



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Town Planning Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Wind Farm Visit and Onshore Wind Seminar for Councillors</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 21 June 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mrs Petra Scarborough, Democratic Services Section (ext 6003)

### Relevant Background Information

Notification has been received regarding a Wind Farm Visit and Onshore Wind Seminar for Councillors, which will take place in the City Hotel, Derry and the Curryfree Wind Farm on Tuesday 4 September 2012.

### Key Issues

The aim of the seminar is to inform participants about the key drivers and benefits of onshore wind development and to provide an increased knowledge of the range of considerations involved in the planning and development of wind energy projects and the drivers for renewable energy deployment along with a greater awareness of wind energy technology and the facts associated with its development.

The key issues examined during the Seminar will include:

- A series of factual presentations covering the economic and social drivers for wind energy;
- A series of presentations looking at the economics of wind development, from the perspectives of local authorities, communities and developers;
- A workshop exploring the development process from a range of perspectives balancing the various economic, social and environmental issues facing developers, decision makers, consultees and other stakeholders in developing wind projects; and
- A visit to a local wind farm to see it in operation and to learn more from the site manager about the operational aspects of the technology.

The seminar has been organised by the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group, a collaboration between RenewableUK and the Irish Wind Energy Association.

### Resource Implications

Attendance at the seminar and wind farm visit is free of charge.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee notes the information.