shown at **Figure 4.2** and as referenced earlier in this report, this illustrates how it spans the boroughs of Rochdale and Rossendale.

Source: Cubico Sustainable Investments, 2026

- 4.4 For the purposes of the economic and social benefits assessment, a functional economic geography<sup>51</sup> has been determined using spatial area definitions recommended in the RenewableUK guidance<sup>52</sup>.
- 4.5 This has resulted in economic impacts being measured at three spatial scales:
- The **Local Impact Area**, as the combined Rochdale and Rossendale boroughs;
  - The **Wider Impact Area**, as the North West region; and
  - The **National Impact Area**, as the United Kingdom as a whole.
- 4.6 Although economic impacts are not presented at this scale, where data is available, more localised baseline analysis is presented at a scale for the Community Impact Area, consisting of 52 different Lower Super Output Area<sup>53</sup> (LSOA) geographies<sup>54</sup>.

<sup>51</sup> A functional economic geography is an area that shares similar economic conditions that will reflect the drivers of the local economy in which the Proposed Development is located.

<sup>52</sup> RenewableUK (2015), Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014. Page 3

<sup>53</sup> LSOAs are statistically defined small areas designed for the reporting of data, accommodating between 400 and 1,200 households and with a resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.

<sup>54</sup> LSOAs forming the Community Impact Area are spread across 10 Local Authority wards, which are primarily located within the boroughs of Rossendale and Rochdale, albeit one Bury ward (Ramsbottom) is included as part of the Community Impact Area, given its relative proximity to the Site.

## Economic and Social Benefits Assessment Methodology

- 4.7 A range of accepted guidance and robust data sources has been used in the approach to assessing economic impacts to ensure the assessment is transparent, evidence-based and robust.
- 4.8 Impacts are assessed for each of the following phases:
- **Pre-Development Phase:** including the project design, environmental studies, legal agreements, funding and planning.
  - **Construction Phase:** including preparing the site, manufacturing and installing the turbines, balance of plant<sup>55</sup> and establishing grid connections.
  - **Operation and Maintenance Phase (O&M):** maintaining and operating the site and the turbines, over a period which is assumed to be 40 years for the Proposed Development.
- 4.9 To set the calculated potential economic benefits of the Proposed Development in context a detailed **socio-economic profiling exercise considering local needs** has been undertaken. This is presented in **Section 3**. The analysis draws upon the outputs of the Turley Economics Social Value Toolkit which collates a large volume of secondary datasets and benchmarks localised trends against the regional and national levels. Key datasets used include Index Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Census 2021 and the Annual Population Survey (APS), alongside data issued by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Education (DfE), Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Sports England and the Fields in Trust (FIT).
- 4.10 Acknowledging the importance placed on **community engagement and insight**, as described in national policy and strategy in **Section 2**, an overview of the applicable feedback obtained through an extensive consultation process, described further in the Statement of Community Involvement, is included in **Section 6**.
- Estimating Quantifiable Benefits - Methodological Overview**
- 4.11 Primarily, the assessment is informed by guidance published by RenewableUK in assessing the economic impact of onshore wind schemes<sup>56</sup>, supplemented by assumptions set out within the 2014 Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Additionality Guide (4<sup>th</sup> edition)<sup>57</sup>. The assessment also draws on published statistical data sources, including from the ONS, Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and organisations such as Experian, as well as information specific to the Proposed Development provided by Cubico.
- 4.12 'Net additional employment' is a term used to refer to the final scale of employment that is generated once several economic considerations have been accounted for. The

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<sup>55</sup> Balance of plant refers to all infrastructure components with the exception of the generating unit itself. This includes design and preliminaries such as roads, hardstandings, cable trenching, construction compound and engineering management

<sup>56</sup> RenewableUK (2012) Direct & Wider Economic Impacts / RenewableUK (2015) Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014

<sup>57</sup> Homes and Communities Agency (2014) Additionality Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

net additional employment is the sum of the direct, indirect and induced employment impacts. As such, economic impact estimates are presented as net figures, accounting for direct and indirect impacts as well as induced impacts.

- 4.13 For each phase, direct and indirect jobs are assessed in combination since the investment costs will be distributed through both direct and indirect effects. Induced effects are assessed separately, to consider the multiplier effect from the direct and indirect roles through increased wage expenditure in the economy.

#### **Geographic Retention of Economic Impacts**

- 4.14 The economic impact assessment study area is based on the Local and Wider Impact Areas defined previously in this report. RenewableUK guidance<sup>58</sup> estimates the share of investment that will be retained within each spatial scale. This is presented in **Table 6.1** below.
- 4.15 To validate this analysis, Cubico also provided the spatial breakdown of estimated capital expenditure. At 47%, Cubico's estimated UK capital expenditure broadly aligned with that presented in RenewableUK's analysis of construction phase expenditure that is generally retained within the UK (50%). As such, RenewableUK's figures have also been considered appropriate to apply in relation to the local and regional geographies.

**Table 4.1: Geographic Distribution of Investment**

|                         | Rochdale and Rossendale | North West | UK  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----|
| Development             | 13%                     | 59%        | 98% |
| Construction            | 12%                     | 36%        | 50% |
| Operation & Maintenance | 42%                     | 58%        | 87% |

*Source: RenewableUK (2015)*

- 4.16 The quantifiable potential benefits are presented in **Section 7**.

#### **Capturing non-quantifiable benefits**

- 4.17 Non-quantifiable benefits are also considered in relation to the Proposed Developments' contribution to economic and social objectives for the local area and more widely.
- 4.18 Where the comparative impact of non-quantifiable benefits is more difficult to evaluate they should be considered in the context of the extent to which they will provide positive benefits which align with the ambitions and objectives set out in applicable strategies and policies, with specific reference to those presented in **Section 2**.

<sup>58</sup> RenewableUK (2015) Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014. Page 3

- 4.19 Within **Section 8** where potential community and societal benefits are presented, these should also be evaluated in line with the Applicant's wider commitments to ESG (**Section 3**), and through planning mechanisms.
- 4.20 It must be acknowledged that the realisation of the potential attributed non-quantifiable benefits is in many cases dependent on external factors. This includes the realisation of opportunities offered.

## 5. Local Needs Assessment

- 5.1 This section presents an assessment of the socio-economic context of Proposed Development. It draws out the key indicators of relevance in framing potential activities and interventions to be targeted in generating social value across relevant geographies.
- 5.2 The analysis covers a breadth of indicators with topics grouped into themes, specifically related to:
- Population
  - Deprivation
  - Employment
  - Education and Skills
  - Fuel Poverty
  - Health & Wellbeing

### **Appreciating the local context**

- 5.3 The Impact Areas used to assess potential attributable benefits are set out in **Section 4** and used consistently through the remainder of this report. In appraising the socio-economic context it is recognised that there is value in understanding a more localised profile of the communities in proximity to the Proposed Development. This assists in ensuring that where possible benefits will be optimised and respond to local needs.
- 5.4 To achieve this where data availability facilitates within this section a more localised analysis is also provided, which has been defined using a more fine-grained analysis across Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) geographies<sup>59</sup>, referred to as the 'Community Impact Area' within this section. This consists of 52 different LSOAs<sup>60</sup>. The analysis has primarily focussed on assessing deprivation as well as claimant count data as a key indicator of employment and skills need. This is in recognition of the fact that employment related factors are identified as a key cause of deprivation across the Local Impact Area, coupled with the data availability at this scale.

### **Population**

- 5.5 Understanding the size of population and the age profile is important where they are the receptors of potential benefits which can be attributed to the Proposed

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<sup>59</sup> LSOAs are statistically defined small areas designed for the reporting of data, accommodating between 400 and 1,200 households and with a resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.

<sup>60</sup> LSOAs forming the Community Impact Area are spread across 10 Local Authority wards, which are primarily located within the boroughs of Rossendale and Rochdale, albeit one Bury ward (Ramsbottom) is included as part of the Community Impact Area, given its relative proximity to the Site.

Development. **Table 5.1** shows the total size of the population and a broad profile by age groups.

**Table 5.1: Population estimates and age profile**

|                       | Age Group |       |       |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
|                       | 0-15      | 16-64 | 65+   |
| Community Impact Area | 18.2%     | 61.6% | 20.2% |
| Local Impact Area     | 21.1%     | 61.8% | 17.1% |
| Wider Impact Area     | 18.6%     | 62.6% | 18.8% |
| England               | 18.4%     | 62.9% | 18.7% |

*Source: ONS (2024), Population Estimates – Local authority based by five-year age band)*

- 5.6 Across the Local Impact Area, a higher proportion of residents are under the age of 15. This demonstrates the importance of provision of long term local education, training and skills opportunities within these surrounding boroughs, to encourage a strong working age demographic in the future. However, at a more localised geography, residents within the Community Impact Area tend to be older, with a greater proportion of residents aged over 65<sup>61</sup>. This age demographic in particular is likely to have the highest demands on energy provision, to heat their homes.
- 5.7 Whilst the current demographic profile is presented above, the population of each area will continue to change. **Table 5.2** uses the latest published official projection of population growth to show how the population of the Local Impact Area is projected to change in overall terms and by the same age groupings.

**Table 5.2: Population projections across the Local Impact Area**

|                      | 2026    | 2030    | 2035    | 2040    | 2045    |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Projected Population | 305,915 | 311,177 | 325,940 | 319,123 | 326,346 |
| 0-15                 | 20.2%   | 19.1%   | 18.1%   | 17.7%   | 17.6%   |
| 16-64                | 62.2%   | 62.3%   | 62.5%   | 62.7%   | 62.9%   |
| 65+                  | 17.7%   | 18.5%   | 19.4%   | 19.6%   | 19.6%   |

*Source: ONS 2024-based Sub National Population Projections*

- 5.8 This suggests that the total population of the Local Impact Area is predicted to increase by 8.3% by 2045. However, the greatest proportional increase is anticipated to be older residents, where over time, it is estimated that 19.6% of the total population will be aged over 65. The proportion of working age residents supporting the economy is also projected to increase albeit marginally, and consequently, the proportion of children

<sup>61</sup> ONS (2024) Population estimates, Local Authority based by five year age band

under the age of 15<sup>62</sup> is projected to decline demonstrating the importance of creating high quality, future proofed employment opportunities.

### Deprivation

5.9 The IMD<sup>63</sup> provides the definitive means of benchmarking comparative deprivation at a Local Authority level against the defined domains.

5.10 There are varying levels of deprivation between both Local Authorities.

- **Rochdale** ranks 19<sup>th</sup> out of 296 Local Authorities in England (where 1 is the most deprived and 296 is the least deprived) in terms of overall deprivation, thus indicating that Rochdale ranks within the first decile<sup>64</sup> for most deprived Local Authorities.
- **Rossendale** ranks 60<sup>th</sup> out of 296 Local Authorities in England in terms of overall deprivation, meaning it ranks within the second decile for most deprived Local Authorities.

5.11 **Table 5.3** compares the IMD ranking of the Local Impact Area with neighbouring local authorities located within the Wider Impact Area. This indicates that much of the surrounding area is relatively deprived in the context of the country as a whole, demonstrating a need to deliver focused Social Value initiatives within this area.

**Table 5.3: IMD Rank by Local Authority**

| Local Authority       | IMD Ranking (out of 296) | IMD Decile |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>Rochdale</b>       | <b>19</b>                | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Rossendale</b>     | <b>60</b>                | <b>2</b>   |
| Burnley               | 4                        | 1          |
| Calderdale            | 71                       | 3          |
| Kirklees              | 85                       | 3          |
| Oldham                | 15                       | 1          |
| Manchester            | 2                        | 1          |
| Bury                  | 107                      | 4          |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 11                       | 1          |
| Hyndburn              | 16                       | 1          |

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025)

5.12 **Table 5.4** shows IMD broken by each of the seven defined ‘domains’ of deprivation which form the IMD score, allowing identification of any specific domains of deprivation across both localities.

<sup>62</sup> ONS 2024-based Sub National Population Projections

<sup>63</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025) English indices of deprivation

<sup>64</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation splits England’s 296 local authorities into 10 different deciles, with the 1<sup>st</sup> decile being the most deprived and the 10<sup>th</sup> decile being the least. English local authorities ranked 1-30 are included in the 1<sup>st</sup> decile of deprivation, 31-60 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 61-90 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 91-120 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 121-150 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 151-180 in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 181-209 in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 210-238 in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 239-267 in the 9<sup>th</sup>, and 268-296 in the 10<sup>th</sup> decile.

- **Rochdale** exhibits high degree of deprivation relating to income, employment, health and crime, ranking within the most 10% most deprived Local Authorities across England against these indicators.
- **Rossendale** also ranks within the most deprived 10% of Local Authorities relating to living environment, and within the 20% most deprived relating to health and barriers to housing and services.

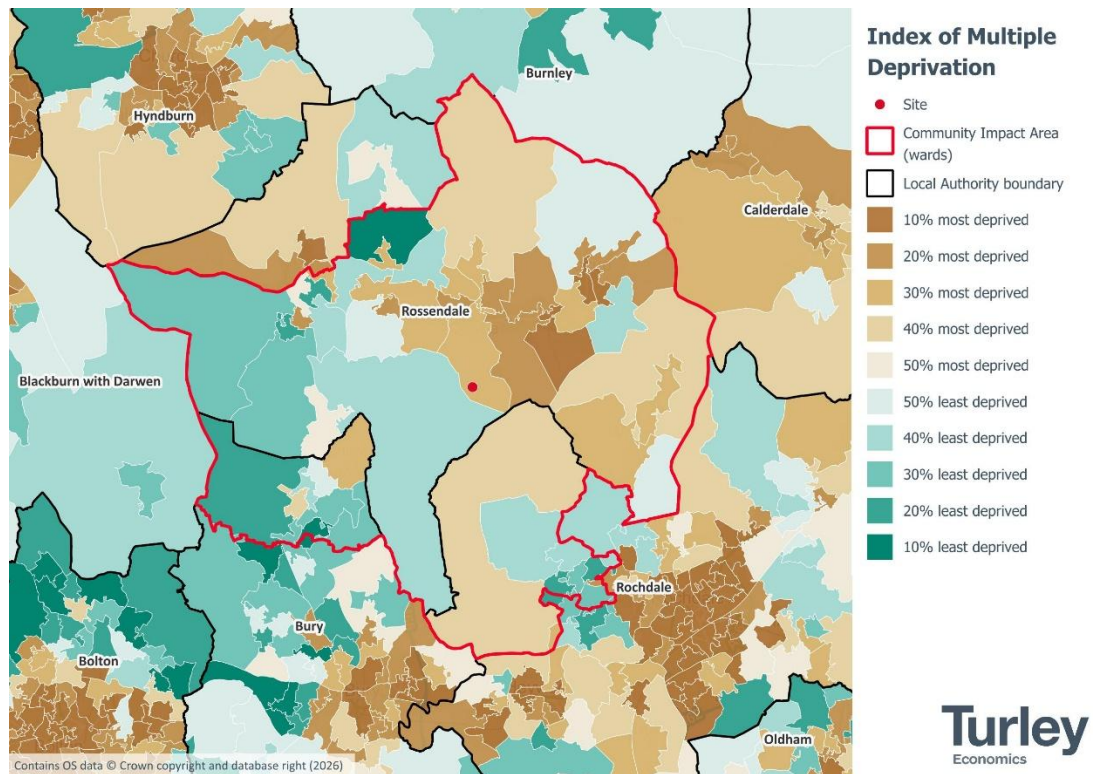
**Table 5.4: IMD Domains by Decile in Rochdale and Rossendale**

|            | Income | Employment | Education | Health | Crime | Barriers to Housing & Services | Living Environment | Overall IMD Decile |
|------------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rochdale   | 1      | 1          | 2         | 1      | 1     | 5                              | 3                  | 1                  |
| Rossendale | 4      | 3          | 6         | 2      | 3     | 2                              | 1                  | 2                  |

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025)

5.13 It is also important to consider deprivation in the context of the Community Impact Area immediately surrounding the Site. **Figure 5.1** illustrates deprivation at LSOA level in the Community Impact Area, and is instructive in identifying pockets of deprivation. As shown, the greatest levels of deprivation exist in the north east of the Community Impact Area, as well in the surrounding area, particularly within the urban centres of Rochdale, Bury, Bolton and Hyndburn.

**Figure 5.1: Community Impact Area: IMD by LSOA**



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025)

### Employment

- 5.14 As demonstrated in **Table 5.4**, employment deprivation is identified as a comparatively important issue within the Local Impact Area.
- 5.15 The Proposed Development presents a significant opportunity to create new construction employment opportunities for these residents, and it is also important to consider evidence of linked issues related to the local labour-force, including skills and qualifications.
- 5.16 Analysis reveals several areas where the provision of new jobs, alongside potential opportunities to improve skills or provide training, would represent a positive benefit for residents currently living within these communities.
- 5.17 **Table 5.5** demonstrates that the economic activity rate of working age people (aged 16-64) is slightly lower in Rochdale than in Rossendale. The regional rate is also lower than nationally<sup>65</sup>. Employment rates in Rochdale and Rossendale are also lower than those recorded in the region and nationally<sup>66</sup>.

<sup>65</sup> Office for National Statistics, via NOMIS (2026) Annual Population Survey: January 2025 – December 2025

<sup>66</sup> Ibid

**Table 5.5: Economic Activity and Employment Rate, Residents Aged 16-64**

|                        | Rochdale | Rossendale | North West | England |
|------------------------|----------|------------|------------|---------|
| Economic Activity Rate | 74%      | 76%        | 77%        | 79%     |
| Employment Rate        | 69%      | 71%        | 74%        | 76%     |

Source: Annual Population Survey (2025)

- 5.18 As of March 2026, approximately 6.0% of residents aged 16-64 were claiming Universal Credit in Rochdale, principally for the reason of being unemployed (equating to c. 8,780 people). This far exceeds the proportion, and number of claimants across Rossendale, where 3.9% of the working aged population were claimants (c. 1,765 residents). The rate across the North West and England are broadly equivalent, with 4.1% and 4.2% of the working aged population (respectively) recorded as claimants<sup>67</sup>.
- 5.19 Across the 10 different Wards<sup>68</sup> which make up the Community Impact Area, a total of 1,690 residents were recorded as claimants in March 2026, the highest proportion of which are located in Bacup, Whitewell & Stacksteads and Hareholme & Waterfoot in Rossendale as well as Ramsbottom in Bury<sup>69</sup>.
- 5.20 **Table 5.6** illustrates that c. 11% of Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) claimants<sup>70</sup> in the Local Impact Area were seeking construction-related roles in December 2025<sup>71</sup>, indicating local demand for targeted construction employment and skills initiatives for those who are currently outside of the job market.
- 5.21 Analysis also demonstrates more demand for construction roles from females than males, therefore presenting opportunity to encourage more women into the local construction workforce, who have traditionally been under-represented within the sector.

**Table 5.6: Number of JSA claimants for each Local Authority (December 2025)**

|              | No. of JSA Claimants seeking Construction Roles |           |                 | Total JSA Claimants |        |            |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|--------|------------|
|              | Male                                            | Female    | Total           | Male                | Female | Total      |
| Rochdale     | 5                                               | 15        | 20              | 110                 | 115    | 225        |
| Rossendale   | 10                                              | 5         | 15              | 55                  | 40     | 90         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>15</b>                                       | <b>20</b> | <b>35 (11%)</b> |                     |        | <b>315</b> |

Source: ONS: Job Seeker's Allowance by Occupation

<sup>67</sup> Office for National Statistics, via NOMIS (2026): Claimant Count: March 2026

<sup>68</sup> Based on the ward boundaries defined as of May 2025

<sup>69</sup> Office for National Statistics, via NOMIS (2026): Claimant Count: March 2026

<sup>70</sup> Representing a proportion of the overall claimant count. It should be noted however that this dataset only records those who are currently claiming JSA, and does not account for those who are already in work and seeking alternative roles

<sup>71</sup> Office for National Statistics via NOMIS (2026): Jobseeker's Allowance by Occupation: December 2025

### **Occupation**

- 5.22 In terms of occupation, a lower proportion of the Local and Wider Impact Areas' residents are employed as managers, directors or senior officials (both 11%), than nationally (13%).
- 5.23 The most prevalent occupation locally is process, plant and machine operatives (9%), exceeding the regional (8%) and national proportions (7%). Whilst this indicates potentially lower annual earning potential for a greater proportion of the Local Impact Area's residents,<sup>72</sup> it also indicates opportunities for upskilling<sup>73</sup>.

### **Education and skills**

- 5.24 Analysis of the further education participation rates in the academic year 2025/26<sup>74</sup> shows there is a strong uptake of apprenticeships across the Local Impact Area (2,371 per 100,000 in Rossendale and 1,959 per 100,000 in Rochdale). Alongside that of the wider North West region (2,010 per 100,000), these rates exceed the national rate (1,805 per 100,000), demonstrating that there is local demand for this route of employment.
- 5.25 This is supported by the fact that 10% of residents in the Local Impact Area have an apprenticeship qualification, notably exceeding the reported rate across the North West and England (6% and 5%, respectively)<sup>75</sup>.
- 5.26 Rates of community learning, further education and educating and training (including traineeships) are also high across the Local Impact Area and North West region, exceeding the level of uptake across England<sup>76</sup>.
- 5.27 The proportion of residents with no qualifications across the Local Impact Area (22%) is higher than regional (20%) and nationally (18%). A lower proportion of residents hold NVQ4+ qualifications locally (28%), than regionally (31%) and nationally (34%)<sup>77</sup>.
- 5.28 The above suggests that vocational options are popular with residents surrounding the Site, with apprenticeships and training being in particular demand locally, and could potentially be a suitable route into employment. These pathways also provide an opportunity for existing employee upskilling, through further skills development and training.

### **Fuel Poverty**

- 5.29 The fuel poverty status of a household depends on the interaction between three key drivers; energy efficiency, income and energy prices. In England, it is measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator, which considers a household to be fuel poor if:

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<sup>72</sup> Office for National Statistics via NOMIS (2026), Census 2021: Occupation

<sup>73</sup> Census 2021: Occupation

<sup>74</sup> Department for Education (2026) Participation, Achievement and Apprenticeship Starts (volumes and indicative rates per 100,000 population)

<sup>75</sup> Office for National Statistics via Nomis (2026) Census 2021: Highest level of qualification

<sup>76</sup> Department for Education (2026) Participation, Achievement and Apprenticeship Starts (volumes and indicative rates per 100,000 population)

<sup>77</sup> Office for National Statistics via Nomis (2023) Census 2021: Highest level of qualification

- It is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G<sup>78</sup>; and
- Its disposable income (income after housing costs (AHC), and energy costs), would be below the poverty line<sup>79</sup>.

5.30 Latest data<sup>80</sup> shows that an estimated 9.4% of households in England were classed as fuel poor, which is also reflective of the proportion with the North West region, where in 2025, 9.8% of households were living in fuel poverty. However, the acuteness of this need is measured by the fuel poverty gap, that is, the reduction in fuel costs needed for a household to not be in fuel poverty<sup>81</sup>. The average fuel poor household within England would require a reduction of £379 to their fuel costs to be moved out of fuel poverty. This is also in line with the fuel poverty gap of the North West region, which in 2025 was reported to be £353<sup>82</sup>.

5.31 At a more localised geography, latest data shows that a higher than average proportion of homes surrounding the Site experience fuel poverty, with 12.8% of households in Rochdale (nearly 12,000 homes) and 13.1% of households in Rossendale (over 4,000 homes), considered to be fuel poor in 2023<sup>83</sup>. Through the provision of a reliable source of renewable energy, the Proposed Development would therefore help to address issues related to fuel poverty.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

5.32 Analysis of data related to health outcomes and determinants highlights the importance of implementing measures that can make a positive impact on improving the wellbeing of local people, as set out below:

- OHID data suggests lower life expectancies for men and women in Rochdale (77.5 and 81.6, respectively), Rossendale and the North West (both 78.4 and 82.2, respectively) than nationally (79.8 and 83.6)<sup>84</sup>.
- Rochdale recorded higher rates of under-75-mortality from causes considered preventable (198 per 100,000) in comparison to the North West and Rossendale (180 and 179 respectively), and notably higher than the rate recorded across England as a whole (146).
- The rate of adult and children (Year 6) who are considered to be overweight in Rochdale (at 72% and 39% respectively) and Rossendale (70% and 40%) are

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<sup>78</sup> As determined by the most up-to date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) Methodology: [fpeer\\_methodology.pdf](#)

<sup>79</sup> The poverty line (income poverty), is defined as an equivalised disposable income of less than 60% of the national median

<sup>80</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (March 2026) Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics in England, 2026 (2024 and 2025 data)

<sup>81</sup> The Fuel Poverty Gap is measured either by the change in required fuel costs associated with increasing the energy efficiency of a fuel poor household to a Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) of at least 69 (band C threshold), or reducing the costs sufficiently to meet the income threshold.

<sup>82</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (March 2026) Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics in England, 2026 (2024 and 2025 data)

<sup>83</sup> Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Profiles, Fuel Poverty (2023)

<sup>84</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2026): Local Authority Health Profiles, accessible here: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

higher in comparison to the North West (67% and 38%) and England (65% and 36%).

- The rate of children in absolute low-income families is higher in Rochdale (32%) than in Rossendale (22%), the North West (24%) and England (19%).

5.33 The above suggests that encouraging participation in healthy activities – including active travel and sport – would have positive benefits for local populations, where these offer the opportunity to improve physical and mental health.

5.34 The comparative availability of green space is a potential contributor to enabling more active lifestyles and is related to wider health benefits. The Green Space Index, produced by the Fields in Trust<sup>85</sup> quantifies and compares resident accessibility to local parks and green space. This analysis reveals the following in terms of the Local Impact Area:

- There is currently less than the minimum required standard of green space within the Local Impact Area.
- By 2043, the green space standard is expected to worsen by c. 9% across both Rossendale and Rochdale.

5.35 Opportunities to increase the accessibility and availability of green space and other recreational space through the Proposed Development would make a positive contribution to addressing the above deficiencies.

### Local Needs Assessment Summary

5.36 This socio-economic profile provides an analysis of the local area surrounding the Proposed Development. The analysis considered Population, Deprivation, Employment, Education and Skills, Fuel Poverty and Health & Wellbeing. The key points for each of these areas are outlined below:

- **Population:** across the Local Impact Area, a higher proportion of residents are younger, aged under 15, demonstrating the importance of providing long term training opportunities. In the immediate vicinity of the Site however, residents tend to be older, with a greater proportion of residents aged over 65, thus putting pressure on a range of different public services. Over time, the population of the Local Impact Area is predicted to increase by 7.7% by 2040, but with a higher proportion of residents over the age of 65. This age demographic is likely to have the highest demands on energy provision, to heat their homes.
- **Deprivation:**
  - **Rochdale** exhibits high degree of deprivation relating to income, employment, health and crime, ranking within the most 10% most deprived Local Authorities across England.

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<sup>85</sup> Fields in Trust (2025) Green Space Index [Online] Accessible at:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6c4da097addb4e18a1a2819b94d996ec>

- **Rossendale** also ranks within the most deprived 10% of Local Authorities relating to living environment, and within the second most deprived percentile relating to health and barriers to housing and services.
  - **Employment:** There is evidence of above national average levels of economic inactivity and unemployment in proximity to the Proposed Development, emphasising the importance of creating new job opportunities which are accessible to local residents.
  - **Education and skills:** Local populations have lower than national average skill levels. There is evidence that vocational training options are popular with residents surrounding the Site, with apprenticeships and training being in demand locally. This suggests enhanced provision of these alternative routes to employment has value in continuing to upskill and increase the workforce locally.
  - **Fuel Poverty:** A higher than average proportion of households in the vicinity of the Site, are considered to be 'fuel poor', with 12.8% of households in Rochdale and 13.1% in Rossendale meeting this criteria. Measures such as increased energy efficiency of homes and buildings, higher incomes and lower energy prices would all have a positive impact on a fuel poor household.
  - **Health and wellbeing:** Analysis highlights the importance of implementing measures that can make a positive impact on improving the wellbeing of local people. Encouraging participation in healthy activities – including active travel and sport – would be worthwhile initiatives, where these offer the opportunity to improve physical and mental health in the locality. Residents of the Local Impact Area are also underserved by accessible green space. The provision of green space is key to supporting active lifestyles, with a positive correlation between those who have greater exposure to greenspace and favourable physiological outcomes, and those who are from disadvantaged backgrounds also see a greater health benefit when living in green communities.
- 5.37 Overall, the Proposed Development presents significant opportunity to create new construction phase employment opportunities for local residents, including apprenticeship opportunities, and there also exists opportunities for employment, training and upskilling initiatives in the renewable energy sector. Such initiatives could be accompanied by those looking to improve wider health and wellbeing outcomes, including those linked to boosting rates of physical activity and access to green space.

## 6. Community Engagement Insights

- 6.1 The Government has highlighted the importance of community engagement in generating an appreciation of the local issues and challenges the community is facing. This is recognised as important in ensuring that the economic and community benefits can respond positively.
- 6.2 Feedback has been sought over two phases of consultation, the first held in November 2024 and the second in March/April 2025. Materials to inform these consultations were distributed to c. 20,000 properties and businesses, and the consultation website received c. 30,000 visits over both phases of engagement<sup>86</sup>.
- 6.3 This section presents a summary of the relevant community insights obtained through the extensive engagement exercises. Further detail is contained within the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which accompanies the Planning Application.

### **A positive context**

- 6.4 It has been identified that generally, public attitudes towards renewable energy are positive at a national level. The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) latest opinions tracker (Winter 2025<sup>87</sup>) confirms this with reference to the following conclusions on public attitudes towards the impact of climate change, many of which are of particular relevance to the Proposed Development:
- 77% of the public said they were concerned about climate change.
  - 78% of people said that they supported the use of renewable energy like wind, solar and biomass.
  - 75% of people said they were aware of the need to build more electricity network infrastructure in the UK.
  - When asked about what information would be most useful during the planning stage of new electricity network infrastructure in their local area, the most important included: the impact on electricity bills (48%), the impact on local plant and animal life (40%) and the visual impact on the landscape (40%).
- 6.5 Whilst important to take account of these insights, it should be noted that these were collected prior to the recent issues in the Middle East, and the subsequent global financial impact on fuel costs as a result.
- 6.6 At a local level insight received through the first phase of public consultation, broadly suggested that this overall positive perception was shared, noting:

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<sup>86</sup> Lexington (May 2025), Cubico, Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Statement of Community Involvement

<sup>87</sup>Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (March 2026), DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker: Headline findings, Winter 2025, UK

- A total of 69% of respondents either strongly agreed, or agreed with the principle of increasing renewable energy resources across the North West;
- Almost half (49%) of respondents expressed support for increasing renewable energy resources at Scout Moor II, particularly in the context of the climate emergency and the UK's net zero targets.

6.7 Where respondents expressed support for the increase of renewable energy resources at Scout Moor II, this was on the basis of an appreciation of the climate emergency and the UK's net zero targets, as referenced in **Section 2** of this report. It was also noted by many respondents that the Proposed Development represented a logical and efficient expansion of an existing wind energy site.

6.8 A strong level of support for the principle of the Proposed Development was also recorded during the Phase 2 consultation where 42% of respondents agreed, or strongly agreed, with Scout Moor II's ambition to boost renewable energy. When asked about aspects of the project that could be improved, the most popular responses were related to delivering greater local benefit, namely:

- Making the Community Wealth Fund more immediate and impactful;
- Prioritising local people for jobs and training opportunities;
- Improving mountain bike and recreational trails;
- Stronger local economic inclusion, through use of local labour and businesses;
- Safeguarding the natural environment, through ensuring high standards in peatland protection and ecological restoration;
- Visual impact and protection of bridleways and national trails; and
- Recognising the importance of transparency and accountability, with reassurance sought that benefits and mitigations would be delivered as planned.

6.9 Cubico have recognised the importance of these concerns and have sought, as much as reasonably practicable, to address them within their development proposals, to ensure that the community benefits as much as possible, as set out in **Section 8**.

### **Local insights**

6.10 The engagement process provided an opportunity for local communities to identify specific views on the Proposed Development. A full overview of the insights obtained is contained within the Statement of Community Involvement, across both stages of consultation. Key insights of specific relevance to this report and an understanding as to how the Proposed Development's benefits can be optimised to respond to the community's concerns and opportunities is provided below.

6.11 Specific insights recorded included:

- The Site's proximity to urban demand centres such as Greater Manchester was seen as a key strength, enabling localised, low-carbon electricity generation.
- Where respondents supported the Proposed Development, reference was made to the capacity to deliver genuine local benefits. These included job creation, apprenticeships, and meaningful investment in the community through the proposed Community Wealth Fund. Through the second stage of consultation, more specific reference was made to the importance of encouraging stronger local economic inclusion through use of local labour and businesses.
- Suggestions were made through the Stage 1 consultation by respondents around the potential to enhance recreational access to the moor, with interest expressed in initiatives like improved footpaths and cycling routes.
- It was noted that a number of respondents felt that previous commitments made during the existing SMWF development were not upheld, leading to scepticism about promises of community benefits in this next phase. It is important to note that Cubico (the applicant) was not involved in the development of the existing SMWF.
- Several respondents in both stages of the consultation identified concerns related to environmental impacts, particularly the disturbance of protected peatland habitats, risks to biodiversity, and the disruption of spring water sources and the visual impact of taller turbines.
- Through the second stage of consultation, it was noted that there was a keen interest from residents in peatland conservation, carbon storage, and biodiversity with suggestions offered as to how strengthen restoration plans and monitor effects. Cubico feel passionately about this this issue with this reflected in the initiatives proposed in Section 8 with reference to enhancing the natural environment and recreational facilities.

## Community Wealth Fund

- 6.12 Engagement specifically focussed on the Community Wealth Fund through the first stage of consultation sought to understand the priorities of local residents as to where its potential benefit could be directed. Where support was expressed for each of the proposed categories<sup>88</sup>, the categories receiving the greatest number of nominations were *'green spaces and environment'*, closely followed by *'affordable energy and cost of living support.'*
- 6.13 During the second stage of consultation, a similar question was asked. *'Protecting green spaces and improving the local environment'* was again selected by the most respondents, with *'tackling illegal off-roading to enhance safety and sustainability'* this time scored second. It is important to observe that as through the first stage all of the categories received nominations. A number of comments were provided by those

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<sup>88</sup> These were: Affordable energy and cost of living support, supporting businesses, community engagement, green spaces and environment, local heritage and civic pride, tackling illegal off-roading.

selecting 'other' which are of note in the context of understanding community priorities, including:

- Funding for local businesses and community facilities (e.g. village halls)
- Supporting local sports clubs and education initiatives
- Investment in community events
- Ensuring that funds are distributed equitably and benefit local communities
- The importance of job creation, especially linked to sustainability, engineering, and local businesses
- Development of apprenticeships and training linked to renewables
- Importance of addressing mental wellbeing, physical and digital connectivity, and overall community health

- 6.14 Views were sought as to suggestions around the mechanisms of distributing funding to ensure it is fair and transparent, with this informing Cubico's proposed approach within the Cubico Community Charter, as summarised in **Section 3** of this report and included in full in **Appendix 1**. This includes confirmation that once operational, the Community Wealth Fund will be managed by an independent Scout Moor Community Trust. This charity will operate at arm's length from Cubico and the local authorities, ensuring transparent governance and long-term benefit for local people.
- 6.15 It was apparent that there was a strong desire from the communities that the fund ensure lasting environmental, social and economic benefits.

## 7. Economic Benefits

7.1 This section presents the quantified economic impacts estimated to be generated by the Proposed Development.

7.2 As explained in **Section 4**, impacts are presented for each of the following phases:

- **Phase 1: Pre-Development**
- **Phase 2: Construction**
- **Phase 3: Operation and Maintenance (O&M)**

### Phase 1: Pre-Development

#### Employment

7.3 The pre-development phase includes project design, environmental studies, legal agreements, funding and planning.

7.4 The creation of temporary jobs during the development period will provide new opportunities for the local and regional labour force. Direct jobs will be created for development consultants, with further indirect roles created to support these consultants in technical assessments. The positive economic employment impacts of the Proposed Development will extend beyond direct and indirect employment through employee expenditure of wages that filters down the supply chain in the form of induced employment impacts.

7.5 Costs associated with the pre-development phase of works has been estimated as £3.4 million<sup>89</sup>, over a 4-year period. Estimates for employment are estimated on the basis of 'person-years' (as the total employment required to deliver the scheme across the pre-development phase).

7.6 Applying the investment splits for the pre-development phase (outlined in **Table 4.1**) and the average turnover per employee in the Professional Services industry<sup>90</sup>, the pre-development phase is estimated to support c.20 direct and indirect development-related person-years of employment over the duration of the 4 year development period across the UK, inclusive of c.10 jobs within the North West, a proportion of which will be filled by residents of Rochdale and Rossendale.

7.7 To estimate the induced impacts of the pre-development phase, employment multipliers have been sourced from the latest UK Input-Output tables published by the ONS<sup>91</sup>. Indirect impacts are estimated using 'Type 1' multipliers whereas 'Type 2' multipliers estimate both the indirect and induced impacts<sup>92</sup>. Since only Type 1 Multipliers are available at the UK level, the equivalent ratio of Type 1 to Type 2

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<sup>89</sup> Costs provided by the Applicant

<sup>90</sup> Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2025) Business population estimates: Table 5– UK

<sup>91</sup> ONS (2019) 2019 Input-Output Analytical Tables

<sup>92</sup> For each of the phases, a sense-check against the Northern Ireland Input-Output Tables has been undertaken to ensure the multipliers applied are appropriate and sensible

multipliers from the Scottish Government<sup>93</sup> is applied to the Type 1 UK multiplier to estimate the Type 2 UK multiplier.

- 7.8 As the direct and indirect person-years of employment figure (as presented above) already accounts for indirect jobs, the difference between the Type 1 and Type 2 multipliers isolates the induced multiplier effect.
- 7.9 By applying the induced multiplier derived for 'Other Professional Services' to the direct and indirect employment estimates, it is estimated that 5 person-years of induced employment will be delivered across the UK, a proportion of which are estimated to be concentrated within the North West, including within the Local Impact Area.
- 7.10 Therefore, during the pre-development phase, a total of 25 net additional (defined as the total of direct, indirect and induced jobs) person-years of employment are estimated to be generated from the Proposed Development across the UK, inclusive of 15 net additional person-years of employment in the North West, including a proportion within the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.1**.

**Table 7.1: Pre-Development Phase: Investment and Person-Years of Employment**

|                                          | Local Impact Area | North West   | UK           |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cumulative share of total investment     | 13%               | 59%          | 98%          |
| Estimated Total Investment               | £0.4 million      | £2.0 million | £3.3 million |
| Direct and Indirect Person-Years         | <5                | 10           | 20           |
| Induced Person-Years                     | <5                | 5            | 5            |
| <b>Total Net Additional Person-Years</b> | <b>5</b>          | <b>15</b>    | <b>25</b>    |

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

### Economic Output

- 7.11 The pre-development phase will generate an increase in Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA measures the value of output created (i.e. turnover) net of inputs purchased and used to produce a good or service (i.e. production of the output), and therefore provides a key measure of economic productivity.
- 7.12 Estimates sourced from economic data provider Experian indicate that the average full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the Professional & Other Private Services industry in the Local Impact Area generates c. £94,933 annually in GVA<sup>94</sup>. This is significantly higher than the GVA generated by the average employee across all sectors in the Local and Wider Impact Areas, as well as across the UK (c. £68,482 c.£79,406 and c.£89,052

<sup>93</sup> Scottish Government (2021), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables 2020

<sup>94</sup> Experian (February 2026) UK Regional Planning Quarterly; average 2021 – 2025. The GVA per FTE worker has been applied within the Wider Impact Area as the Professional & Other Private Services roles will not be directly generated on site and therefore distributed across Wales

respectively), demonstrating the sector's importance to local and regional economic prosperity.

- 7.13 Applying the appropriate GVA measures to the direct, indirect and induced employment impacts<sup>95</sup> indicates that an additional £530,000 in GVA could be generated annually across the UK during the pre-development phase, of which, £480,000 could be contained within the North West and the Local Impact Area.
- 7.14 Over 4 years, it is therefore estimated that the pre-development phase will generate £2.1 million GVA within the UK, inclusive of £1.9 million concentrated in the North West, of which £1.8 million could be contained within the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.2**.

**Table 7.2: Pre-Development Phase: GVA**

|                                           | Local Impact Area   | North West          | UK                  |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Direct and Indirect GVA (Annual)          |                     | £430,000            |                     |
| Induced GVA (Annual)                      | £10,000             | £60,000             | £100,000            |
| Total Net Additional GVA (Annual)         | £440,000            | £480,000            | £530,000            |
| <b>Total Net Additional GVA (4 years)</b> | <b>£1.8 million</b> | <b>£1.9 million</b> | <b>£2.1 million</b> |

Some figures appear not to sum due to rounding.

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

## Phase 2: Construction

### Employment

- 7.15 The construction phase includes preparation of the site, manufacturing and installation of the turbines, balance of plant and establishing grid connections. Estimates are presented as a range to reflect two scenarios in relation to the 'best and worst case' in future output.; Both are in relation to 12 turbines being installed on Site, with Scenario 1 presenting a total lower turbine capacity of 68MW and Scenario 2 assuming a total higher capacity of 72MW.
- 7.16 In reflection of these two scenarios, there will be a significant investment during the construction phase, equating to between £95.0 and £100.6 million<sup>96</sup> over a 24-month period<sup>97</sup>.
- 7.17 Using these costs, employment estimates are again first assessed as person-years of employment (the total employment requirement across the construction phase). This is then broken down to FTE job estimates supported on average across the construction phase as a whole.

<sup>95</sup> Note that all person-years of development employment have been converted to FTE by dividing by 4 i.e. the length of the pre-development phase in years.

<sup>96</sup> Provided by Cubico

<sup>97</sup> As advised by Cubico, construction costs are based on £1,397,397 million per MW.

- 7.18 Wind turbine costs account for 60% of the total investment, with the remaining 40% anticipated to be allocated for balance of plant costs and contingency.
- 7.19 Applying the ratios of national, regional and local containment set out at **Table 4.1**, it is assumed that 36% of construction phase investment will be retained in the North West region, including 12% within the Local Impact Area.
- 7.20 Applying these investment splits and the average turnover per employee in the construction industry<sup>98</sup>, it is estimated that construction will support the equivalent of 185 direct and indirect person-years of employment<sup>99</sup> on and off-site over 2 years across the UK, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to 195 direct and indirect person-years of employment. This could include between 165-175 person-years of employment in the North West region, of which between 55-60 could be retained in the Local Impact Area.
- 7.21 To estimate the induced impacts (and hence the total net additional impacts), it is necessary to multiply the direct and indirect employment supported during construction by the difference between the Type 1 and Type 2 multipliers to isolate the induced multiplier effect<sup>100</sup>. This is an equivalent approach to that described above for the pre-development phase.
- 7.22 As such, it is estimated that between 60-65 person-years of induced employment will be delivered across UK, inclusive of 55-60 in the North West, of which 20 are expected to be within the Local Impact Area.
- 7.23 Therefore, a total of 245 direct, indirect and induced net additional person-years of employment could be supported by the Proposed Development across the UK, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to 260 direct, indirect and induced person-years of employment across the UK. This would include between 220-235 in the North West, of which, 75-80 are expected to be within the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.3** below.

**Table 7.3: Construction Phase: Investment and Person-Years of Employment**

|                                          | Local Impact Area | North West    | UK            |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity</b>        |                   |               |               |
| Cumulative share of total investment     | 12%               | 36%           | 40%           |
| Estimated Total Investment               | £11.4 million     | £34.2 million | £37.7 million |
| Direct and Indirect Person-Years         | 55                | 165           | 185           |
| Induced Person-Years                     | 20                | 55            | 60            |
| <b>Total Net Additional Person-Years</b> | <b>75</b>         | <b>220</b>    | <b>245</b>    |

<sup>98</sup> Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2025) Business population estimates: Table 5— UK

<sup>99</sup> Direct and indirect jobs assessed in combination as investment costs account for the costs directly on construction companies plus the manufacturing of the wind turbines (indirect). Induced effects are assessed separately

<sup>100</sup> Scottish Government (2021), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables 2020

| Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity               |               |               |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cumulative share of total investment     | 12%           | 36%           | 40%           |
| Estimated Total Investment               | £12.1 million | £36.2 million | £40.0 million |
| Direct and Indirect Person-Years         | 60            | 175           | 195           |
| Induced Person-Years                     | 20            | 60            | 65            |
| <b>Total Net Additional Person-Years</b> | <b>80</b>     | <b>235</b>    | <b>260</b>    |

Some figures appear not to sum due to rounding.

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

- 7.24 This can be translated into the average FTE employment supported during construction. Dividing the person-years of employment by the length of construction (24 months, or 2 years), it is estimated that 120 net additional FTE jobs will be generated across the UK during construction, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to 130 net additional FTE jobs. This would include between 110-115 in the North West region, of which, between 35-40 will be in the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.4** below.

**Table 7.4: Construction Phase: FTE Employment**

|                                      | Local Impact Area | North West | UK         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity           |                   |            |            |
| Total Net Additional Person-Years    | 75                | 220        | 245        |
| Construction Period (Years)          | 2                 | 2          | 2          |
| Direct and Indirect FTE Employment   | 30                | 85         | 90         |
| Induced FTE Employment               | 10                | 25         | 30         |
| <b>Net Additional FTE employment</b> | <b>35</b>         | <b>110</b> | <b>120</b> |
| Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity           |                   |            |            |
| Total Net Additional Person-Years    | 80                | 235        | 260        |
| Construction Period (Years)          | 2                 | 2          | 2          |
| Direct and Indirect FTE Employment   | 30                | 90         | 95         |
| Induced FTE Employment               | 10                | 30         | 30         |
| <b>Net Additional FTE employment</b> | <b>40</b>         | <b>120</b> | <b>130</b> |

Some figures appear not to sum due to rounding.

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

#### **Economic Output**

- 7.25 The construction phase of the Proposed Development will generate an increase in GVA. Estimates sourced from Experian indicate that the average FTE construction employee

in Rochdale and Rossendale generates c. £73,639 annually in GVA<sup>101</sup>. This is higher than the GVA generated by the average employee across the Local Impact Area (c.£68,482), but lower than the average across the North West region and the UK (c.£79,406 and c.£89,052, respectively).

- 7.26 Applying the appropriate GVA measures to the direct, indirect and induced employment impact generated by construction phase indicates that an additional £9.5 million in GVA could be generated annually across the UK, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to £10.0 million GVA across the UK. This includes between £8.9-£9.5 million across the North West region, of which, between £7.4 - £7.8 million is likely to be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.
- 7.27 Over the 2-year build period, it is therefore estimated that construction of the Proposed Development will generate £18.9 million, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to £20.0 million GVA within the UK. This is inclusive of between £17.9- £18.9 million in the North West region, of which, between £14.8- £15.6 million will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.5** below.

**Table 7.5: Construction Phase: GVA**

|                                           | Local Impact Area    | North West           | UK                   |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity</b>         |                      |                      |                      |
| Direct and Indirect GVA (Annual)          |                      | £13.5 million        |                      |
| Induced GVA (Annual)                      | £1.3 million         | £4.4 million         | £5.4 million         |
| Total Net Additional GVA (Annual)         | £7.4 million         | £8.9 million         | £9.5 million         |
| <b>Total Net Additional GVA (2 Years)</b> | <b>£14.8 million</b> | <b>£17.9 million</b> | <b>£18.9 million</b> |
| <b>Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity</b>         |                      |                      |                      |
| Direct and Indirect GVA (Annual)          |                      | £14.3 million        |                      |
| Induced GVA (Annual)                      | £1.3 million         | £4.6 million         | £5.7 million         |
| Total Net Additional GVA (Annual)         | £7.8 million         | £9.5 million         | £10.0 million        |
| <b>Total Net Additional GVA (2 Years)</b> | <b>£15.6 million</b> | <b>£18.9 million</b> | <b>£20.0 million</b> |

Some figures appear not to sum due to rounding.

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

### **Phase 3: Operation & Maintenance (O&M)**

#### **Employment**

- 7.28 This phase will include the O&M of the site and turbines over a 40-year period. The cost of maintaining the operation of the Site during this period is predicted to equate

<sup>101</sup> Experian (February 2026) UK Regional Planning Quarterly; average 2021 – 2025.

to between £816,000 and £864,000 per annum<sup>102</sup>, thereby totalling between £32.6 and £34.6 million over 40 years.

- 7.29 Estimates for employment across the O&M phase is first presented as an ongoing average of FTE employment, which is then multiplied out to present person-years of employment across the operational lifetime.
- 7.30 Applying the investment splits for the O&M phase (outlined in **Table 6.1**) to the estimated O&M investment and the average turnover per employee in the UK utilities sector<sup>103</sup>, this equates to an ongoing average of up to <2 direct and indirect FTE O&M UK-based jobs, inclusive of roles within the North West region and Local Impact Area.
- 7.31 The same approach as applied to the development and construction phases has been deployed to estimate O&M induced and net additional impacts. By applying the relevant utilities sector multipliers to the direct and indirect employment estimates<sup>104</sup>, it is estimated that up to <2 induced FTE jobs will be generated across the UK, again inclusive of roles within the North West region and the Local Impact Area.

During the O&M phase, it is therefore estimated that a total of up to 2 net additional FTE jobs will be generated across the UK, inclusive one within in the North West and the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.6**.

**Table 7.6: O&M Phase: Annual Investment and FTE Employment**

|                                      | Local Impact Area | North West | UK       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| <b>Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity</b>    |                   |            |          |
| Cumulative share of total investment | 42%               | 58%        | 87%      |
| Estimated Annual Investment          | £342,700          | £473,300   | £709,900 |
| Direct and Indirect FTE Employment   | 0                 | 1          | 1        |
| Induced FTE Employment               | 1                 | 1          | 1        |
| <b>Net Additional FTE employment</b> | <b>1</b>          | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity</b>    |                   |            |          |
| Cumulative share of total investment | 42%               | 58%        | 87%      |
| Estimated Annual Investment          | £362,900          | £501,100   | £751,700 |
| Direct and Indirect FTE Employment   | 0                 | 1          | 1        |
| Induced FTE Employment               | 1                 | 1          | 1        |
| <b>Net Additional FTE employment</b> | <b>1</b>          | <b>2</b>   | <b>2</b> |

<sup>102</sup> The Applicant has advised an operational and maintenance cost of between £10,500-£13,500 per MW. For the purposes of the economic modelling, a midpoint of £12,000 per MW has been assumed.

<sup>103</sup> Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2025) Business population estimates: Table 5– UK. Full title of the sector used is the “Mining and Quarrying; Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply; Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities” sector.

<sup>104</sup> Scottish Government (2021), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables 2020

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

- 7.32 Ongoing average FTE employment can be converted into the cumulative person-years of employment across the lifetime of the wind farm. Over the 40-year operational period, it is estimated that between 90-95 net additional person-years of employment will be generated in the UK, of which between 60-65 will be supported in the North West, including 40-45 in the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.7** below.

**Table 7.7: O&M Phase: Person-Years of Employment**

|                                    | Local Impact Area | North West | UK        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity</b>  |                   |            |           |
| Net Additional FTE Employment      | 1                 | 1          | 2         |
| O&M Period (Years)                 | 40                | 40         | 40        |
| Direct and Indirect Person-Years   | 15                | 25         | 35        |
| Induced Person-Years               | 25                | 35         | 55        |
| <b>Net Additional Person-Years</b> | <b>40</b>         | <b>60</b>  | <b>90</b> |
| <b>Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity</b>  |                   |            |           |
| Net Additional FTE Employment      | 1                 | 2          | 2         |
| O&M Period (Years)                 | 40                | 40         | 40        |
| Direct and Indirect Person-Years   | 20                | 25         | 40        |
| Induced Person-Years               | 25                | 40         | 55        |
| <b>Net Additional Person-Years</b> | <b>45</b>         | <b>65</b>  | <b>95</b> |

Some figures appear not to sum due to rounding.

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

### Economic Output

- 7.33 As with the development and construction phases, O&M will generate GVA. Experian data indicates that the average FTE utilities sector employee in the Local Impact Area generates c. £223,859 annually in GVA<sup>105</sup>. This is significantly higher productivity than the local all-sector average, demonstrating renewable and green industries' potential contribution to future economic growth and prosperity.
- 7.34 Over the 40-year O&M period, it is therefore estimated that operation of the Proposed Development will make a £12.7 million GVA contribution to the UK economy, with a likelihood of exceeding this, potentially delivering up to £13.4 million across the UK. This includes between £10.8-£11.4 million impact in the North West, of which, £10.3 million will be concentrated within the Local Impact Area. This is summarised in **Table 7.8** below.

<sup>105</sup> Experian (February 2026) UK Regional Planning Quarterly; average 2021 – 2025.

**Table 7.8: O&M Phase: GVA**

|                                            | Local Impact Area    | North West           | UK                   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Scenario 1: 68 MW capacity</b>          |                      |                      |                      |
| Direct and Indirect GVA (Annual)           | £200,000             | £200,000             | £200,000             |
| Induced GVA (Annual)                       | £43,000              | £70,000              | £117,000             |
| Total Net Additional GVA (Annual)          | £243,000             | £269,000             | £317,000             |
| <b>Total Net Additional GVA (40 Years)</b> | <b>£9.7 million</b>  | <b>£10.8 million</b> | <b>£12.7 million</b> |
| <b>Scenario 2: 72 MW capacity</b>          |                      |                      |                      |
| Direct and Indirect GVA (Annual)           | £427,000             | £427,000             | £427,000             |
| Induced GVA (Annual)                       | £11,000              | £56,000              | £104,000             |
| Total Net Additional GVA (Annual)          | £438,000             | £483,000             | £531,000             |
| <b>Total Net Additional GVA (40 Years)</b> | <b>£10.3 million</b> | <b>£11.4 million</b> | <b>£13.4 million</b> |

Source: Turley Economics, 2026

#### Business Rates

- 7.35 Businesses pay non-domestic rates (known as business rates) to contribute to the cost of public services within the administrative boundary it is situated within.
- 7.36 New developments can make an important contribution to the resource base of Local Authorities through uplifting Business Rate revenues and in the current economic and fiscal climate, the resources available to Local Authorities to reinvest in local community infrastructure and services are limited. The Proposed Scheme can therefore be expected to make positive contribution to public revenues locally in Rochdale and Rossendale, as well as across the GMCA and Lancashire.
- 7.37 There are a number of different variables which will influence the calculation of business rates revenue associated with the Proposed Development. Business rates are determined by multiplying a rateable value (RV), by the rates multiplier for the current year. The RV is reassessed each 5 years by the Valuation Office Agency. The April 2026 RV for the Site was assessed to be £8,500 per MW, and so it is estimated that the Proposed Development could contribute between **£580,000- £610,000 in business rates per annum**. As part of the standard valuation process, this will be reviewed at 5-yearly intervals (i.e. every 5 years from 2031) <sup>106</sup>.
- 7.38 The additional Business Rates revenue will contribute towards the delivery of public services as well as investing in maintaining and enhancing infrastructure within the locality. This will in turn generate associated socio-economic benefits and potentially attract further inward investment.

<sup>106</sup> Information provided by the Applicant

## Economic Benefits Summary

- 7.39 Economic benefits generated over the lifetime of the Proposed Development are summarised below in relation to each of the three phases:

### *Phase 1- Pre-Development Phase*

- 7.40 During the 4-year pre-development phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- **£3.4 million** total investment.
- **25** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the pre-development period, inclusive of **15** in the North West, and **5** within the Local Impact Area.
- **£2.1 million** GVA boost to the UK economy across the four year pre-development period, including **£1.9 million** in the North West, of which **£1.8 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

### *Phase 2- Construction Phase*

- 7.41 During the 2-year construction phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- **Between £95.0 -£100.6 million** total investment.
- **Between 245-260** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the construction period, inclusive of between **220-235** in the North West, of which, between **75-80** could be contained within the Local Impact Area. This equates to between **120-130 FTE** jobs in the UK, inclusive of between **110-115** in the North West, and **35-40** within the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £18.9-£20.0 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the construction period, including **between £17.9-£18.9 million** in the North West, of which between **£14.8- £15.6 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

### *Phase 3- Operation and Maintenance Phase*

- 7.42 During the 40-year O&M phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- Between £32.6 and £34.6 million of total investment over the operational period;
- **Between 90-95** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the operational period, inclusive of between **60-65** in the North West, and **40-45** within the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £12.7 - £13.4 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the operational period, including between **£10.8-£11.4 million** in the North West, of which between **£9.7- £10.3 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

- **Between £580,000 -£610,000 in business rates** contribution per year, contributing towards the funding of public services and infrastructure in Rochdale, Rossendale and beyond.

#### **Total Economic Contribution**

7.43 The Proposed Development's total economic contribution to the UK economy across the entirety of the pre-development, construction and O&M phases is summarised in **Table 7.9**, including:

**Table 7.9: Total Economic Contribution**

| UK Impact Type:<br><i>Development,<br/>Construction and O&amp;M<br/>Phases</i> | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 1) | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 2) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Net Additional GVA                                                             | £33.7 million                               | £35.6 million                               |
| Net Additional Person<br>Years of Employment                                   | 355 person-years                            | 375 person years                            |

*Source: Turley Economics, 2026*

7.44 In addition to this, is estimated that the Proposed Development could contribute between **£580,000- £610,000 in business rates revenue per annum**. As part of the standard valuation process, this will be reviewed at 5-yearly intervals (i.e. every 5 years from 2031)<sup>107</sup>, and so have not been presented in totality.

<sup>107</sup> Information provided by the Applicant

## 8. Community benefits and opportunities

- 8.1 This section considers how the Applicant will aim to maximise the local economic benefits generated by the proposed development.
- 8.2 This recognises that in addition to the quantified economic benefits outlined in the previous section, the Proposed Development will also deliver further wide-ranging social benefits, which will generate long-term positive outcomes on the overall health, wellbeing and resilience of individuals, local communities and society as a whole.
- 8.3 In many cases, quantitative economic benefits (such as those presented in the preceding sections) and qualitative social benefits (such as those discussed in this section), are mutually supportive. In many cases, impacts considered in this report on a qualitative basis have a social value far in excess of the capital sum invested in their implementation, and are by no means of lower importance than those impacts to which pounds and pence measures can be attached. As such, the combined quantitative and qualitative benefits of the scheme are important considerations in the context of existing baseline conditions, local needs and growth ambitions.
- 8.4 For example, the ability to create new jobs filled by a skilled workforce relies on many other, less quantifiable factors, such as the funding and delivery of education and training initiatives, which attract new residents and employers to an area and which also benefit the overall health and wellbeing of the population, further supporting positive socio-economic outcomes.
- 8.5 Similarly, the provision of clean energy has social benefits beyond those which can be expressed purely in monetary terms; whilst the benefits of switching to onshore wind are often reported at national and international scales, with reduced reliance on fossil fuels strengthening energy security, impacts are in many cases felt at a local level, bringing both health and wellbeing advantages for individuals and communities.

### Community Benefits Charter

- 8.6 As outlined in **Section 3**, Cubico's Scout Moor II 'Community Benefits Charter' (**Appendix 1**) is the social value framework through which many of the community benefits will be realised, and aims to maximise the Proposed Development's positive socio-economic and environmental impacts. This document should be read in conjunction with this assessment and is included in full in **Appendix 1**.

### Community Benefit Outcomes and Initiatives

- 8.7 The community benefits presented in this section align with the three core commitments set out within Cubico's Community Benefits Charter.
- Commitment 1: Listening and Engaging with Transparency;
  - Commitment 2: Investing in the Community; and
  - Commitment 3: Creating Local Opportunities

- 8.8 Initiatives associated with each commitment, but with specific reference to Commitments 2 and 3, are explained within this Section, demonstrating routes to delivery through mechanisms established via the planning process, as well as identifying how these proposed initiatives respond to local needs. It should also be noted that these initiatives and their commitments are not mutually exclusive and are interlinked, for example, supporting skills, training and apprenticeships creates local opportunities, but also is a recognised way to invest in the community.
- 8.9 Given the nature of the scheme, which is provide a reliable source of renewable energy, provision of **clean energy** is another core benefit of the Proposed Development, the wider benefits of which are acknowledged at the end of this section.

### **Commitment 1: Listening and Engaging with Transparency**

- 8.10 As set out in **Section 5**, the local community has, through the process of consultation and engagement, had an active role in shaping the range of community benefits described in the remainder of this Section. Cubico are committed to ensuring that this positive dialogue is sustained, recognising the importance of ongoing engagement with local communities, as set out from a national to a local level in policy and strategy (as described in **Section 2**).
- 8.11 As set out in the Community Benefit Charter, Cubico are committed to supporting this process through:
- Establishment of a **community liaison group (CLG)**, to hold regular meetings with local residents, businesses and stakeholders to discuss progress and answer concerns.
  - Provision of dedicated **web resources**, to access planning documents, educational resources, project updates and important information during all project phases;
  - **Ensuring accessible contact details**, to provide a direct phonenumber and email address for local residents to ask questions, or report concerns; and
  - **The preparation of impact reporting**, with the preparation of an annual report showing how community feedback has shaped decisions, and reporting progress in the distribution of community funds, and associated outputs and outcomes.

### **Commitment 2: Investing in the Community**

#### ***Scout Moor II Community Wealth Fund***

- 8.12 The prospect of a Community Wealth Fund formed an integral part of the engagement with local communities, with their views and feedback summarised in **Section 6** of this report and documented in full within the SCI<sup>108</sup>.
- 8.13 Cubico are committed to directly invest in local communities at every stage of the project, through the provision of monetary support for community projects. This is set

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<sup>108</sup> Lexington (May 2025), Cubico, Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Statement of Community Involvement

out as a commitment within the Community Benefits Charter. Prior to operation, and the launching of the official Community Wealth Fund, additional funding will be provided in the form of:

- In the **pre-development phase**, a local grant scheme will be offered, to provide monetary support to local initiatives and sponsorship.
- During **construction**, targeted community support will also be provided, funding local initiatives in the form of an independent **Construction Impact Fund**. This will be supported by Cubico and the supply chain, to ensure contractors contribute towards local projects, helping to mitigate the impact of temporary disruptions on residents during the build period.

8.14 Once operational the **Community Wealth Fund will be launched**, which will involve developing Local Action Plans, to tailor the funding approach to best respond to identified local need at the time of delivery. This will provide ongoing financial support for the community. In response to feedback from the community this will be independently managed by a dedicated charity, to ensure fair distribution, transparency and lasting long-term benefits for the community, and managed by those who understand the local issues and needs best. To ensure a degree of accountability and transparency, oversight of the process will be undertaken by the Community Liaison Group, to ensure that Cubico delivers on these commitments, as well as maintaining a positive relationship with local stakeholders, and responding to local needs and issues.

8.15 Linked to revenue sharing mechanism, the Community Wealth Fund will guarantee that communities will receive a minimum £408,000 per year<sup>109</sup> (£6,000 per MW of energy produced per year), or 3% of gross project revenue- whichever is greater- with payments linked to inflation and rising over time. In high-yield years therefore, the community would benefit from the upside in profits, and in lower-yield years, Cubico would 'top up' any shortfall in income. At this stage, the eligibility criteria are yet to be determined, however this will be developed through the governance arrangements of the managing charity referenced above, this will ensure it is sufficiently flexible to respond to changing priorities and needs of the local area, in a fair and transparent manner, at the time of delivery.

### **Volunteering**

8.16 As well as monetary support, Cubico are committed to providing dedicated time resource to supporting local projects through volunteering. Volunteering makes an important contribution to the UK's social fabric; around 15 million people volunteer through formal groups or organisations in the UK<sup>110</sup>. This means that volunteers could be giving as much as 4.4 billion hours of their time per year- equivalent to almost 10% of the paid hours worked in the UK<sup>111</sup>. Voluntary action can also have several long-term and profound outcomes upon people of all ages – and particularly young people and those not in permanent work – for example, increasing employability, life skills, and

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<sup>109</sup> Based on a total output of 68 MW. Under the 72 MW scenario, this would increase to a minimum of £432,000 per year

<sup>110</sup> Bank of England (2014), In Giving, How Much Do We Receive? The Social Value of Volunteering

<sup>111</sup> Ibid

social interaction. Volunteering can also facilitate cross-generational and cultural relationships and enable people with specific skillsets or experiences to impart knowledge.

- 8.17 Cubico will work alongside established local delivery partners, to establish a formalised process for employees, contractors and sub-contractors, to provide voluntary time within the local community on a regular basis, during all stages of the project lifecycle. It is anticipated that volunteering would be undertaken in collaboration with charities which specialise in addressing key local needs. Recognising the identified priorities of communities and socio-economic challenges, this could include donating time to improve local green space or working with charities to help increase community aspirations.

***Health, Wellbeing and Access to Green Spaces***

- 8.18 The recreational and environmental value of the Site and its surroundings was reflected through the community engagement, as explained in **Section 6**. It is similarly the case that the assessment of local needs revealed the importance of exploring ways to improve local health and wellbeing, including through the promotion of active lifestyles. This recognises that within the Local Impact Area, residents exhibit comparatively poorer health and wellbeing outcomes – and, ultimately, life expectancies – than wider geographies. It is also acknowledged that reducing the prevalence of adulthood and childhood obesity and circulatory diseases is identified as a particular priority within Rochdale.
- 8.19 Further consideration is given to the alignment with the visitor experience, recognising that these facilities and the natural environment are an important component of the tourism offer of both authorities in the next section. However, the Applicant recognises the opportunity to generate local benefits for communities associated with protecting and enhancing the local environment and green space.
- 8.20 The '*Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*' accompanying the application<sup>112</sup> identifies that the operational phase of the Proposed Development presents a unique opportunity to deliver new connections, improve the quality of routes, support enforcement and promote understanding of the moor's heritage and climate role. The delivery of modern infrastructure can therefore unlock a range of positive outcomes for both people and place. These access and recreation enhancements are designed to:
- Improve the quality, connectivity, and resilience of the access network
  - Support safe and inclusive access for a wide range of users, including local walkers, cyclists, horse riders, runners, families, nature groups, and land managers
  - Deter illegal off-road vehicle activity and support enforcement efforts
  - Promote understanding of the moor's natural, historic, and climate value

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<sup>112</sup> Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan

- Enhance the visitor experience and encourage responsible use

8.21 The objectives listed above are informed by insights gathered from local residents, user groups, and other key access stakeholders, and seek to mitigate some of the existing management challenges across the moor, as well as to enhance it. These objectives will be achieved through the delivery of seven key 'moves', a summary of which is provided below, with further detail provided in the '*Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*<sup>113</sup>':

- 1) Multi-User Access Tracks:** as existing upland paths are often waterlogged and inaccessible, a new network of purpose built access paths will be constructed to service the turbine locations, and opened up for a range of public uses during operation, thus helping to reduce footfall on sensitive habitats, and support health, wellbeing and year- round use. This will include opening **15.1km of access tracks to walkers, cyclists and horse riders**, comprising of 10.2km of new track, in addition to the existing 4.9km of existing tracks through SMWF which will be retained. ;
- 2) New permissive public footpath/bridleway connection:** a new permissive path, suitable for a range of users will be created to link Rooley Moor Road with the northern wind farm access track near the substation. This would provide a more accessible, and inclusive alternative to the existing steep northern section of Rooley Moor Road, with gentler gradient and improved surface, as well as measures to prevent illegal off-road vehicle use;
- 3) Moorland Stewardship and Local Partnership role:** Scout Moor is currently overseen by a range of different stakeholders, but there is currently no single, consistent presence on the moor to co-ordinate activity. As part of the moorland restoration strategy, a structured programme of stewardship works will be developed and delivered in close partnership with local commoners and land managers. Implementation of a local countryside warden scheme will also be explored, intended to oversee practical maintenance, user engagement and the day-to-day co-ordination of activities on the moor;
- 4) Positive contribution to the mission to tackle illegal off-roading:** Illegal off-road vehicle use was a key concern raised during the community consultation, which causes regular damage to sensitive habitats, threats to public safety, noise, littering and anti-social behaviour. It is intended that this would be tackled through the roll out of a package of measures to safeguard the moor for legitimate users, through physical prevention measures, community education and targeted partnership support;
- 5) Improved cycling links between Cragg and Lee Quarries:** Both of these are regionally important mountain biking destinations, and in response to concerns raised, the quality of the route connecting these sites will be improved. Enhanced links into the wider trail network will also be provided, helping to position Scout Moor as a destination for these activities, and to promote the local tourism and

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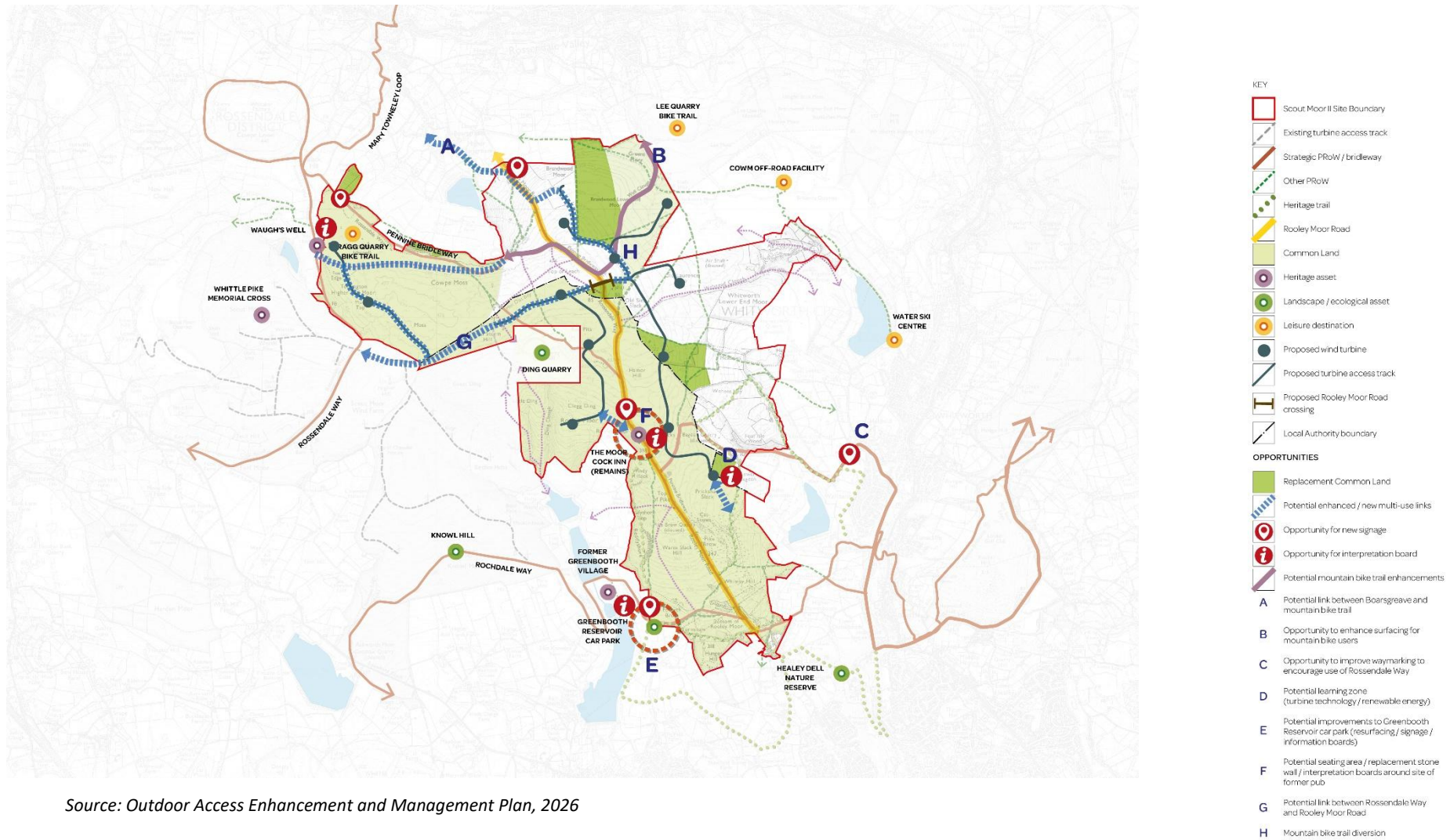
<sup>113</sup> Ibid

hospitality economy, as well as bringing health and wellbeing benefits through helping to facilitate active lifestyles.

- 6) **Greenbooth Reservoir Car Park Strategy:** As one of the most popular access points to the moor, in response to concerns raised, a new car park strategy will be developed, to improve safety, protect the environment and create a more welcoming gateway for visitors; and
- 7) **Interpretation and Learning Infrastructure:** Despite a wealth of interest locally in learning about the moor and the role of renewable energy, there is limited on-site provision to support with this currently. To capture this interest, existing heritage assets will be creatively designed into natural rest areas and interpretation boards, will be installed across the Site to raise awareness of the Site's historical connections. Alongside this, an interactive education programme will be developed, including installation of a dedicated learning turbine on the Site, which will act as a relatable, hands on resource for schools, youth groups and community organisations to visit and learn about the Proposed Development, the renewable sector and its role within the wider climate change context.

8.22 The range of enhancements and mitigations are illustrated at **Figure 8.1**, which is extracted directly from the *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*.

**Figure 8.1: Access & Recreation Enhancements**



Source: Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan, 2026

### ***Enhancing the natural environment***

- 8.23 The *Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment*<sup>114</sup> identifies, in line with policy requirements, that the Proposed Development will achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain for area habitats of 10.51%, and for watercourse habitats of 10.62%.
- 8.24 The moorland habitats present within the Scout Moor II developable area are acknowledged to be severely degraded, caused by numerous factors including unsuitable management and drainage, illegal off roading and inconsistent livestock stocking levels.
- 8.25 Alongside the development of the proposed Scout Moor II Wind Farm there is the opportunity to restore and enhance large parts of this degraded moorland habitat. As such, an outline *Moorland Restoration and Management Plan (MRMP)* identifies the areas of degraded peatland and sets out clear and concise prescriptions to enhance and restore these areas.
- 8.26 The restoration strategy comprises two district approaches:
- **Controlled Restoration:** traditional peatland enhancement; and
  - **Community Restoration:** community led enhancement measures, working with those who rely on the moor for grazing and other activities.
- 8.27 The MRMP aims to restore the moorland to an attractive, biodiverse and functional peatland, increasing its ability for carbon sequestration, providing consistent grazing for stock and overall enhancing the important habitats to favourable condition. Full details of the restoration strategy are set out in the MRMP.
- 8.28 It is also recognised that enhancing the natural environment brings subsequent socio-economic benefits for the wider community. As set out in the Community Benefit Charter, and identified above, Cubico are committed to backing local businesses and providing employment opportunities, by promoting local skilled trades and specialist services, through for example, using specialist rural contractors to assist with moorland restoration and management, or utilising local skilled trades to rebuild traditional stone walls. This ensures that local experience and knowledge is retained, and utilised to maintain and enhance the natural landscape, which has environmental advantages but also enhances perception of the area for both surrounding communities and visitors, and supports local businesses.

### ***Sustainable Construction***

- 8.29 Whilst the nature of the Proposed Development will have many environmental advantages during operation, the Applicant is committed to exploring means of reducing environmental impacts throughout the lifecycle, to minimise and mitigate any potentially negative environmental impacts associated with the construction process. . This will include the following:
- **Circular economy principles will be embedded within the construction** by implementing resource efficiency and waste reduction measures. Potential

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<sup>114</sup> Atmos Consulting (June 2026), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Calculations and Report: Scout Moor II Wind Farm

actions to minimise use of resources will include returning unused surplus construction materials to suppliers, or to be sold/donated to other nearby construction projects. Construction materials that cannot be reused on or off-site will be sent directly to material preprocessors, or sent to construction materials recovery facilities. Packaging take-back schemes will also ensure that where possible, materials are delivered in packaging that is suitable to be returned and reused a number of times.

- **Energy and fuel consumption during construction will also be minimised** through best-practice measures such as phased deliveries of materials to reduce the numbers of vehicles attending site and ensuring that engines and machinery are switched off when idle.

### **Commitment 3: Creating Local Opportunities**

#### ***Recruiting local labour***

- 8.30 The socio-economic profile in **Section 5** highlighted the ongoing prevalence of issues within the locality associated with economic deprivation and the identification of parts of the labour-force which are not currently engaged in active work. It was noted that almost a third of total claimants within the Community Impact Area (communities in closest proximity to the Proposed Development), were seeking roles within the construction industry. Feedback from the consultation also identified the perceived importance of the creation of local jobs to address such issues.
- 8.31 Employment is widely recognised as one of the most significant factors in terms of a person's health and wellbeing. The social impact of employment is far reaching and has benefits at both the individual and wider societal level, shown clearly by the fact that the NHS's HUDU consider access to employment and training opportunities as a 'primary determinant' of health<sup>115</sup>.
- 8.32 A person's employment status can also impact on other health determinants, such as physical activity, and other lifestyle choices. Health expenditure on an unemployed person is estimated to be double the average expenditure per person, demonstrating the fact that an individual's overall physical and mental health and wellbeing is strongly associated with being in meaningful employment<sup>116</sup>.
- 8.33 The ONS regularly monitors wellbeing, and their research highlights a correlation between unemployment and people's experiences of feelings of loneliness.<sup>61</sup> Put another way, higher unemployment rates in an area are linked to higher loneliness rates and poses a real threat not only to a person's economic means, but also their health and wellbeing.
- 8.34 As identified in **Section 7** the Proposed Development will support employment creation throughout the project lifecycle, which will help meet both an economic and a social need and will contribute effectively towards supporting healthier lifestyles. This in turn will make a positive contribution towards local people gaining the skills and work

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<sup>115</sup> NHS Health Urban Development Unit (2019) Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

<sup>116</sup> Department for Work and Pensions (2010) The Department for Work and Pensions Social Cost-Benefit Analysis framework

experience to support stable and fulfilling employment, providing significant economic and wellbeing benefits for both individuals and society. This could include opportunities for those first entering the workforce (for example through construction apprenticeships) as well as potentially enabling those who have been previously unemployed to re-enter the workforce through upskilling initiatives.

#### ***Employment and Skills Plan (ESP)***

- 8.35 Cubico have identified a series of proposed initiatives to which they will enter a formal commitment through an **Employment and Skills Plan (ESP)** to maximise the opportunities which are made available to local people throughout the project lifecycle. The ESP will be agreed through consultation with stakeholders such as RMBC, RBC, the GMCA and LCC, prior to appointment of contractors.
- 8.36 To enhance the take-up of opportunities by local people, Cubico are committed to ensure:
- **Vacancies will be advertised locally**, through established recruitment mechanisms managed by delivery partners, including local job centres and employment support organisations.
  - **Local residents will be prioritised for opportunities**; with local recruitment targets to be agreed with contractors and supply chain partners.
  - **Recruitment events will be attended and hosted by the Applicant**, in collaboration with established local partners, to connect active job seekers with live opportunities in various sectors across the build period.
- 8.37 These will be developed and formalised within the ESP, expanding on the Community Benefits Charter commitments.

#### ***Supporting Skills, Training and Apprenticeships***

- 8.38 The operation of other windfarms, including the existing SMWF, in proximity to the Site ensures that there is an existing skilled workforce. However, it is recognised that the Proposed Development provides a further opportunity to skill, up-skill and re-skill local residents to undertake additional jobs which will be generated, including through the construction phase.
- 8.39 There is an existing training infrastructure from which to draw, where, for example the Nordex Training Centre in Haslingden is well established and oriented to skilling a labour-force in this specific sector. Local schools, colleges and universities also have courses and training provision in the construction sector as well as more specialised related skills.
- 8.40 Whilst these facilities exist, the analysis in **Section 5** indicates that there are residents with lower skills and concentrated challenges of income and employment related deprivation. However, alternative routes to employment (such as via apprenticeships and training placements), are already popular locally, and it is recognised that these pathways should continue to be promoted locally, to help local residents obtain skills needed to access future employment opportunities. Given the interconnected nature of employment with other wellbeing benefits, it is intended that this would help to

elevate aspirations, as well as address other areas of deprivation, such as reducing rates of crime and improving physical and mental health.

- 8.41 Cubico is committed to working closely with contractors, suppliers and local training providers and colleges to create a **dedicated apprenticeship and training programme** for Rochdale and Rossendale residents. This will represent a separate output which will subsequently be used as an important reference point for the ESP. The intention being to create a pipeline of talent when it is required, helping to meet skills gaps needed specifically for the Proposed Development, as well as within the industry more widely.
- 8.42 As the analysis in **Section 7** shows, the construction phase will represent the greatest intensity of employment generation. The number of apprenticeship opportunities to be created will be established within the ESP. At this point it is estimated that based on the current representation of apprentices within the construction industry labour force within the North West region (accounting for c. 1.8% of all workers), and the number of net additional construction phase FTE jobs, estimated to be created by the Proposed Development within the North West (110-115), that **c.2 apprenticeship opportunities** could be supported on an ongoing basis during construction<sup>117</sup>. The Applicant is committed to using the ESP and liaison with potential contractors and local academic institutions to explore if this benchmark can be exceeded.
- 8.43 Similarly, the Applicant will endeavour to create apprenticeship opportunities through the operation and management of the Proposed Development. Cubico supports apprenticeship routes to employment across their business through their work on several projects across the UK (and internationally).
- 8.44 The ESP will be used to establish expectations of contractors to work with local training providers to deliver on-site training and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes for employees and sub-contractors, to help respond to local skills needs and gaps. This could take the form of pre-employment training, for those entering, or re-entering the workforce, and to upskill those already in work, to equip residents and employees with the qualifications needed to access these roles.
- 8.45 Further details relating to Cubico's commitments to the delivery of an apprenticeship programme and investing in the skills of the workforce of tomorrow are set out in the Community Benefits Charter.

#### ***Education and Careers Engagement***

- 8.46 Outside the creation of employment opportunities and the skilling of on-site workers, it is recognised that the Proposed Development offers an important opportunity to assist in elevating aspirations of future generations of workers, recognising the important of this sector to the UK's future economy (as set out in **Section 2**). The Applicant is committed to exploring ways to inspire the next generation of workers, support sustainable career pathways and ensure that local talent is equipped with skills to access opportunities within the future green economy.

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<sup>117</sup> Noting that the construction phase will last for 2 years, and recognising that an average construction apprenticeship typically lasts for 3 years, contractors would be encouraged to continue to support these employees on other local projects within the North West region.

- 8.47 Cubico have commenced this process in the ongoing development of a **bespoke school engagement programme**, which will be finalised during the pre-development phase, with plans to extend this into the construction and operational stages.
- 8.48 This will be undertaken through close liaison with local schools and training providers, with Cubico keen to ensure that the views of local students are used to develop the content of the programme and to raise awareness of the range of careers in the industry and routes to employment. Recognising that the Proposed Development aligns with the national curriculum, in terms of raising awareness of a different source of energy generation, a **bespoke educational resource for the Project** will be developed as part of this programme. This will be rolled out with geography and STEM teachers across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to use with their students.
- 8.49 To engage students, it is proposed that during operation, as part of the programme, a **timetable for site visits for pupils** of proximate schools will be set-up to enable students to see the project first hand. This will include installation of a dedicated learning turbine on the Site, which will act as a relatable, hands-on resource for schools, youth groups and community organisations to visit and learn about the Proposed Development, the renewable sector and its role within the wider climate change context<sup>118</sup>. Where feasible, work placements will also be offered to local schools.

#### ***Capturing Local Supply Chain Benefits***

- 8.50 It is recognised that given the specialist nature of the Proposed Development, a proportion of the materials – for example, the manufacturing of the turbines themselves – will be sourced from outside of the Local and Wider Impact Areas, and indeed, outside of the UK. However, construction and O&M contractors will be encouraged to utilise sustainable materials within the construction process, sourced as locally as possible and from small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- 8.51 Placing social value generation front and centre of the procurement of services can make a significant contribution to improved prospects and wellbeing for local people and businesses, and connecting commercial needs with local opportunities and service providers is a key means of retaining and maximising local economic, social and environmental benefits. For example:
- **If supply chain expenditure is with local SMEs, a higher proportion of its value is retained locally than if spent with larger, national organisations.** Research conducted by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) found that small firms will re-spend 49p in every £1 they receive back in a local economy, whereas large firms will only re-spend 31p<sup>119</sup>. Expenditure at SMEs therefore can make a significant contribution to inclusive local economic growth, creating and retaining a larger proportion of the related uplift in new business, employment and skills opportunities for those communities in the areas where activities are actually taking place. As stated in the UK Government's National Procurement

<sup>118</sup> Scout Moor II Wind Farm Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan (2026), Cubico & Turley

<sup>119</sup> Centre for Local Economic Strategies (2013) Local Procurement: Making the Most of Small Business, One Year On

Policy Statement<sup>120</sup> – a diversified supply chain can also have the benefit of resulting in an increased creation of employment opportunities for those who face high barriers to employment or who are located in disadvantaged areas, as well as extending training opportunities.

- **Increasing opportunities for entrepreneurship and helping new and/or small businesses grow can increase supply chain diversity, innovation and resilience, both in terms of individual suppliers themselves and in local economies more widely.** Government policy<sup>121</sup> is cognisant of the fact that a diversified supply chain can result in growth in innovation and the use of disruptive technologies and business models throughout the supply chain, thereby delivering lower cost and/or higher quality goods and services and subsequently encouraging the wider adoption of innovation. This is a known contributor to the development of scalable and future-proofed new methods to modernise delivery and increase productivity, further boosting local economic growth.
- **Local procurement helps tackle climate change and reduce waste of energy, materials and other resources,** through reduced travel distances for materials and staff, thereby minimising carbon emissions.

8.52 Cubico is committed, as set out in the Community Benefit Charter, to ensuring that best endeavours are made to utilise local businesses and organisations wherever possible throughout the project lifecycle.

8.53 To maximise the success of this objective the Applicant will **maintain a database of local suppliers** and create a transparent register with clear procurement opportunities and targets. This would give priority to businesses based in Rochdale and Rossendale, ensuring they are first in line for opportunities, and make best use of local specialist services such as:

- Professional services (with many of the Cubico team, and supporting technical expertise during the pre-development phase based in Greater Manchester, and the wider North West region)
- Construction materials, such as supply of stone and aggregate, fencing and drainage
- Plant hire
- Local trades, such as plumbing, metal fabrication, electrical, joinery, surfacing works, painting, tree surgery and forestry, and scaffolding
- Supporting services such as cleaning and catering
- Local accommodation provision

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<sup>120</sup> HM Government (2021) National Procurement Policy Statement

<sup>121</sup> Ibid

- 8.54 The Applicant will work with RMBC and RBC to develop this database and raise awareness across local businesses in relevant sectors. This could include arranging events and initiatives, for example, Meet the Buyer'-style events.

### **Wider benefits of the Proposed Development to the generation of clean energy**

- 8.55 Onshore wind plays a leading role in the generation of renewable energy in the UK, and by comparison to other forms of energy generation, has a relatively small carbon footprint. A study by the University of Edinburgh found that wind power created in the UK prevented the creation of almost 36 million tonnes of emissions from fossil fuels between 2008-2014, the equivalent of taking 2.3 million cars off the road<sup>122</sup>.
- 8.56 The UK has installed over 14.2GW of onshore wind capacity to date, however, to meet the government target to fully decarbonise power by 2035, this will require rapid growth in renewable power, with onshore wind capacity required to double to 30 GW by 2050. Onshore wind is one of the lowest-cost, scalable electricity generation technologies in the UK, ten time cheaper than gas, which brings both social and economic benefits for households, as well as environmental advantages, by reducing reliance on gas boilers for domestic (and commercial) energy supply<sup>123</sup>.
- 8.57 To ensure transparency and accountability, **long-term monitoring of environmental benefits of Scout Moor II will be reported** (e.g. carbon offset achievements). The results will also be integrated into Cubico's bespoke Environmental Management System (EMS), tailored to reduce the company's environmental footprint and enhance operational efficiency. This will allow documentation and transparency as to the operational benefits of the proposed windfarm as a clean and renewable source of energy, the benefit of which will be realised by local communities and those across the UK alike.
- 8.58 As a local source of renewable energy, the Proposed Development will also help to mitigate the impact of fuel poverty for the surrounding area, through the provision of a reliable source of clean energy. This particularly pertinent, in recognition of the fact that, as set out in **Section 5**, there is projected to be a greater proportion of the population aged over 65 by 2040, who are more likely to place greater demands on the energy infrastructure to heat their homes.

### **Implementing identified initiatives and commitments**

- 8.59 The initiatives proposed above include a mix of on-site and off-site interventions. Equally, the delivery of some initiatives will be the direct responsibility of the Applicant, whereas others will require input from contractors and their supporting sub-contractors during construction, and others will require partnership working, including the contribution of time or resources from external stakeholders. The routes to their

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<sup>122</sup> London School of Economics (2018), [What are the pros and cons of onshore wind energy? - Grantham Research Institute on climate change and the environment](#)

<sup>123</sup> All Party Parliamentary Groups (November 2022), Onshore wind factsheet [onshore wind factsheet 1.pdf](#)

delivery will as a result be varied and take place at various stages of the project lifecycle.

- 8.60 Recognising the form of the current application, the final mechanisms for delivery, and establishment of firm commitments will be secured within subsequent stages of the planning process where relevant or held to account through commitments made in varying supporting documentation through the planning application. As set out in the Community Benefit Charter, these benefits will be secured through a series of delivery plans identified within Planning Conditions and the S106 as appropriate, acting as delivery mechanisms to safeguard delivery.
- 8.61 Given the fact that the Proposed Development is by its nature as a renewable energy scheme, the provision of Clean Energy represents an important wider benefit. The scale of this benefit will be monitored by Cubico as part of their bespoke Environmental Management System.
- 8.62 To assist with this process, and to illustrate the potential means of implementation, and therefore securing value and to maximise impact, **Table 8.1** categorises these commitments, initiatives and their associated delivery mechanisms.

**Table 8.1: Routes to Delivery**

| Commitment                                                       | Initiative                                                                                                                                     | Delivery Mechanism                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Commitment 1:</b><br>Listening and Engaging with Transparency | Continued engagement with the local community                                                                                                  | Planning condition to deliver commitment set out in the Community Benefit Charter to support ongoing community engagement. This will include undertaking, or establishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating of public communication channels</li> <li>• A Community Liaison Group (CLG)</li> <li>• Annual Impact Reporting</li> </ul> |
|                                                                  | Monetary Funding for local communities during all phases of development. This includes the Construction Impact Fund and Community Wealth Fund  | Cubico will work with the local community, including the Community Liaison Group (CLG) referenced above once established, to establish and distribute the identified monetary funds. This recognises that these funds are not a material planning consideration and cannot be secured through planning conditions or S106.                             |
|                                                                  | Provision of volunteering time from the Applicant and Contractors                                                                              | Binding commitment documented in the Community Benefit Charter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                  | Delivery of proposals within the Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan (OAEMP) to improve health, wellbeing and access to green space | On-Site Scheme Design/ Planning Condition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                  | Delivery of proposed enhancements to the natural environment set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment                                   | On-Site Scheme Design/ Planning Condition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                      |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                      | Sustainable Construction practices                                                                     | Planning condition to produce and align with the requirements of, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)                                            |
| <b>Commitment 3:</b><br>Creating Local Opportunities | Prioritising employment opportunities for local people                                                 | Planning condition to produce, and align with, the requirements of an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP), which will include a monitoring and evaluation framework |
|                                                      | Supporting skills, training and apprenticeship opportunities                                           |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                      | Utilising local businesses as part of the supply chain                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                      | Delivering education and careers engagement sessions for local schools, colleges and community groups. | Binding commitment documented in the Community Benefit Charter                                                                                                   |

## 9. Tourism and Recreation

- 9.1 This section provides a context to the tourism economy in the area and considers the impact of the Proposed Development on tourism and recreation. This recognises specifically the views expressed through the engagement process on this specific local issue, as summarised in **Section 6** of this report.

### Local Tourism Context

- 9.2 Travel and tourism support employment and value creation within tourism-based businesses but also within related sectors such as transport, accommodation, food & beverage and retail. High-quality tourist accommodation has an important role to play in encouraging overnight stays – those which in many cases generate the greatest local value – with associated benefits for local economies and communities.
- 9.3 There is limited robust up-to-date data below the national and regional level. Visit Britain data suggests that in 2024, England’s tourism sector contributed £147 billion to the UK economy (GDP) when its direct and indirect impacts are considered, supporting 2.4 million jobs<sup>124</sup>.
- 9.4 At regional level recent research produced by Visit Britain on overseas tourism (inbound visits and spending)<sup>125</sup> identifies that in 2024:
- The North West had 3.4 million inbound visits, with this slightly lower than recorded in 2019 (down 2%), generating £2.0 billion spend.
  - This was the fourth highest in terms of numbers of visits, behind London (20.9 million), South East (4.6 million) and Scotland (4.4 million), as well as spending.
- 9.5 Looking at domestic tourism the Great British Tourism Survey<sup>126</sup> showed that:
- The North West was among the top regions visited by domestic tourists in 2024 with 16% of the total share of overnight trips; .
  - Large towns and cities continued to be the most popular destinations in England in 2024, increasing in popularity to 46% of the share of visits in 2024 (up from 44% share in 2022). This was at the expense of countryside/village destinations, where the share of spend reduced to 14% in 2024 (down from 18% in 2022).
- 9.6 It is recognised that the impact of tourism extends far beyond the economic benefits evident in communities across the UK. Research published by VisitBritain considering the social value of tourism<sup>127</sup> includes a case study of ‘Marketing Manchester’, which is a partnership-led organisation charged with raising Greater Manchester’s profile. This identifies that where Manchester’s reputation as a tourist destination has increased,

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<sup>124</sup> [Economic Value of Tourism | VisitBritain.org](#)

<sup>125</sup> Annual Inbound Update GB’s Nations & Regions – final 2024 estimates International Passenger Survey by the ONS, Visit Britain, published 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025

<sup>126</sup> GB Tourist Annual Report 2024 – Domestic overnight trips in Britain and in England, published 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

<sup>127</sup> [The Social Value of Tourism | VisitBritain.org](#)

tourism contributed £8.7 billion to Greater Manchester and 4.2 million domestic staying visits in 2022. It specifically highlighted that where the conurbations cultural attractions, world class sport offering and hosting of major events played a significant role in attracting visitors, a key part of the tourism economy related to business tourism, with conferences and meetings generating an estimated 4.4 million trips to Greater Manchester and £904 million to the region's economy in 2017.

- 9.7 This is recognised within the Greater Manchester Visitor Economy Strategy, which also sets ambitious goals for growth, aiming to increase the economic impact of the visitor economy locally to £15 billion by 2030, whilst retaining a focus on how this benefits local people. This includes, for example, a commitment that all employees in the visitor economy should earn the Real Living Wage, and that Manchester will rank as the most sustainable city in England.
- 9.8 The Visit Britain data includes a breakdown of key metrics at the County level with the latest data for Greater Manchester and Lancashire showing:
- That in Greater Manchester in 2024 there were 6.4 million visitor trips, a significant increase from the 5 million recorded in 2022. These generated almost £2.1 million of spend, again rising significantly from the £1.3 million recorded in 2022.
  - Comparable figures for Lancashire showed a lower number of trips, with 2.5 million visitors in 2024 generating almost £800 million spending. In contrast to Greater Manchester both the number of visitors and spending had fallen from 2022 (comparable figures being 3.7 million visitors and almost £900 million spending). Reinforcing the finding of the research above which suggested a switch to greater visitors and spending in the larger cities and a reduction in comparative figures for more rural areas.
- 9.9 The above identifies the important role that tourism plays in the UK economy as well as within the North West. It is identified that more recently tourism has tended to be directed to cities and the cultural offer as well as business-led tourism. This has impacted on levels of visits and spend in more rural areas. Where the site sits on the proximity of a large urban area but is within a rural setting, the opportunity to both contribute positively to the overall tourist economy but to assist in enhancing more rural forms of tourism is recognised.
- 9.10 This is reinforced when considering the comparative share of the local economies represented by the tourism sector, where proportionately, the visitor economy currently accounts for fewer jobs in the Local Impact Area than when compared to the wider geographies. Latest available data shows that in 2024, the visitor economy supported 7.1% jobs in Rochdale, and 9.3% of jobs in Rossendale, lower than that that of the North West region (10.9%) and England as a whole (11.6%)<sup>128</sup>. Therefore,

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<sup>128</sup> Business Register and Employment Survey (2024), via NOMIS. Employment supported by the Visitor Economy calculated through the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: 49.1, 49.32, 49.39, 50.1, 50.3, 51.1, 55.1, 55.2, 55.3, 55.9, 56.1, 56.21, 56.29, 56.3, 68.2, 77.11, 77.21, 77.34, 77.35, 79.11, 79.12, 79.9, 82.3, 90.01, 90.02, 90.03, 90.04 91.02, 91.03, 91.04, 93.11, 93.19, 93.21 and 93.29.

demonstrating that through schemes such as the Proposed Development, there is further opportunity to further enhance the strength of the sector locally.

### Local visitor attractions

- 9.11 The Visit Rochdale website lists a series of ‘inspirations’ for visitors to the borough and suggested attractions. Beyond the cultural offer within its town these are primarily focussed on walking, cycling and other outdoor activities related to environmental features such as the Rochdale Canal, reservoirs and lakes and the Pennines.
- 9.12 Similarly, physical outdoor tourism is a key feature of the Visit Rossendale webpage, which introduces the authority as ‘*the Adrenaline Valley*’. It identifies that the authority has a unique collection of outdoor activities providing locals and visitors the opportunity to get involved in distinctive sporting activities, ranging from dry slope skiing to mountain biking and long-distance cycling. Specific identified attractions include: The Hill Ski Rossendale, Whitworth Water Ski Academy, Cown Leisure Off Road Centre and Lee Quarry Trial Centre Mountain Biking. These activity-based tourism attractions are complemented by the smaller urban and cultural offerings of individual market towns including Rawtenstall, Haslingden & Bacup.
- 9.13 This therefore demonstrates the importance of the outdoor trails and routes identified by both authorities’ visitor websites to their overall visitor economy, which is recognised and considered in more detail in the following sub-section, noting that a number of these are near to the Site.

### Recreational Trails and Core Paths

- 9.14 The *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*<sup>129</sup> referenced in the previous section recognises that the site contains a comprehensive access network comprising definitive public rights of way (PRoW), permissive paths, Open Access Land (CRoW), and registered Common Land.
- 9.15 With reference to the PRoW, these include the Rooley Moor Road, a historic upland route linking Rochdale to Bacup. This is known locally as the ‘Cotton Famine Road’, and is now a restricted byway, allowing access for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and non-motorised vehicles.
- 9.16 A network of other well-used recreational trails also traverse the site, forming part of longer-distance routes, which it is recognised enhances their strategic importance for outdoor access and enjoyment. Key routes include:
- **The Pennine Bridleway** – A designated National Trail and one of the UK’s most significant long-distance bridleways. It runs close to the site and provides a high-quality, off-road route for horse riders, cyclists, and walkers. The trail is known for its upland landscapes, historic packhorse routes, and connections between the Peak District and the Yorkshire Dales.

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<sup>129</sup> Scout Moor II Wind Farm Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan (2026), Cubico & Turley

- **The Mary Towneley Loop** – A 47-mile circular section of the Pennine Bridleway that loops through the South Pennines, passing directly by the site. It is specifically designed for multi-user access and is heavily used by horse riders, as well as mountain bikers and long-distance walkers.
- **The Rossendale Way** – A circular walking trail that encircles the Rossendale district, providing expansive views over the moorland and linking key access points across the uplands. It is popular with both local walkers and visiting ramblers and is frequently used for day walks and guided group activities.
- **The Rochdale Way** – A 50-mile long-distance route that circles the borough of Rochdale and connects to upland areas including the South Pennine Moors.

9.17 Both Rossendale and Rochdale promote their extensive network of long-distance recreational trails as part of their rural tourism offer, as highlighted above. Of particular relevance are the Mary Towneley Loop and Pennine Bridleway, which are both listed above and nationally recognised multi-user routes catering to walkers, cyclists, and horse-riders. The Mary Towneley Loop is specifically referenced in the Rossendale Tourism Study (2010) (Table 31, p.57) as a key component of the borough’s active tourism infrastructure, and in the Lancashire Visitor Economy Strategy (2016–2020) (p.27) as one of the county’s leading bridleway assets.

9.18 These routes are also important in the context of equestrian tourism, which—though modest in economic scale—has been explicitly raised during public consultation as an area of local concern. Organisations such as the British Horse Society and the Norden, Bamford and Heywood Bridleways Association have emphasised the importance of retaining high-quality access to these trails for visiting riders. While the number of overnight visitors using the route has reportedly declined in recent years (partly due to reduced availability of B&B accommodation), the Mary Towneley Loop remains a valued destination for recreational riding and multi-day trail use.

### **Evidence on Wind Farms and Tourism**

9.19 The relationship between tourism and wind farms has been considered through a series of studies, the findings of which provide a valuable insight into the potential impacts that the Proposed Development might have on tourism at a local scale. Where more recently new onshore wind farms have been developed in Scotland and Wales the review of literature is mainly focussed on new provision there rather than in England.

9.20 In Scotland recent research analysed trends in tourism employment in the localities of 44 wind farms developed in recent years. The study, prepared by BiGGAR Economics in 2021<sup>130</sup>, found that tourism-related employment and the onshore wind sector both experienced growth in the decade to 2019 and in the 2015 to 2019 period on which the study focused.

9.21 More local effects were also considered with reference to trends in tourism-related employment in the immediate vicinity of 16 wind farms constructed between 2015 and

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<sup>130</sup> BiGGAR Economics (2021), Wind Farms & Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms

2019. Previous case studies for 28 wind farms constructed between 2009 and 2015 were also revisited. This analysis found that in most cases (13 out of 16 local areas), tourism-related employment in the vicinity of wind farms had outperformed the trend for the local authority.

- 9.22 This evidence is therefore instructive in finding a positive relationship between tourism employment and wind farm development at the level of the Scottish economy, across local authority areas and in the locality of wind farm sites in many cases.
- 9.23 The study followed an earlier study by the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University<sup>131</sup> which also found that although there may be minor effects on tourism providers, and a small number of visitors may not visit Scotland in the future, overall effect on tourism expenditure and employment would be limited.
- 9.24 Evidence submitted to the Scottish Government’s Renewables Targets Inquiry in 2012<sup>132</sup> also found that, while tourism research relating to wind farm developments is limited compared with that on policy, landscape, ecology and noise, the clear consensus is that there has been no measurable economic impact, either positively or negatively, of wind farms on tourism<sup>133</sup>. The report also cites evidence that found that respondents that had seen a wind farm were less hostile than those who had not. Additionally, separate research was cited that found that there could be a small increase in visitor numbers and tourist-related expenditure where renewable energy projects are developed in tandem with the development of visitor attractions.
- 9.25 Similarly in Wales, a report prepared by Regeneris Consulting and The Tourism Company for the Welsh Government in 2014 reviewed the potential impacts of onshore wind farms and associated grid infrastructure on the visitor economy within Wales<sup>134</sup>. Drawing on national examples, the report found that where negative effects do arise, these are typically quite modest in scale. It also concluded that there are a number of areas in Wales where wind farms have been an established presence on the local landscape for a relatively long time – including Powys, Anglesey and the South Wales Valleys – with these having no apparent significant impacts on tourism<sup>135</sup>.
- 9.26 The study reports that Wales’ key tourism and visitor assets are, for the most part, unlikely to be affected by wind farm development. The report also concluded that increased familiarity with wind farms will also likely increase visitor tolerance of turbines as a feature of rural landscapes<sup>136</sup>.
- 9.27 A recent report published in November 2023 by RenewableUK Cymru also identified how onshore wind in Wales can work with local communities<sup>137</sup>. Within the report, the

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<sup>131</sup> Moffat Centre (2008), *The Economic Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism*

<sup>132</sup> Aitchison, C 2012, *TOURISM IMPACT of WIND FARMS: Submitted to Renewables Targets Inquiry Scottish Government*. vol. NA, NA edn, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid*, page 17

<sup>134</sup> Regeneris Consulting and the Tourism Company on behalf of the Welsh Government (2014) *Study into the Potential Economic Impact of Wind Farms and Associated Grid Infrastructure on the Welsh Tourism Sector*

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid*, para v, page 1-2

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid*, para 9.16

<sup>137</sup> RenewableUK Cymru (2023) *Onshore Wind in Wales: How our sector works with communities*

potential tourism benefits of onshore wind farms are examined. The report states that onshore wind projects can have a positive impact on the local economy, with 75-90% of tourists displaying a positive or neutral attitude to onshore wind farms on rural landscapes.

- 9.28 The studies above consistently indicate a limited relationship between the tourism economy and wind farm developments. Where it is noted that tourism makes up a comparatively small element of the economy within the Local and Wider Impact area, any potential impact would be further reduced.
- 9.29 However, it is recognised that there are important local visitor attractors within the vicinity of the Site, namely in the existence of recreational trails and paths and that during the engagement process, local communities have emphasised the importance of retaining and accessing these links. In response to feedback received, Cubico have identified a series of mitigation and enhancement measures which it is reasonable to suggest would have a positive benefit. These are considered below but are presented in much more detail in the *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*, referenced above.

### **Mitigation and Potential Local Benefits**

- 9.30 The *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan* identifies that the proposed enhancements offer the opportunity to both create health and wellbeing benefits for local communities, as recognised as part of a wider intervention to provide access to additional greenspace and benefitting existing communities, as shown in **Section 7**, but also to enhance the offer to visitors to the area. This includes improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, all of whom are regular users of the trail network in and around the site.
- 9.31 The recognition of the opportunity to enhance the offer for visitors is reflected in the established strategic objectives, which include enhancements designed to elevate the profile and quality of the area to, inter alia:
- Promote understanding of the moor's natural, historic and climate value
  - Enhance the visitor experience and encourage responsible use
- 9.32 A series of key moves are identified which will contribute to these objectives. These include the provision of interpretation and learning infrastructure specifically intended to guide and inspire visitors. This will include the Cock Inn Rest Area which is described as a flagship feature that will offer a unique blend of local heritage, informal education and community value.
- 9.33 A further key move is the provision of improved cycling links between Cragg and Lee Quarries. Again, as part of its justification, there is a recognition of the opportunity to elevate the area's trail offer and help position Scout Moor as a regionally significant destination for both mountain biking and gravel riding therefore helping to attract more visitors and support the local tourism and hospitality economy.

- 9.34 In parallel, the Plan includes measures to protect and enhance access for equestrian users of the Mary Towneley Loop and Pennine Bridleway. These measures include improved signage, targeted surface upgrades in key locations, and the creation of a new permissive bridleway to provide an alternative to the steepest section of Rooley Moor Road. Turbine setbacks of over 200 metres have been incorporated, consistent with British Horse Society guidance. In addition, the Planning Statement includes a specific assessment of shadow throw on the bridleway and confirms that there would be no adverse impact on the bridleway network. These mitigation measures, along with the wider environmental enhancements identified as important community benefits in the preceding section, provide an important benefit and opportunity to enhance the visitor offer across the Local Impact area. This would be expected to bring wider economic benefits associated with increased visitor spend, supporting and sustaining local businesses within or related to the tourism sector.

### Summary

- 9.35 The importance of the travel and tourism sector is recognised at a national and regional level as an important generator of economic value with associated benefits for local economies and communities. National research suggests that there has been a movement towards increased visits to large towns and cities, recognising the cultural offer they provide, with this including increased business tourism. Greater Manchester appears to have benefitted from this trend, with its growing cultural and sporting offer attracting visitors, both business and pleasure. Where focus has oriented to the towns and cities, national surveys indicate that this has been at the expense of countryside/village destinations where the share of spend has reduced.
- 9.36 Tourism makes up a comparatively small proportion of Rochdale's economy and a more pronounced part of Rossendale's economy. In both authorities the environmental 'offer' presented by the natural landscape, including the geographic context of the site, represents a core part of their tourism offer. In promoting this offer both authorities highlight the recreational opportunities presented by the natural environment, including walking, cycling and horse riding routes and associated facilities. Along with other outdoor recreational pursuits such as watersports.
- 9.37 A review of published research and literature that has considered the relationship between wind farm development and tourism activity have largely pointed to a lack of evidence that they have negative effects on the tourism economies of the host authority, or the immediate areas surrounding the wind farms.
- 9.38 Where the value placed on the natural environment setting of the Proposed Development from a tourism perspective is recognised, consideration has been given to the potential impacts. This specifically recognises, as explained in the *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*<sup>138</sup>, that the site contains a comprehensive access network comprising definitive public rights of way (PRoW), permissive paths, Open Access Land (CRoW), and registered Common Land. This includes key routes such

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<sup>138</sup> Scout Moor II Wind Farm Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan (2026), Cubico & Turley

as the Pennine Bridleway and the Mary Towneley Loop which are widely used by visitors and local communities for walking, cycling and horse riding.

- 9.39 The Plan proposes a series of enhancements intended to improve the recreational experience for all users, along with interventions specifically aimed at elevating the visitor experience and promoting understanding of the moor's natural, historic and climate value. As outlined in the previous section where this will provide social and economic benefits for local communities, it is also reasonable to expect these to bring wider economic benefits associated with increased visitor spend, supporting and sustaining local businesses within or related to the tourism sector.

## 10. Conclusion

- 10.1 This Economic and Social Benefits Statement has been prepared by Turley Economics on behalf of Cubico Sustainable Investments, to present the economic and social benefits that could be generated by the development of the proposed Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm (Scout Moor II).

### **Proposed development**

- 10.2 Scout Moor II is a proposed onshore wind farm located adjacent to the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm ('SMWF').
- 10.3 The application for full planning permission proposes to deliver 12 no. turbines together with a total generation capacity of between 68-72 megawatts ('MW'), with associated ancillary infrastructure, on land at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor. The Site and (and the existing SMWF) occupies an area of open moorland between the urban areas of Rochdale, Bury, Blackburn, Accrington and Halifax, consisting of Rooley Moor, Cowpe Moss, and Brandwood Moor, which collectively form part of the Southern Pennines. This area is spans the administrative boundaries of both Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC'), which collectively are referenced within this report as forming the 'Local Impact Area'. A Wider Impact Area is also defined which covers the North West region.

### **Strategic and policy alignment**

- 10.4 The Proposed Development aligns closely with the Government's national missions, including its commitment and stated ambition to secure clean energy and achieve net zero targets and its expectation that the wider economic benefits of related investments are realised within local communities. These national ambitions are also reflected in regional and local policies and strategies and as this report establishes the Proposed Development has the potential to generate a comprehensive package of economic and wider benefits, which Cubico are committed to ensuring are maximised in their impact for local communities.

### **A commitment to ensuring economic and community benefits**

- 10.5 This commitment recognises Cubico's role as a leading global renewable energy business and its core values which are set out in their corporate ESG report. This commitment has also been captured within a draft *Community Benefit Charter*, which is a binding framework for how Scout Moor II will deliver real, long-term benefits for the communities across the two authorities. This Charter is included in full in **Appendix 1** of this report. The framework provided by this charter has been used in the presentation of the benefits of the Proposed Development in this report.

### **Economic benefits**

- 10.6 Socio-economic profiling of the Local Impact Area and more specifically the proximate communities (defined as a separate community impact area) and insights obtained

through community engagement has highlighted the need for and value in creating new job opportunities. This recognises persistent challenges associated with comparatively high economic deprivation and low skills when compared to national benchmarks as well as a projected continued growth in local populations.

- 10.7 The economic benefits generated over the lifetime of the Proposed Development have been estimated and broken down into three phases.

***Phase 1- Pre-Development Phase***

- 10.8 During the 4-year pre-development phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- **£3.4 million** total investment.
- **25** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the pre-development period, inclusive of **15** in the North West, and **5** within the Local Impact Area.
- **£2.1 million** GVA boost to the UK economy across the four year pre-development period, including **£1.9 million** in the North West, of which **£1.8 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

***Phase 2- Construction Phase***

- 10.9 During the 2-year construction phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- **Between £95.0 -£100.6 million** total investment.
- **Between 245-260** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the construction period, inclusive of between **220-235** in the North West, of which, between **75-80** could be contained within the Local Impact Area. This equates to between **120-130 FTE** jobs in the UK, inclusive of between **110-115** in the North West, and **35-40** within the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £18.9-£20.0 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the construction period, including **between £17.9-£18.9 million** in the North West, of which between **£14.8- £15.6 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

***Phase 3- Operation and Maintenance Phase***

- 10.10 During the 40-year O&M phase, the following economic benefits will be generated:

- Between £32.6 and £34.6 million of total investment over the operational period;
- **Between 90-95** net additional person-years of employment across the UK over the operational period, inclusive of between **60-65** in the North West, and **40-45** within the Local Impact Area.
- **Between £12.7 - £13.4 million** GVA boost to the UK economy over the operational period, including between **£10.8- £11.4 million** in the North West,

of which between **£9.7- £10.3 million** will be concentrated in the Local Impact Area.

- **Between £580,000 -£610,000 in business rates** contribution per year, contributing towards the funding of public services and infrastructure in Rochdale, Rossendale and beyond.

#### **Total Economic Contribution**

- 10.11 The Proposed Development’s total economic contribution to the UK economy across the entirety of the pre-development, construction and O&M phases is summarised in **Table 10.1**, including:

**Table 10.1: Total Economic Contribution**

| UK Impact Type:<br><i>Development,<br/>Construction and O&amp;M<br/>Phases</i> | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 1) | Total Economic<br>Contribution (Scenario 2) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Net Additional GVA                                                             | £33.7 million                               | £35.6 million                               |
| Net Additional Person<br>Years of Employment                                   | 355 person-years                            | 375 person years                            |

*Source: Turley Economics, 2026*

- 10.12 In addition to this, is estimated that the Proposed Development could contribute between **£580,000- £610,000 in business rates revenue per annum**. As part of the standard valuation process, this will be reviewed at 5-yearly intervals (i.e. every 5 years from 2031)<sup>139</sup>, and so have not been presented in totality.

#### **Community benefits and opportunities**

- 10.13 The assessment has identified opportunities to maximise the value of the above economic benefits for local communities, along with other benefits which will help address other identified challenges and priorities. These include, for example, enhancing and protecting the natural environment, which can assist in addressing identified comparatively acute local health and wellbeing challenges. A series of proposed initiatives to generate legacy positive benefits are captured within the *Community Benefit Charter* and an *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan*.
- 10.14 A series of initiatives are proposed which will be secured and delivered through planning agreement and a commitment to ongoing engagement with local communities and stakeholders. These include:
- Monetary funding for local communities during all phases of development, including a Construction Impact Fund and a Community Wealth Fund which, in the case of the latter will guarantee that communities will receive a minimum

<sup>139</sup> Information provided by the Applicant

£408,000 per year<sup>140</sup> (£6,000 per MW of energy produced per year), or 3% of gross project revenue — whichever is greater — with payments linked to inflation and rising over time;

- Dedication of volunteering time from employees of Cubico and contractors;
- A series of proposals to enhance recreational routes and proposed improvements to the natural environment. This will include opening **15.1km of access tracks to walkers, cyclists and horse riders**, comprising of 10.2km of new track, in addition to the existing 4.9km of existing tracks through SMWF which will be retained . It also includes the provision of new circular recreational routes and strengthened connections between existing mountain bike facilities;
- Delivery of sustainable construction practice including the preparation of a Construction Environmental Plan (CEMP);
- Preparing an Employment and Skills Plan which will:
  - Establish targets and mechanisms for local recruitment
  - Quantify apprenticeships to be provided in partnership with local training providers, with the potential to generate in the order of **5 apprenticeships** in the construction phase currently estimated
  - Provide mechanisms to optimise the use of local businesses as part of the wider supply chain; and
- Delivery of a programme of education and careers engagement with local schools, colleges and community groups.

10.15 As well as these initiatives, another key community benefit will be the production of a new source of clean energy, which helps to both address issues of fuel poverty, as well as having environmental advantages, through reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

### **Tourism and recreation**

10.16 The most recent evidence on the relationship between wind farms and tourism suggest that there are no adverse effects on the tourism economy resulting from the development of onshore wind. The value placed on the environmental setting of the Proposed Development in attracting visitors locally is recognised and a series of enhancements are proposed within the *Outdoor Access Enhancement and Management Plan* which will improve the recreational experience for all users, including for walking, cycling and horse riding, along with interventions specifically aimed at elevating the visitor experience and promoting understanding of the moor's natural, historic and climate value. These would be expected to bring wider economic benefits associated with increased visitor spend, supporting and sustaining local businesses within or related to the tourism sector.

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<sup>140</sup> Based on a total output of 68 MW. Under the 72 MW scenario, this would increase to a minimum of £432,000 per year

## **Appendix 1: Scout Moor II Onshore Wind Farm Community Benefits Charter**



# Community Benefit Charter

## Scout Moor II

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# A Message from Our Team



We are delighted to introduce our consultation draft Community Benefit Charter — a binding framework for how Scout Moor II will deliver real, long-term benefits for the communities of Rochdale and Rossendale.

At Cubico, we believe that renewable energy projects should do more than generate power, they should make a real difference to the communities that host them. That's why our plans for Scout Moor II are built on three key commitments:

## 1. Engaging the Community with Transparency

We are committed to open, honest engagement, ensuring that local voices help shape the project and guide key decisions.

## 2. Investing in the Community at Every Stage

We will establish the Scout Moor Development Trust, an independent charity that will manage and administer the Community Wealth Fund, directing long-term financial support into the local communities most impacted by the wind farm.

## 3. Creating Local Opportunities

From supporting local businesses to providing apprenticeships and training, we're focused on making sure Scout Moor II delivers jobs and economic growth close to home.

This Charter is more than a statement of intent, it's a commitment to ensuring Scout Moor II provides an enduring legacy.

The Community Wealth Fund will be independently managed, and the Community Liaison Group (CLG), secured through planning conditions, will ensure that our promises are upheld with community-led oversight and transparency.

We've shaped this Charter based on what you've told us matters most:

- **Protecting green spaces** and improving the local environment.
- **Tackling illegal off-roading** to make the area safer and more sustainable.
- **Supporting local businesses** and boosting the local economy.
- **Providing targeted funding** to help with cost-of-living challenges.
- **Preserving local heritage** and community identity.

We've listened, and these priorities are now at the heart of our approach. This Charter sets out how we'll deliver on them, and we'd like to hear your thoughts as we refine it through further consultation.

The success of Scout Moor II will be built on collaboration. Whether you are a resident, local business, or community group, your input matters. By sharing your views, you can help shape how this project benefits your community for years to come.

**Thank you for being part of this journey.**

# A Shared Vision for Legacy

## Empowering communities

At Cubico, we believe renewable energy should empower communities. Scout Moor II is about more than generating clean electricity — it's about creating lasting local benefits and a positive legacy for the area.

We are committed to making sure that the benefits of Scout Moor II reach their full potential, socially, economically, and environmentally, by following best practice principles and putting local communities at the heart of our approach.

Our approach in this charter is built on **three key principles:**

### Our Values

Ensuring that our projects align with our core values and create long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits.

### Government Policy

Exceeding government best practice on community benefit measure.

### Community Priorities

Shaping our plans based on priorities identified by local people.



By listening and acting on local needs, Scout Moor II will create a long-term legacy for Rochdale and Rossendale.

## Our Values

Cubico's approach to community benefits is grounded in our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy<sup>1</sup>, which goes beyond meeting regulatory requirements to create lasting, positive change in the communities where we operate.

At the heart of this commitment are our **core values**<sup>2</sup> — **Diversity, Respect, Integrity, Value Creation, and Excellence (DRIVE)**. These values shape our decisions, ensuring we:

- **Respect and support local communities**, strengthening economic and social development.
- **Deliver clean, sustainable energy**, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and combating climate change.
- **Protect and sustain the environment** through responsible, forward-thinking practices.
- **Maintain transparency and accountability**, fostering trust through open communication.
- **Promote health, safety, and well-being** across all aspects of our work.
- **Contribute to social well-being**, investing in corporate social projects and local partnerships.

These principles guide everything we do — from how we engage with communities to how we design our investment model, ensuring Scout Moor II creates a positive and enduring legacy.

The UK Government has made it clear: communities that host renewable energy projects must benefit directly.<sup>3</sup>

## Government Policy

While community benefits have traditionally been delivered voluntarily by developers, approaches vary significantly across sectors and regions. Recognising the need for greater consistency and fairness, the Government is working to standardise these contributions, with updated guidance expected soon.

Currently, the Good Practice Guidance<sup>4</sup> sets the benchmark for voluntary community benefits, which include:

- **A minimum contribution of £5,000 per MW per year** for community benefit funds.
- **In-kind benefits and direct community investment** to support local priorities.
- **Early engagement requirements**, ensuring developers consult communities before finalising plans.

At Cubico, we believe the standard should be higher. Our approach to Scout Moor II goes beyond industry norms to provide Rochdale and Rossendale with a lasting package of benefits that offers greater value, long-term security, and transparency.



1. Cubico Sustainable Investments. Corporate Social Responsibility. 2025. Available at: <https://www.cubicoinvest.com/esg/corporate-social-responsibility/>

2. Cubico Sustainable Investments. Our Values. 2025. Available at: <https://www.cubicoinvest.com/about-us/our-values/>

3. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A New Era of Clean Electricity. London: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2024, p. 59. Available at: <https://gov.uk>

4. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Community Engagement and Benefits from Onshore Wind Developments: Good Practice Guidance for England. London: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2021, p. 45. Available at: <https://gov.uk>

## Community Priorities

We have listened. Through our first stage of consultation, residents, businesses, and stakeholders have been clear about what matters most.

This feedback has shaped our approach in this draft charter, ensuring that our commitments are focused on local needs. To



This initial feedback has been critical in shaping our approach in this draft charter and we look forward to receiving further feedback in the next stage of consultation.

### Environmental

- **Protecting and enhancing green spaces**, ensuring local landscapes are preserved and improved.
- **Tackling illegal off-roading**, which damages the countryside and poses safety risks.

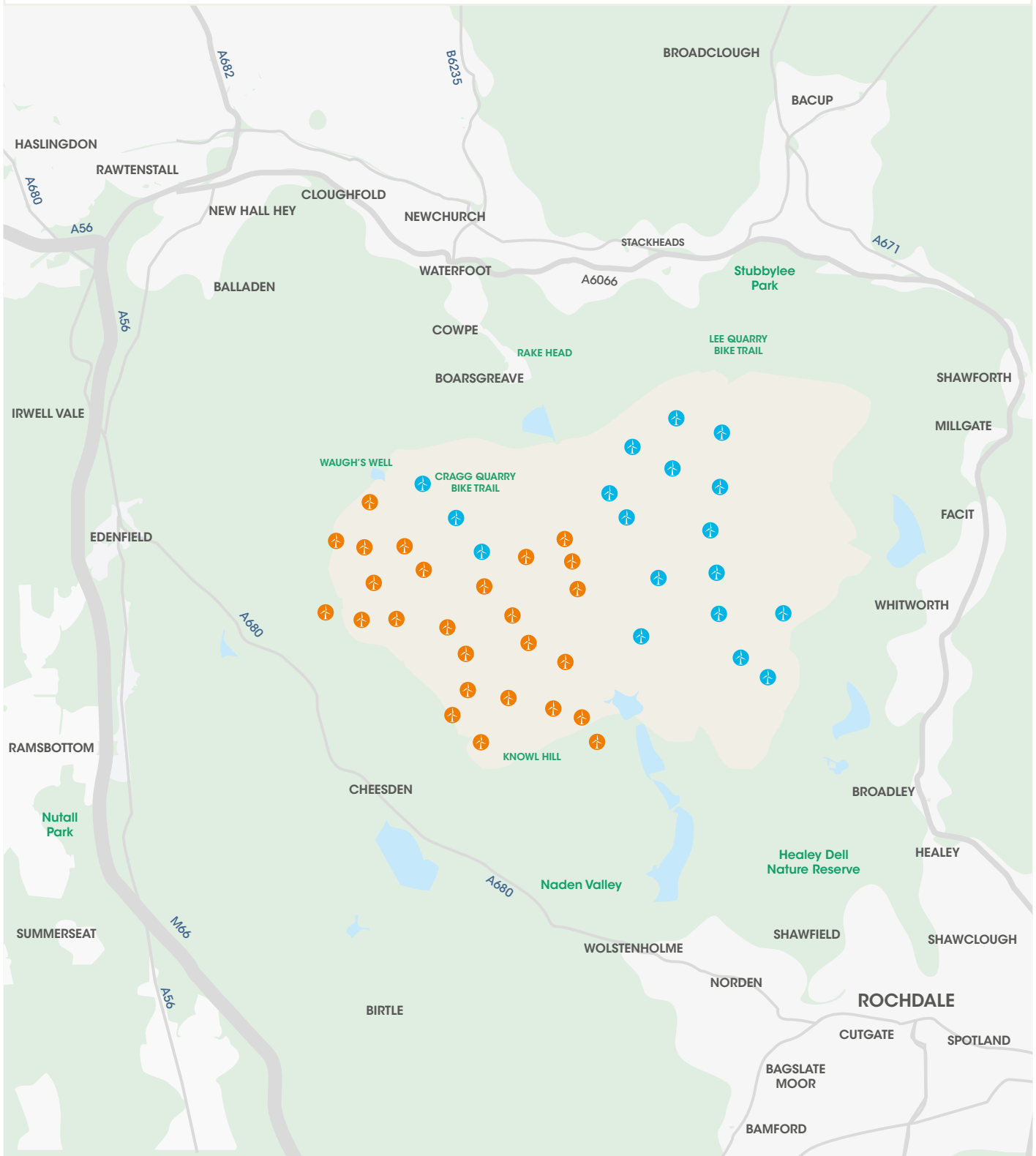
### Social

- **Prioritising support** for those living closest to the project, ensuring fairness in benefit distribution.
- **Establishing clear governance and accountability** to maintain transparency in fund management.
- **Addressing cost-of-living challenges** through targeted financial support.
- **Preserving local heritage**, ensuring Scout Moor II contributes positively to the region's identity and cultural legacy

### Economic

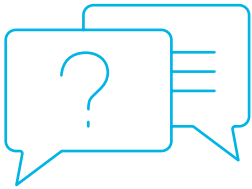
- **Ensuring communities share in the project's financial success** through a revenue-linked model.
- **Providing contributions above the £5,000/MW benchmark**, ensuring a long-term, meaningful impact.
- **Strengthening local businesses**, keeping investment within Rochdale and Rossendale.
- **Creating job and training opportunities**, particularly for young people and those seeking new career paths.

## Wider Community Plan



## Our Plan for Community Benefits

We have drafted this charter to outline our commitment to ensuring Scout Moor II leaves an enduring legacy, built around three core commitments:



### Commitment 1: Listening and Engaging with Transparency

We are committed to open, honest engagement, ensuring that local voices help shape the project and guide key decisions.



### Commitment 2: Investing in the Community

We will establish the Scout Moor Development Trust, an independent charity that will manage and administer the Community Wealth Fund, directing long-term financial support into the local communities most impacted by the wind farm.



### Commitment 3: Creating Local Opportunities

From supporting local businesses to providing apprenticeships and training, we're focused on making sure Scout Moor II delivers jobs and economic growth close to home.

**Together, these commitments form the foundation of Scout Moor II's Community Benefit Charter,** ensuring that the social, economic, and environmental benefits of this project extend well beyond the wind farm itself.

In the following sections, we outline how we plan to deliver these commitments and invite your feedback to help refine the Charter ahead of our planning submission.



IMAGE : Engineer on top of wind turbine

# Commitment 1:

## Engaging the Community with Transparency



At Cubico, we believe in open, honest, and meaningful engagement with local communities at every stage of the project. We are committed to giving residents, businesses, and stakeholders real opportunities to shape decisions, share concerns, and contribute ideas, not just be informed. Through two-way dialogue, we will listen, adapt, and ensure that community voices directly influence the development of Scout Moor II.

### Public Consultation

Good community engagement starts early. That is why we are running a two-stage consultation to ensure local feedback helps shape our plans before we submit a planning application.

We are committed to providing clear information, offering multiple ways to get involved, and carefully considering every comment. To keep the process open and accessible, we've published a Community Engagement Plan ([available here on our website - www.scoutmoor2.co.uk](http://www.scoutmoor2.co.uk)), which will evolve as we gather feedback and refine our approach.

### Two-Stage Consultation Process

We are taking a structured approach to consultation:

#### Stage 1

Identified key community concerns and priorities.

#### Stage 2

Presenting refined proposals that directly reflect community input before submitting our planning application.

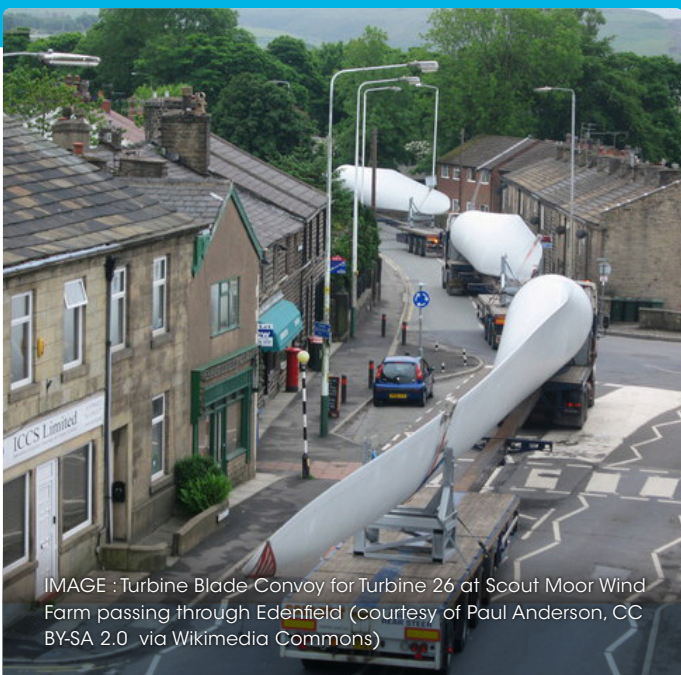


IMAGE : Turbine Blade Convoy for Turbine 26 at Scout Moor Wind Farm passing through Edenfield (courtesy of Paul Anderson, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

## Have Your Say

We want to make it easy for you to share your views.

You can contact us via:



by phone



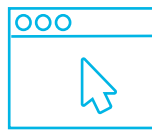
by post



by email



on social media



via website

## Engaging in Different Ways

We understand that people prefer different ways to engage, so we're offering a range of options to make it easy for everyone to get involved:

- **In-person exhibitions** for face-to-face discussions
- **Online webinars** for accessibility
- **Interactive tools** to visualise the project
- **Community meetings** and workshops to collaborate with residents
- **School workshops** to educate young people and gather their perspectives

## Your Feedback Matters

Every comment is recorded, reviewed, and used to shape the final proposals.

A Statement of Community Involvement will be submitted with our planning application, detailing how community input has influenced the project.



IMAGE : Aerial view over Scout Moor Wind Farm

## Planning Application

Our commitment to openness and accessibility doesn't end with the planning application. We will continue to provide clear information and ensure that every community member has the opportunity to understand and engage with the project at this important stage.



### Easy-to-Read Documents

The Environmental Impact Assessment will include a clear, plain English, non-technical summary to ensure accessibility for all readers. Key submission documents will be professionally formatted for better readability, with visual aids such as infographics, maps, and diagrams to enhance understanding.



### Dedicated Web Portal

We will provide a fully accessible, user-friendly platform that serves as a central hub for residents to access planning documents, project updates, and important information.



### Ongoing Community Support

Our team will be available via phone, email, and in-person sessions to answer questions, provide clarifications, and maintain ongoing dialogue throughout the determination period. Additionally, an FAQ section will be available online to address common queries.

## During Construction

We understand that building Scout Moor II will bring increased activity to the area, and we are committed to minimising disruption while keeping residents informed throughout the construction process.



### Construction Updates

A dedicated website will offer regular progress reports, timelines, an FAQ section, and details on any changes to construction activities.



### Construction Hotline

A direct phone line and email address will be available for residents to ask questions or report concerns.



### Community Liaison Group (CLG)

Regular meetings with local residents, businesses, and stakeholders will provide opportunities to discuss progress, address concerns, and ensure responsible construction management.

We will maintain open, two-way communication to build trust and offer ongoing support during this phase.



## During Operation

Even after construction ends, our engagement will continue. We will work closely with the community to ensure that Scout Moor II operates responsibly and transparently, keeping residents informed and involved throughout the operational phase.



### Ongoing Community Liaison Group

The CLG from the construction stage will remain active, providing a dedicated forum for discussions between Cubico, residents, and stakeholders. We will also work closely with the Scout Moor 1 operator to ensure a single, easy-to-access contact for all wind farm-related queries.



### Dedicated Website

A central hub for:

- Regular updates on the wind farm's performance and activities.
- Educational resources on renewable energy and sustainability.
- Community fund details, including how to apply and updates on funded projects.
- Real-time financial tracking of community investment funds will be published, allowing residents to see exactly how and where funds are allocated
- Clear contact information for ongoing communication.



### Community Impact Report

This will be an annual report showing how feedback has shaped decisions and how community funds have been used.



# Commitment 2:

## Investing in the Community



Scout Moor II is not just about generating clean energy — it is about investing in local communities at every stage of the project.

Unlike traditional community benefit schemes, Scout Moor II ensures:

- **Immediate investment before construction begins** – Supporting education, skills, and local projects.
- **Direct support during construction** – Recognising and mitigating impacts while ensuring the supply chain actively contributes to local initiatives.
- **A long-term funding model** – Going beyond best practice, with Community Wealth Fund, an inflation-proofed, revenue-linked community fund.

### Before Construction

Before construction even begins, we will invest in local communities to deliver immediate, positive impacts.

Our focus is on education, skills development, and community support to ensure that the benefits are felt early on.



### How we will do this

- **Provide Local Grants** – A community grant programme offering support local initiatives and sponsorships.
- **Deliver School Outreach & Education** – Partnering with organisations like the Comino Foundation to inspire students through renewable energy and sustainability programmes.
- **Support Skills Training & Apprenticeships** – Collaborating with colleges and training providers to create career pathways in energy and construction.
- **Encourage Volunteering & Community Support** – Organising an annual volunteering day where our team and suppliers support local charities and events.



## During Construction

We recognise that construction will bring some disruption, and we are committed to minimising impacts while ensuring the community benefits. To achieve this, we will establish an independent Construction Impact Fund, supported by Cubico and our supply chain, to ensure contractors contribute to local initiatives.



### How we will do this

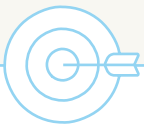
- **Provide Targeted Community Support** – Funding local initiatives and projects to help offset temporary disruptions.
- **Invest in Infrastructure & Road Improvements** – Enhancing road safety, signage, and local infrastructure.
- **Maintain Ongoing Engagement & a Rapid Response Team** – A dedicated team to provide updates and address concerns in real time.



IMAGE : Scout Moor Wind Farm Official Opening  
(courtesy of Paul Anderson (1) / CC BY-SA 2.0)

## During Operation

Once the wind farm is up and running, the **Community Wealth Fund** will provide ongoing financial support for the community. This fund will be managed by a dedicated charity to ensure fair distribution, transparency, and lasting benefits for the local area.



### How we will do this

- **Ensure Transparent Fund Management** – The Trust will have a governance model that includes local community representatives and independent oversight.
- **Share Annual Impact Reports** – Providing clear updates on how the fund is being used and the difference it is making.
- **Keep Benefits Local** – Ensuring that financial support remains within the community and is reinvested where it's needed most.
- **Strengthen Community Decision-Making** – Governance of the Community Wealth Fund will prioritise local input to ensure long-term positive impact.

### Revenue Tracker in practice

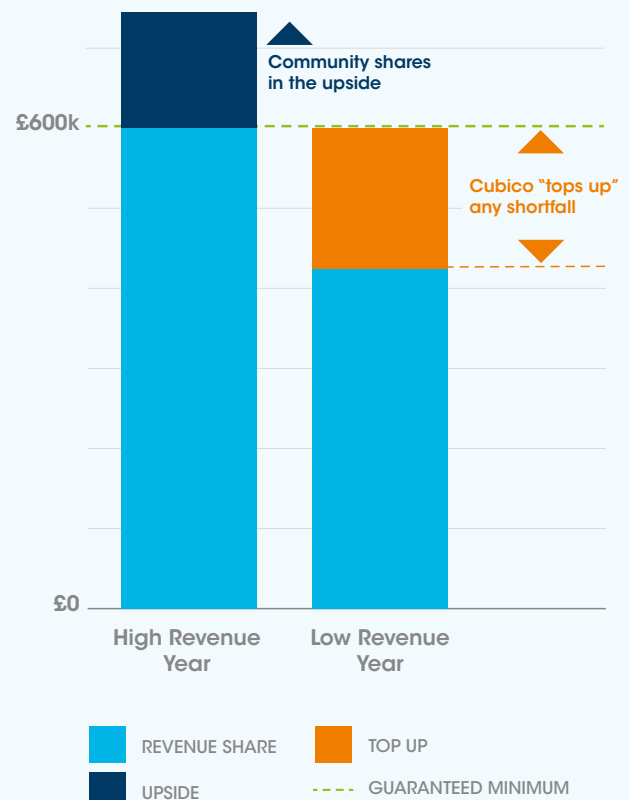
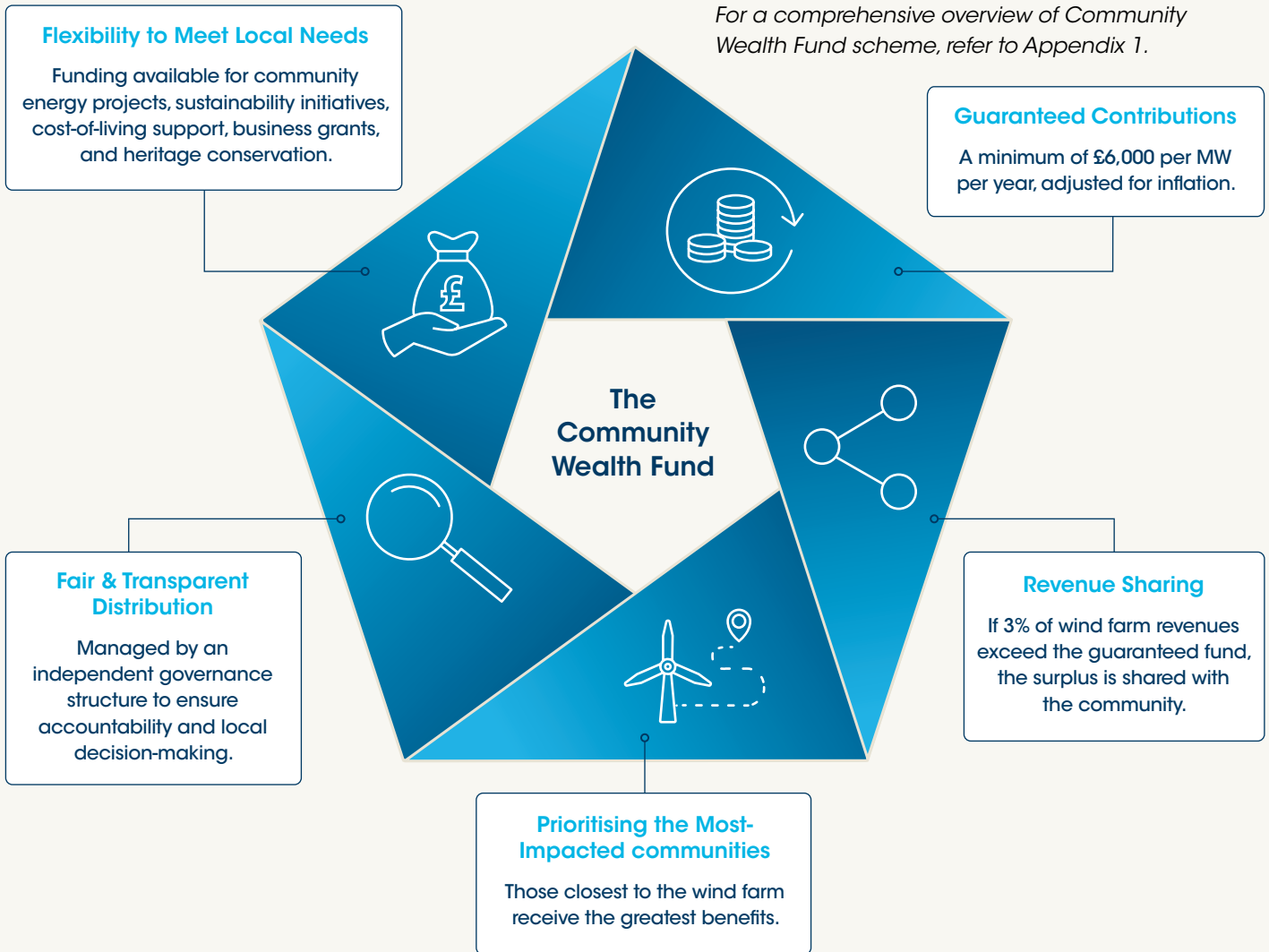


IMAGE : Viewpoint 7 CGI – Cowm Reservoir, Whitworth



## Key Features and What it Means for the Community



## Exploring Community Energy Ownership

As part of our long-term commitment to community benefits, we recognise the growing role that community-owned renewable energy assets will play in shaping our energy future. We are committed to working with local organisations to explore how the project could support community-led energy initiatives down the line.

This could involve partnerships, funding through the Community Wealth Fund, or sharing knowledge to help develop locally owned energy generation opportunities.

We will continue to engage with residents and community groups to better understand how this could fit into the broader vision for sustainable energy investment in Rochdale and Rossendale.

# Commitment 3:

## Boosting Local Jobs & Economic Growth

Our aim is to maximise local investment by prioritising jobs, businesses, and skills development in Rochdale and Rossendale. Scout Moor II is committed to bringing long-term economic benefits by making sure that local people and businesses are central to the project.

To make this happen, we will set clear, binding targets in our planning application and contracts to ensure local investment and long-term opportunities. We will also use best-practice procurement strategies to give local businesses priority when it comes to supply chain opportunities. This includes keeping a dedicated supplier register and sharing accessible information about upcoming contracts.

This will:

### Keep investment local

Prioritises Rochdale and Rossendale businesses, strengthening the regional economy.

### Create jobs and career pathways

Provides long-term employment and training opportunities for local people.

### Develop future skills

Equips young people with the knowledge and experience needed for careers in high-demand industries.

### Strengthen community resilience

Supports local businesses, education, and workforce development, creating a lasting economic impact.

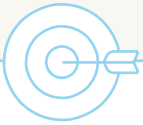


By investing in local talent and businesses, Scout Moor II will help build a stronger, more resilient local economy that benefits generations to come.



## Backing Local Businesses

We recognise that while wind turbines may not be manufactured locally, there are still plenty of opportunities for local businesses to benefit from both the construction and operational phases of Scout Moor II. From infrastructure works to ongoing site services, we are committed to ensuring that local suppliers, tradespeople, and service providers play a key role in this investment.



### How we will do this

- **Host "meet the supplier" engagement events:** Connecting local businesses with key procurement opportunities.
- **Maintain a database of local suppliers:** Giving priority to businesses based in Rochdale and Rossendale, ensuring they are first in line for procurement opportunities.
- **Creating a transparent register** to advertise local procurement opportunities particularly for materials, catering and service providers.
- **Encourage long-term local partnerships:** Identifying opportunities for local businesses to provide ongoing operational and maintenance services.
- **Promote skilled trades and specialist services:** Engaging local plant hire companies, environmental consultants, and specialist rural contractors for moorland restoration and rebuilding traditional stone walls, ensuring local expertise is utilised in maintaining and enhancing the natural landscape.
- **Establish clear procurement targets:** Through our planning application, we will set measurable targets for awarding contracts to businesses within Rochdale and Rossendale. This commitment ensures that investment stays local, drives regional economic growth, and creates sustained opportunities for local businesses and workers.

## Apprenticeship Programme

The majority of job opportunities will be created during the construction phase, providing a valuable boost to local employment. However, there will also be ongoing roles available after construction, particularly for technicians and maintenance staff, providing long-term career opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

To ensure local people can benefit from these opportunities, we'll work closely with our contractors and suppliers to create a dedicated apprenticeship and training programme for Rochdale and Rossendale residents. This programme will help local talent access careers in renewable energy, engineering, and construction, giving them the skills needed for both immediate and lasting roles in the industry.



### How we will do this

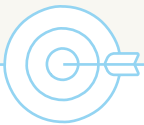
- **Offer apprenticeships and work placements** for young people and job seekers in construction, energy, and technical trades.
- **Partner with local training providers and colleges** to ensure young people are aware of apprenticeship opportunities and trained in industry-relevant skills for future careers.
- **Provide site visits and mentoring,** creating direct pathways into the renewables sector. opportunities in construction, engineering,

IMAGE : CGI generated aerial view over Scout Moor II Wind Farm



## Ensuring Opportunities Stay in the Community

Building on our apprenticeship programme, we are committed to ensuring that local people from all backgrounds have the first opportunity to apply for jobs created through Scout Moor II—from construction roles during the build phase to long-term operational positions in maintenance and technical support.



### How we will do this:

- **Partner with local job centres, job clubs, and employment support organisations** to ensure all vacancies are advertised locally before wider recruitment.
- **Work with our contractors and supply chain partners** to prioritise hiring from Rochdale and Rossendale wherever possible.
- **Host dedicated local recruitment events** to connect job seekers with employment opportunities in construction, engineering, and project management.
- **Provide targeted support** for underrepresented groups, including young people, career changers, and those returning to work, ensuring accessible pathways into the renewables sector.

## Investing in Skills: Preparing the Workforce of Tomorrow

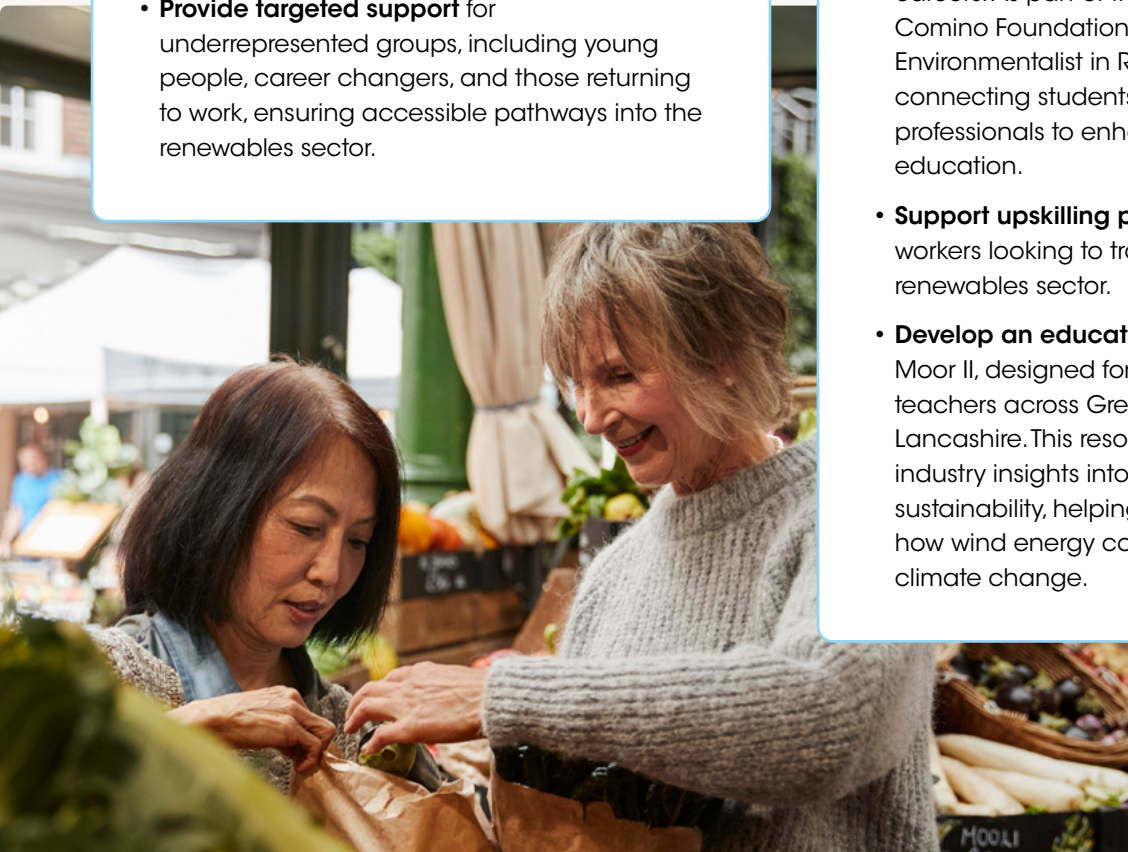
We will work closely with local schools, colleges, and training providers to align programmes with the needs of the renewable energy sector. By connecting our efforts to the wider national skills strategy, we aim to ensure that local talent is well-equipped for careers in the green economy.

By investing in education and skills development, we hope to inspire the next generation, support sustainable career pathways, and ensure that local talent is ready for the future green economy.



### How we will do this:

- **Deliver STEM education workshops** in local schools, inspiring students to explore careers in renewable energy and sustainability.
- **Provide career talks, renewable energy sessions, and work experience opportunities**, giving young people insight into green careers. As part of this, we are working with the Comino Foundation through their Environmentalist in Residence programme, connecting students with industry professionals to enhance sustainability education.
- **Support upskilling programmes** for local workers looking to transition into the renewables sector.
- **Develop an educational resource** for Scout Moor II, designed for geography and STEM teachers across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. This resource will provide real-world industry insights into renewable energy and sustainability, helping students understand how wind energy contributes to tackling climate change.



# Our Delivery Plan

Ensuring Scout Moor II delivers real, lasting benefits requires clear actions, strong governance, and measurable outcomes at every stage of the project.

## Our approach ensures:

- **Community consultation drives decision-making** from planning through to operation.
- **Planning conditions and legal commitments safeguard key priorities** such as local jobs, environmental protections, and long-term community engagement.
- **Transparency and oversight** through regular reporting, an independent Fund Administrator, and a Community Liaison Group to **hold Cubico accountable**.

Through clear commitments, planning safeguards, and independent governance, Cubico is committed to delivering meaningful, long-term benefits for Rochdale & Rossendale.

IMAGE : CGI generated aerial view over Scout Moor II Wind Farm



## Planning Stage

### Securing Approval & Engaging the Community

#### What Cubico Will Do:

##### Consult the Community

Conduct transparent public consultation in line with the Community Engagement Plan and going beyond best practice guidance.

##### Address Community Concerns

Respond to feedback from Stage 1 and 2 consultations with refined proposals that will be submitted in the planning application

##### Make Planning Clear & Accessible

Provide plain English, non-technical summaries of key planning documents.

##### Publish the Final Community Benefit Charter

Setting out how Cubico will go beyond industry standards, clarifying safeguards for delivery, and demonstrate how this charter has been informed by public consultation.



## Pre-Construction Stage

### Laying the Groundwork for Delivery

#### What Cubico Will Do

##### Finalise Community Liaison Group Structure

Confirm membership, meeting frequency, and community representatives.

##### Set Up the Construction Impact Fund

Working with our contractors to ensure funding is allocated to support those most affected by construction.

##### Develop a detailed Local Skills & Employment Programme

Develop a plan with our contractors and local colleges, training providers, and job centres to prioritise local hiring.

##### Hold a Wind Farm and Turbine Naming Competition

Involve the community in choosing the wind farm's name and individual turbines.

##### Prepare for Construction

Finalise supply chain agreements, traffic plans and environmental safeguards and ensure the community is informed.



#### Safeguards to Ensure Delivery:

##### Statement of Community Involvement

Submitted with the planning application, detailing how community feedback has influenced the project.

##### Publicly Available Planning Documents

All key reports available in plain English via a dedicated website and local information points.

##### Planning Conditions and Section 106

Legally binding commitments on key matters, such as local employment & skills training, ongoing community engagement & governance, and environmental protections and mitigation.



#### Safeguards to Ensure Delivery:

##### Pre-Commencement Planning Conditions

Construction cannot begin until full details of employment, environmental, and community engagement plans are approved.

##### Pre-Construction Report

A public update showing how Cubico has met all pre-construction commitments.

##### External Oversight

External monitoring by the local authorities will ensure compliance with planning conditions.



## Construction Stage

### Managing Impacts & Keeping the Community Informed

#### What Cubico Will Do

##### Launch the Community Liaison Group

Regular meetings with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to discuss the construction process.

##### Keep Residents Updated

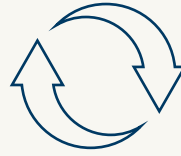
Maintain a project website with live updates, a 24/7 hotline, and host regular community meetings.

##### Deliver Local Benefits

Activate the Construction Impact Fund, prioritise local hiring, and ensure apprenticeships are filled by local people.

##### Launch the Process to Develop Local Action Plans

Begin planning the implementation of the Community Wealth Fund.



## Operational Stage

### A Long-Term Commitment to the Community

#### What Cubico Will Do

##### Establish an Independent Scout Moor Community Trust

A charity will be set up to ensure dedicated and transparent management of the Community Wealth Fund, which will be independent of Cubico and the local authorities. Further detail on this is provided in Appendix 1.

##### Maintain Open Communication

Continue the Community Liaison Group, with a focus on wind farm operations. The project website will transition to reflect operational updates instead of construction and will include an Annual Impact Report on the wind farm's performance.

##### Support Local Jobs & Skill

Provide ongoing apprenticeships, training, and local supplier contracts.



#### Safeguards to Ensure Delivery:

##### Planning Conditions

Cubico must submit evidence that Training & Employment Plan commitments are met.

##### Regular Progress Reports

Dashboard updates on the website could cover key KPIs in respect to community engagement, job creation, and construction milestones.

##### Community Oversight

The Community Liaison Group will review progress and hold Cubico accountable.



#### Safeguards to Ensure Delivery:

##### Planning Conditions

Ensure compliance with all binding requirements for wind farm operation.

##### Annual Community Reports

Provide transparent updates on job creation, local investment, and environmental impact.

##### Long-Term Oversight

Regular community meetings and independent reviews to ensure Cubico remains accountable.

# Why Your Voice Matters

This draft Community Benefit Charter outlines the framework for how Scout Moor II will bring long-term benefits to local communities. However, we believe that the final plan should reflect the voices of those it impacts most, that's why we need your input.

Your feedback will directly influence the final version of this Charter, ensuring that:

- Community priorities are reflected in how benefits are delivered.
- The governance and decision-making process remains fair and transparent.
- The investment model provides real, lasting value to Rochdale & Rossendale.

By sharing your thoughts now, you'll help shape the commitments, funding priorities, and governance structures that will guide this project for years to come.

## How to Get Involved Now



### Have Your Say on the Proposal

Tell us what works, what needs improvement, and what might be missing.

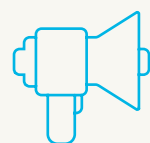
Your feedback will directly shape the final version of the Community Benefit Charter.



### Become a Supporter

Local organisations can endorse this initiative and stay engaged by:

- Joining our mailing list to receive priority updates.
- Being the first to hear about new opportunities and events.
- Helping to shape the next steps of the initiative through feedback and engagement.



### Show Your Support Publicly

Supporting organisations can choose to have their logo featured in future materials as a Community Partner, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring lasting local benefits from the wind farm.



## Looking Ahead

### Your Role in the Next Steps

If planning permission is granted, there will be even more opportunities for you to shape how benefits are delivered:

#### Community-Led Decision Making

Local people will decide how the Cubico WindShare fund is allocated, ensuring it meets real community needs.

#### Community Liaison Group & Local Action Plans

We will establish advisory panels and co-design workshops to create Community Action Plans, setting out how funds are allocated in line with local priorities.

This is your opportunity to influence how Scout Moor II delivers lasting benefits — get involved and help shape the future of your community.

# Appendix 1:

## Community Fund Model & Governance

### How It Works

The scheme goes beyond industry standards, delivering more value than the usual £5,000 per MW by providing:

- **Guaranteed Payments**

A minimum of £6,000 per MW of capacity annually, adjusted for inflation to protect its value over time.

- **Revenue Tracker**

A share of 3% of the project's gross annual revenue, allowing communities to gain even more when energy prices are high and / or when the wind farm benefits from periods of higher generation.

The fund ensures communities always receive the higher of these two amounts, offering both stability and the opportunity to benefit from the project's success.

### Why include a Revenue Tracker?

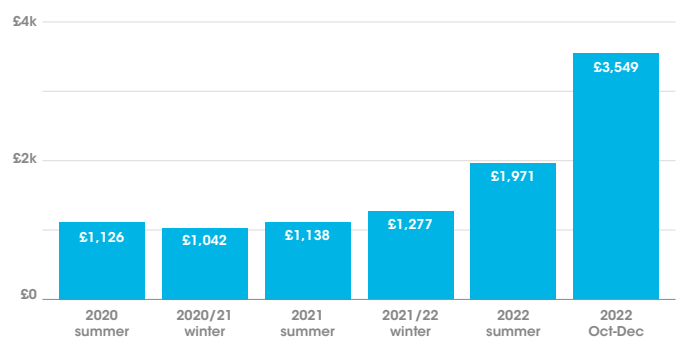
Europe's electricity market has faced significant challenges in recent years, particularly due to its historic reliance on Russian gas. Between 2021 and 2023, surging energy prices pushed many families into poverty, forced factories to cut production or shut down, and slowed economic growth.

At Cubico, we recognise the importance of global energy price stability. Renewable energy projects like ours operate under long-term fixed energy contracts via Contracts for Difference (CfD) or through corporate Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). These arrangements shield us from volatile energy prices and contribute to reducing energy bills for households and businesses.

That said, there are opportunities for the operator of wind farms to optimise revenues during the operational stage of the project. This can include improving turbine performance through regular maintenance and minimising downtime with advanced asset management to maximise generation. We are committed to ensuring that the community shares in these additional revenue benefits when they occur, enabling local communities to directly benefit from the project's success.

### The UK Energy Price Cap

Default tariff price cap for dual fuel direct debit customers in the UK.



Cap is for standing charges and unit prices. Total bills may be higher. Figures displayed based on typical energy use.

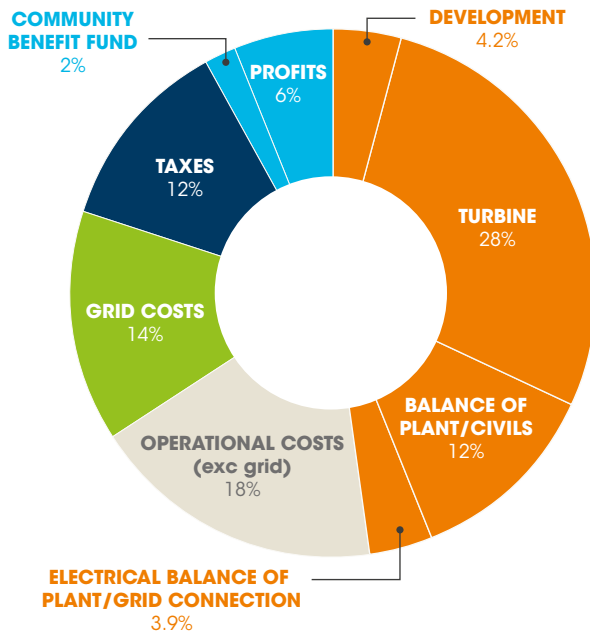
Source : Ofgem

### How will the Revenue Tracker benefit local communities?

The Revenue Tracker model ensures local communities directly benefit when the wind farm earns more revenue. It guarantees that communities will receive £600,000 per year (£6,000 per MW), but if 3% of the wind farm's annual income exceeds this amount, the higher figure is passed on to the community.

Running a wind farm is not straightforward. There are significant costs involved, such as maintaining turbines, carrying out repairs, and meeting regulatory requirements. While the wind farm can generate millions each year, most of that income is used to cover these expenses, repay loans, and keep operations running smoothly. On average, Cubico retains only about 6%<sup>5</sup> as profit as illustrated by this chart from BiGGAR Economics.

5. BiGGAR Economics. Onshore Wind Finances and Economic Development. Scotland: BiGGAR Economics, 2024, p. 3. Available at: <https://biggareconomics.co.uk>



### Distribution of income for an onshore wind farm (CAPEX Split)

The key point of the Cubico WindShare is that we absorb all the financial downs of running the wind farm, while the community only shares in the ups – when the wind farm earns more, the community benefits more. When times are challenging for Cubico and income is lower, the community is still protected and receives the guaranteed minimum payment.

Source : BiGGAR Economics

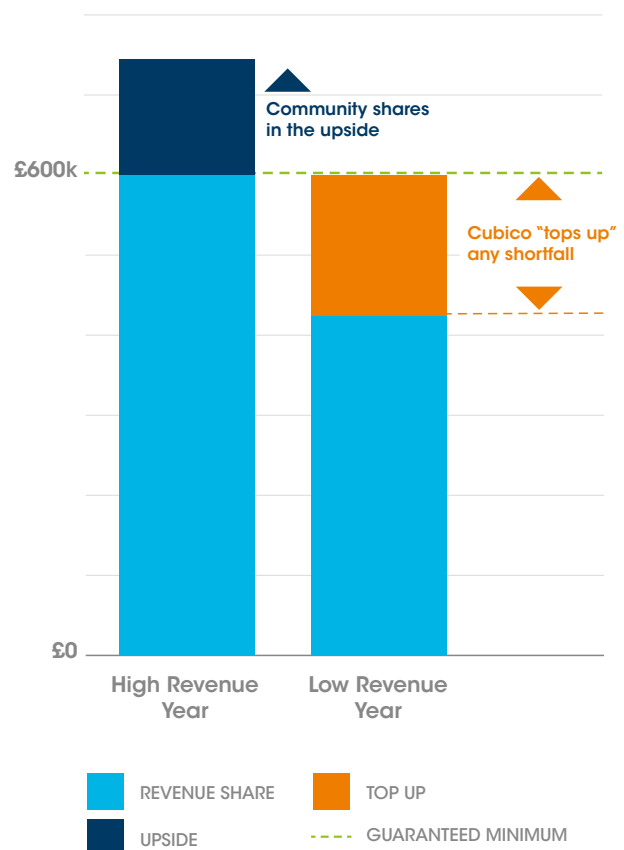
### How it works – a practical example:

In **high-income years**, if 3% of the wind farm's income exceeds £600,000, the community will receive the full 3%, thanks to stable contracts and efforts to maximise turbine performance and reduce downtime. There is no limit on how much the community can receive in these years.

In **low-income years**, when the wind farm earns less than expected, Cubico guarantees the community will still receive £600,000 by topping-up any shortfall, even if it reduces Cubico's profit margin.

This approach creates a fair balance: communities benefit from increased revenues in good years, while being protected from the financial risks and costs of running the wind farm in challenging times. It ensures long-term financial stability for the community, while Cubico manages the complexities of wind farm operations.

### Revenue Tracker in practice



## Fair and Transparent Fund Management

We are committed to ensuring the Community Wealth Fund is managed with the highest standards of fairness, transparency, and accountability. A robust and independent governance structure will be put in place to ensure the fund delivers maximum impact for the local communities it is designed to benefit.

The fund will be managed by a separate and independent legal entity, known as the Fund Administrator, to ensure dedicated and effective management.

This entity will be established by Cubico following the approval of the necessary planning permissions and common land consent.

It is likely to take one of the following forms:

- **Community Interest Company (CIC)**
- **Community Benefit Society (BenCom)**
- **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

This independent structure will:

- **Focus solely on the management of the fund,** avoiding unrelated responsibilities or legacy liabilities.
- **Ensure involvement from representatives** of the most impacted communities, providing local voices in decision-making.
- **Operate under clear, documented systems** to guarantee transparency, fairness, and protection against fraud or mismanagement.

The board of directors for the Fund Administrator will include representatives from the affected communities, ensuring local voices are at the heart of decision-making. The board may also be supported by fund employees or an external agency with expertise in fund management to guarantee effective oversight and high standards of governance. As part of this consultation, we invite input on which representatives and community organisations are best positioned to help deliver and manage this fund successfully.

## Securing the Fund

In England, community benefit funds are not a material planning consideration and cannot be secured through planning conditions or Section 106 agreements, as established by case law. This is because they are not directly related to the grant of planning permission. However, Cubico is fully committed to ensuring that the Community Wealth Fund is delivered independently.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Community Liaison Group (CLG)—which will be secured via a planning condition—will oversee all commitments in this Charter, including the fund's implementation. The fund itself will be legally structured and managed independently, with regular reporting and community oversight ensuring it delivers long-term benefits. This approach guarantees that Cubico remains accountable, even though the fund operates outside the planning system.

IMAGE : Cubico site visit



## How will your community benefit?

The Community Wealth Fund will be designed to provide meaningful, long-lasting benefits to the communities most impacted by the Scout Moor II project, with a particular focus on those nearest to the wind farm. By aligning with the specific priorities and challenges of these communities, the fund ensures that financial contributions have a real and lasting impact on the lives of those who are most affected.

From fostering economic growth and supporting community projects to addressing local needs, the Community Wealth Fund is committed to creating a positive, enduring legacy for the region. We are dedicated to ensuring that the communities hosting the project see the greatest benefits, helping to strengthen and support them for years to come.

## Benefiting the Most Impacted Communities

The fund will prioritise the communities closest to the wind farm, ensuring that those most affected by the project see the greatest benefits.

Initial areas identified for support include:

- **Whitworth**
- **Norden**
- **Bacup**
- **Cowpe/Waterfoot**
- **Haslingden**
- **Edenfield**

These communities were identified through a review of the areas which the wind farm will most likely be visible.

In addition to these core areas, the community may explore the creation of a separate funding pot for regional initiatives, allowing the benefits to extend to the wider area.

Decisions regarding this allocation, particularly the precise distribution of funds to each community, will be made by the Fund Administrator once established.

These decisions will be shaped through public consultation to ensure they align with local priorities and community needs.



## Tailoring Support to Local Needs

Cubico recognises that every community has its own unique challenges and opportunities. During our previous consultation, you highlighted the importance of protecting and enhancing local green spaces, tackling illegal off-roading, supporting local businesses, and providing cost-of-living assistance. You also emphasised the need to safeguard the area's heritage and civic pride.

We understand that these priorities may change over time. To ensure that funds are allocated effectively, Community Action Plans will be developed in collaboration with local stakeholders. These plans will be created after planning permission is granted but before construction begins and will:

- **Identify local needs and priorities** for the first 5–10 years.
- **Guide the allocation of funds** to address key challenges and opportunities in each community.
- **Reflect community aspirations**, ensuring that support is tailored to specific goals and circumstances.

Funding could be allocated through a variety of channels to maximise impact, including:

- **Grant-Based Funding:** Offering financial support to local organisations and initiatives through a structured grant application process.

- **Revenue-Based Funding:** Providing sustained financial assistance for specific long-term community projects aligned with local priorities.
- **Emergency Fund:** Creating a flexible funding reserve to address unforeseen circumstances or urgent community needs.
- **Repayable Grants:** Offering interest-free or low interest loans to projects facing cashflow challenges. These would involve a customised repayment plan agreed with the fund administrator.
- **Capitalised Funding:** Setting aside a portion of the fund to build an endowment or capital reserve, generating income over the long term to ensure continued community benefits.

This flexible and collaborative approach ensures that funds are both adaptable and targeted, delivering the greatest possible benefit to the community while responding to its evolving needs.



## Fair Distribution of Funds

Cubico is committed to ensuring the fund is distributed fairly, transparently, and in a way that reflects the needs of the community.

### Key principles include:

- **Community Representation:** Local representatives will sit on the Fund Administrator's board and, where appropriate, on sub-committees for specific areas. This ensures that decisions are informed by those directly impacted.
- **Guided by Community Action Plans:** Allocation decisions will be based on these plans, ensuring that funding aligns with locally identified needs and aspirations.
- **Transparent Reporting:** All decisions, eligibility criteria, and project selection processes will be publicly reported, fostering trust and accountability.

IMAGE : Engineer inspecting wind turbine



IMAGE : Scout Moor Wind Farm Opening Day, 2008  
(©Mike Davis, Flickr)





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