

## **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### *Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme*

SSE have informally offered to connect the scheme on 31/10/2014. A formal offer should be forthcoming soon.

### *Scarista wind turbine*

It is unlikely that Bank of Scotland will be able to provide any finance. It requires collateral for security and alternative revenue streams which could cover any shortfall if output is lower than expected, neither of which the Trust has. Social Investment Scotland and CARES for loan funding.

### *Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building*

The planning permission application will be considered at committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March. There do not appear to be any significant obstacles so far. Latest cost estimates are £320k for groundworks and £913k for the main building, polytunnels and play area, giving a total of £1.233m excluding detailed design and project management costs which are likely to take the total cost to £1.35-£1.4m ex VAT.

Munro Gauld is progressing with the business plan which will be circulated for comment in due course. HIE will consider an initial application for funding in early April, which if passed could lead to an award being made by the end of April. I am also in the process of preparing an application to the Big Lottery Fund which will be submitted shortly.

### *Rubha Romagaidh- Housing*

The housing has been costed at £260 per building, giving a total of £780k for the 3. Design and management costs etc are likely to take this to £850k.

### *Rural Housing Body Status*

Subject to parliamentary procedure WHT should be given Rural Housing Body status on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

### *Crofting*

2 rents remain outstanding for all periods back to May 2011. There have been no adverse reactions to the notification of the rent rise.

### *Plot sales*

The purchaser of plot 3 Luskentyre expects to move to Harris shortly and is looking to build at the earliest opportunity.

6D Seilebost is to go ahead but remains slow progress.

Duncan MacPherson  
19/03/13