

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Stallashaw Moss Renewable Energy Fund
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide an update on the development of Stallashaw Moss Windfarm and agree that the associated community benefit payments are managed through the Renewable Energy Fund.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Council's Renewable Energy Fund incorporate provision for the receipt and disposal of community benefit payments in respect of the Stallashaw Moss Windfarm; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) is authorised to conclude administrative matters in relation to the incorporation of the community benefit using the Renewable Energy Fund mechanism.

3. Background

- 3.1. Muirhall Windfarm Ltd received planning permission in December 2008 (amendments agreed January 2009) to erect 6 wind turbines at Stallashaw Moss near Auchengray, Carnwath. Muirhall Windfarm Ltd has undertaken the construction of the windfarm and it became operational in April 2011.
- 3.2. 'Community benefit' payments to the Council amounting to £4000 per MW of consented capacity are part of the 'Section 75' planning conditions. The first annual payment to the Council from Muirhall Windfarm Ltd has been received and amounted to £49,200. Future payments will increase in line with inflation and will end in 25 years time when the windfarm is decommissioned.
- 3.3. The "Section 75" agreement places an obligation on the Council to administer the community benefit received from the Windfarm.
- 3.4. The Council has already established a Renewable Energy Fund (REF) for the collection and distribution of 'community benefit' payments at the Blacklaw and Whitelees Windfarms. The REF model was also used when developing the Clyde Wind Farm Fund.

- 3.5. It is proposed that the arrangements in place for the distribution of funds through the REF be used also to administer the Stallashaw Windfarm payments.

4. Criteria for Distribution of Stallashaw REF Grants

- 4.1. The eligible area for the fund generated from Stallashaw Moss Wind farm is shown on Plan 1 and is broadly the area within 10km of the windfarm application boundary. This includes the communities of Auchengray, Forth, Carnwath, Carstairs Village, Carstairs Junction, Newbigging and Dunsyre among others. Projects located within 5 km of the wind farm would be given priority when applications for funding are received
- 4.2. It is proposed that the arrangements for the distribution of funds should be similar to those of Blacklaw and Whitelees Wind Farms as administered under the mechanism of the Renewable Energy Fund (REF). The funding would be split into two specific funding streams, the Local Grant Scheme (LGS) and the main Fund.
1. The Stallashaw LGS would be allocated 30% of the fund income and would offer a 100% intervention rate for projects with a value of up to £5000. Intervention rates and the scale of projects that would be considered through this local scheme would be the same as Blacklaw and Whitelees.
 2. The above arrangements would therefore leave 70% of the available income to be allocated to the main REF scheme, with an intervention rate of up to 50% proposed for projects with a value over £10,000. The intervention rate would be determined through the scoring matrix used for the REF.
- 4.3. Enterprise Resources will administer these funds in the same way as they do with the existing Renewable Energy Funds from Blacklaw and Whitelees.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed fund.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. Community benefit will provide support to a wide range of voluntary, charitable and community groups/bodies across an extensive area of rural Clydesdale. Consultation has taken place with Planning Services and Muirhall Windfarm Ltd..
- 8.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

4 April 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Committee – Stallashaw Windfarm.

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004 “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Muirhall Wind Farm Limited – Windfarm at Stallashaw

