



Introduction

Tamboran Resources (UK) Limited welcomes the opportunity to respond to HM Treasury's consultation on the Shale Wealth Fund. It is reassured that the government is committed to exploring and developing the UK's shale gas resources.

The company's main interest is in Northern Ireland where some of the taxes locally applied are different, the population density in the areas of interest is different and the geological situation is not the same as in Great Britain. Accordingly whilst we hope that the principle proposals in the Shale Wealth Fund will apply (be accepted by the Northern Ireland Executive) it is urged that some flexibility be included to allow for the local circumstances.

Northern Ireland stands to gain considerable benefit for the local and regional economy from an indigenous natural gas industry with the potential of billions of pounds of investment and thousands of direct and indirect jobs. The value of a secure supply of relatively low carbon energy for many years ahead cannot be overestimated.

Tamboran Resources (UK) Limited has, from the start of its first licence in 2011, insisted that communities local to the exploration/development should see immediate and direct economic benefits. It recognises that as development advances so the benefits have to spread more widely from, in our case, the county level to the national level. Accordingly it strongly supports the government's plans for a Shale Wealth Fund.

The company agrees that the government can be confident the right protections are in place to explore shale safely. This is the message it will be continuing to explain to people in the local communities and the region as work progresses.

1 Do you think that providing opportunities for both local and regional investments are the right priorities for the Shale Wealth Fund?

Yes, both local and regional investment is important. The communities that are directly impacted by shale gas development should be the first to see a clear economic benefit through investment but regional investment, especially concerning infrastructure, is necessary.

2 Do you agree that a more local level should receive revenues before a more regional level (including the 'trickle-up principle)?

Yes, as indicated above.

3 Over the lifetime of the Shale Wealth Fund, what do you think the proportion of funding allocated between these two priorities should be?

This is a difficult question to answer without knowledge of the size of the shale gas resource which has yet to be determined by future exploration. The company thinks this is a question for Northern Ireland Executive and elected representatives to answer after local consultation.

4 Should the government retain flexibility regarding the proportion of funding between delivering benefits at local and regional levels, to enable learning from the industry pilot schemes and once the magnitude of shale revenues becomes clearer.

Yes, as indicated above.

Tamboran Resources (UK) Ltd fully supports the industry pilot schemes.

5 Do you have views on how the 'local community' to a shale site should be defined for the purposes of the Shale Wealth Fund?

This company will expect the 'local community' to be the county involved with flexibility to give special consideration for those within 1km of a drill site.

6 Do you agree that the 'local community' should be defined on a case-by-case basis?

Yes. This company councils 'flexibility'.

7 Do you think that a set of principles should be developed to ensure consistency of approach for different shale developments?

Yes. These should be advisory to allow for the flexibility necessary in different geographical and geological situations.

8 If possible, should the government seek to align any 'local community' element of the Shale Wealth Fund with the industry's community benefits scheme?

Yes, to avoid duplication and best value.

9 Do you agree that at a local level, it should be for local people to determine how the Shale Wealth Fund is spent?

Yes. The company thinks that whilst the views of local people must be sought it should be elected local representatives who make the final determination on spending. The company would not expect to be involved.

10 How could the government ensure that all local residents benefit as directly as possible from the Shale Wealth Fund?

This is not a question for a company to answer.

11 At the local level, should expenditure from the Shale Wealth Fund be subject to any ring-fences for a specific purpose?

This is a question for locally elected representatives and not a question for a company to answer.

12 At the local level, would an appropriate use of the Shale Wealth Fund be to make direct payments to householders?

It should not be ruled out but generally this will probably be covered by the industry benefits scheme.

13 Do you have views on who should make decisions on Shale Wealth Fund allocation at a local level? Do you have a preference between an existing body (such as a parish council), using the same community led panel as the industry scheme, or creating a new body?

This company hopes the will of the local people will be followed but generally thinks elected representatives, at parish (townland), county and national levels should make the allocations.

14 How can the government ensure that decisions are as directly influenced by local residents as possible?

The company recommends comprehensive consultation and engagement (by public servants and industry) to ensure as direct an influence by local people as possible. Offering local people as many

opportunities and platforms to respond and give their views will be critical. These will include written response, surveys (on-line and postal), social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.), exhibitions, road shows, consultation events and questionnaires.

Local people must be afforded respect and the opportunity to engage directly free from any political interference or intimidation.

15 Do you have a view on how the boundaries should be defined for a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund?

The region for this company is Northern Ireland.

16 What kind of investments do you think should be made from a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund?

This is a question entirely for the Northern Ireland Executive and its elected representatives.

17 Do you think a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund should be administered by direct grants to specific organisations, or through an open bidding process?

This is for the people to decide and not a company. This company suggests both direct grants to specific organisations and an open bidding process will be appropriate. Whatever means is decided it should be open, transparent and speedy.

18 Do you have views on how a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund should be governed? Are there existing regional organisations or local or national governance structures that would be particularly suited to oversight of such a fund?

The company thinks there are such existing structures in Northern Ireland and, especially where they are overseen by elected representatives, hopes that they will be used.

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