

**Fanellan Hub 400 kV Substation and
Converter Station
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 4 | Technical Appendices**

Appendix 16.1 – Socio-economics Policy Review
February 2025



POLICY REVIEW

1.1 National Strategic Context (Scotland)

Scotland's National Performance Framework

- 1.1.1 The National Performance Framework aims to create a successful, sustainable, and inclusive society by achieving 11 national outcomes. These outcomes focus on improving well-being, reducing inequalities, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The Proposed Development must demonstrate its positive contribution to these outcomes, particularly in fostering economic growth, promoting resilient infrastructure, and tackling climate change. This aligns with social value by enhancing community well-being and environmental sustainability.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022)

- 1.1.2 This strategy outlines how Scotland aims to achieve economic growth over the next decade by collaborating with businesses and leveraging strengths in energy, technology, space, and decarbonisation. The Proposed Development should align with these objectives, contributing to job creation and economic growth. It supports community wealth building by fostering local economic opportunities and enhancing Scotland's energy infrastructure.

National Planning Framework 4

- 1.1.3 Adopted in February 2023, NPF4 integrates national policy into planning decisions and guides spatial development until 2045. It designates significant national developments, including renewable electricity generation and transmission infrastructure. The Proposed Development is part of this strategic infrastructure, supporting national and regional spatial priorities. This development is crucial for economic growth, job creation, and ensuring resilient energy infrastructure, while also considering its impact on tourism and recreation.

Scottish Governments Programme for Government 2024/25

- 1.1.4 This programme outlines impactful measures for 2024/25, focusing on eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, tackling the climate emergency, and ensuring high-quality public services. It includes significant investments in regional economic development and renewable energy. The Proposed Development aligns with these priorities by contributing to economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability. It must also consider its impact on tourism and recreation, ensuring it supports community wealth building and does not negatively affect natural spaces.

Green Industrial Strategy 2024

- 1.1.5 The Green Industrial Strategy, published on 11 September 2024, aims to position Scotland as a leader in clean energy industries during the transition to net zero. It focuses on electrifying existing industries and attracting new investments through enhanced renewable electricity production. The strategy emphasises creating well-paid jobs in green industries, workforce development, and skills training to benefit local communities. It also promotes innovation and local supply chains to stimulate economic development. The Proposed Development should align with this strategy by supporting renewable energy integration, creating local jobs, and ensuring long-term socio-economic benefits for surrounding communities, contributing to a just transition to net zero.

Tourism Strategy: Scotland Outlook 2030

- 1.1.6 Scotland Outlook 2030 is a national tourism strategy that aims to ensure tourism benefits Scotland's communities, economy, and international profile. It focuses on developing a skilled workforce, creating sustainable destinations, providing memorable experiences, and supporting diverse, resilient businesses. Given tourism's significant role in

Scotland's economy, the Proposed Development should consider its impact on local tourism, ensuring it contributes positively to communities and aligns with sustainability goals.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)

- 1.1.7 The Scottish Planning Policy outlines the Scottish Government's land use planning principles, emphasising sustainable economic growth. It confirms that the planning system should support development that contributes to economic growth and high-quality places. The Proposed Development should align with SPP by facilitating sustainable economic growth, creating new jobs, and strengthening economic capacity and resilience within communities.

Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan

- 1.1.8 The Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan outlines Scotland's vision for transforming its energy system to meet net zero targets. It focuses on expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, while ensuring a just transition that supports workers and communities. The strategy emphasises creating green jobs, fostering innovation, and ensuring fair distribution of benefits from the energy transition, particularly for communities historically dependent on fossil fuels. The Proposed Development should align with this strategy by supporting renewable energy expansion and ensuring socio-economic benefits for local communities.

1.2 Regional Strategic Context

Highland-Wide Local Development Plan

- 1.2.1 The Highland-wide Local Development Plan outlines the vision for sustainable growth and investment in the Highlands by 2030. It aims to balance population growth, economic development, and environmental protection. The Proposed Development should contribute to renewable energy growth while protecting the area's environmental quality. It should also support local economic development by creating jobs and enhancing infrastructure necessary for long-term growth in the Highlands.

Action Plan for Economic Development in the Highlands

- 1.2.2 The Action Plan for Economic Development in the Highlands focuses on generating new employment in the private sector and social economy to offset the impacts of national public sector cuts. The Proposed Development should align with this plan by stimulating local economic growth, creating jobs, and ensuring community benefits.

Highland Renewable Energy Strategy (HRES) and Planning Guidance

- 1.2.3 The Highland Renewable Energy Strategy aims to harness the energy and economic potential of renewable technologies in the Highland area. It emphasises the economic opportunities from transitioning to a low-carbon economy and the critical role of the renewables sector. The Proposed Development should maximise local economic opportunities while balancing social and environmental considerations, contributing to both the global environment and local communities.