

Scrutiny Committee – 2nd November 2010

12. Update on Wind Turbine at Yeovil Innovation Centre

Executive Portfolio Holder: Tom Parsley, Environment & Property
Strategic Director: Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus)
Lead Officer: Keith Wheaton-Green, Climate Change Officer

Vega.sturgess@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462200
keith.wheaton-green@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462651

Purpose of report

Scrutiny members have requested updated electricity generation data following work undertaken on the turbine by the manufacturers Proven.

Background

Aeolus Power installed a Proven 15KW wind turbine on the Yeovil Innovation Centre site on the 11 June 2009. During November 2009, the manufacturer instructed us to put the brake on the turbine – as a health and safety measure - due to a component failure. The turbine remained inactive until May 2010 when a refurbished head and shortened blades were placed back on the tower. No costs were incurred by the council for this work. It has been operational since then. Pending the installation of full length blades, the turbine is currently rated at 12.8 kW.

The turbine

Since installation, the turbine has not generating as much electricity as originally estimated. (The full years data is added as an appendix.) This is due to a six month period of inactivity during what had been the windiest months of the year, and the shortened blades since May 2010.

When asked, Proven have recently stated that they expect to install improved, redesigned full length blades some time after October 2011. They are surprised at the relatively low rate of generation and intend to investigate this and make any technical adjustments that could lead to an improvement in the turbines performance.
