



Irish Wind Energy Association,
Sycamore House,
Millennium Park,
Osberstown,
Naas, Co. Kildare.

Director of Services, Planning Section,
Tipperary County Council
Civic Offices,
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary

By email to planning@tipperarycoco.ie

1st December 2014

Re: Tipperary County Council Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2015-2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Irish Wind Energy Association (“IWEA”) is Ireland’s leading renewable energy representative body and as such has an active interest in the potential for sustainable energy. IWEA is committed to promoting the use of wind energy in Ireland and beyond as an economically viable and environmentally sound alternative to thermal or nuclear generation and promotes awareness and understanding of wind power as the primary renewable energy resource. IWEA members are involved in more than 85% of the wind farm capacity planning to build from now to 2020.

IWEA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Tipperary’s Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2015-2019. We also welcome the proposed continued exemption from development contributions provided for single private use wind turbines.

However IWEA has concerns regarding the proposed development contributions that apply to commercial wind turbines. The development contribution levels proposed of €10,000 per turbine for the newly combined Tipperary County Council marks a significant and unjustified increase from the previous development contribution schemes, which were in operation in Tipperary South¹ for 2014 of €7,000 per turbine and Tipperary North² for 2014 also of €7,000 per turbine.

This payment for commercial turbines would represent a significant €3000 across the board increase per turbine, which represents an overnight **unjustified increase of 43% per turbine for wind energy project developers.**

Every new wind farm development provides a substantial contribution to the local and national economy through job creation, local authority rates, land rents and increased demand for local support services in construction, operation & maintenance, legal and accounting and project

¹<http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Publications/South%20Tipperary%20County%20Council%20%20Development%20Contribution%20Scheme%202014.pdf>

²<http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Publications/North%20Tipperary%20County%20Council%20Development%20Contribution%20Scheme%202014.pdf>

management. Wind farm developments also provide community benefits in accordance with the *IWEA Best Practice Principles in Community Engagement & Community Commitment, 2013*³. More wind on the system will also result in lower and more stable energy prices for consumers while helping us achieve our energy and emissions targets.

As outlined in the [DoECLG Development Contributions Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#):

“Development contributions are not cash-cows: there is an important balance to be struck between the funding of public infrastructure and the need to encourage economic activity and promote sustainable development patterns. It is essential that development contribution schemes do not impede job creation or facilitate unsustainable development patterns.”

IWEA would also like to draw attention to the following requirement also contained within the same guidance⁴:

*“Planning authorities **are required** to include the following in their development contribution schemes: Options for reduced charges in respect of renewable energy development to promote uptake of renewable energy technologies.”*

In that context IWEA believe that the scale of increase in **development contributions proposed for wind energy is excessive and without recognition of the requirements of the current DoECLG guidance**. This 43% increase is also proposed without regard to the existence of significant benefits from wind energy to the local Tipperary economy with over 200MW of installed capacity in the County supporting rates, jobs and local investment.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss. We would also finally propose that wind turbine linked development contributions should **be ‘ring-fenced’ for use directly in the local communities hosting the wind farm.**

Yours sincerely,

**Sent by email, without signature.*

Caitríona Diviney
Chief Operating Officer
Irish Wind Energy Association

³ <http://www.iwea.com/iweabestpracticeprinciplesinco>

⁴ <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,32162,en.pdf>