

I wanted to provide an update regarding community benefit funding for the East Berwickshire area from the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm.

Foundation Scotland has been asked by Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) to work alongside communities to set-up and run the NnG community benefit fund arrangements.

Following stakeholder discussions involving communities in Fife, East Lammermuir as well as Berwickshire, it has been confirmed that £32,400 (increasing with inflation) will be made available to communities in Berwickshire each year for the first three years. It has also been confirmed that the East Berwickshire 'area of benefit' for the funding will be **the five Community Council areas of Cockburnspath & Cove, Coldingham, St Abbs, Eyemouth and Burnmouth**. These arrangements will be reviewed in 2028.

Supported by all communities involved, the intention is that **the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) Community Fund for East Berwickshire will operate alongside the existing Drone Hill (onshore) Wind Farm Community Fund** which supports projects benefiting Cockburnspath & Cove, Coldingham communities as well as Reston & Auchencrow and Grantshouse communities.

This will make things as easy as possible for applicant groups, and for the Panel of residents from across all seven communities who will make award decisions.

Arrangements and logistics are still being finalised; however we anticipate opening the integrated **Drone Hill & NnG East Berwickshire Fund** for applications in late 2025 or early 2026, with a first application deadline of late March/early April. We anticipate three funding Rounds per year; in Spring, Summer and late Autumn.

We will provide a further update in late November/early December once exact arrangements and timings are finalised.

I hope this information is useful in the meantime – more to follow soon!

Niome Lucjan
Community Funds Adviser