

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 October 2012
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund and Stallashaw Moss Renewable Energy Fund – Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Seek approval for applications to Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund and Stallashaw Moss Renewable Energy Fund from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and Carnwath in Bloom.
- ◆ Seek approval for applications to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from Scottish Autism and Kirkfieldbank Parent Teacher Association.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a conditional grant be awarded to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture of up to £33,300 (plus an administration fee of £1,500) towards the total project costs of £80,500 for improvement works at Braehead Hall, subject to match funding for the project being secured.
- (2) that a conditional grant be awarded to Carnwath in Bloom of up to £48,843, towards the total project costs of £119,726 (plus an administration fee of £1,750) towards the upgrading of George V Play Park, Carnwath, subject to match funding for the project being secured.
- (3) that a conditional grant be awarded to Scottish Autism of up to £6,053, (plus an administration fee of £500) towards the total project costs of £13,452 for the creation of a sensory garden at Staikhill Lanark, subject to match funding for the project being secured.
- (4) that a conditional grant be awarded to Kirkfieldbank Parent Teacher Association of up to £4,519, towards the total project costs of £11,298 towards the creation of a development play area at Kirkfieldbank Primary School, subject to match funding for the project being secured.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Executive Committee on 3 March 2004, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Blacklaw Windfarm, and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.2. The Fund is financed from payments from Scottish Power who operate the Blacklaw Windfarm. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Fund totalling £1,169,197.75 including interest.

- 3.3. The Renewable Energy Fund is administered by Regeneration Services who are responsible for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.
- 3.4. At the Enterprise Resources Committee on 15 June 2011, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Stallashaw Moss Windfarm, and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.5. The Fund is financed from payments from Muirhall Windfarm Limited who operate the Stallashaw Moss Windfarm. To date, Muirhall Windfarm Limited has made payments into the Fund totalling £100,958.72 including interest.

4. Proposals

Braehead Hall Improvement Project

- 4.1. Braehead Hall was built in 1920 and provides a central community facility for the village and the surrounding area which has a population of under 1,000. The number of hall users has doubled over the past two years to over 5,000 per annum with a wide range of fundraising, charitable events and local voluntary group meetings. There are presently 443 bookings per year for the hall.
- 4.2. Due to the age of the hall and the severity of recent winters, there is a need for substantial improvement works to ensure the facility can continue to be used in the future. The works involve the replacement of the roof which is mainly constructed of asbestos. The safe removal of the asbestos will result in damage to other parts of the building and these will be refurbished too. The hall will be insulated to improve heat efficiency, making it more attractive for groups to use during winter whilst reducing running costs.
- 4.3. The improvement works will also include widening of the main door and fire exit door to ensure that wheelchairs and prams can be accommodated with ease thus improving accessibility and inclusiveness.
- 4.4. South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture have submitted this application for hall improvements. It would normally be expected that a local group would lease and manage the hall, however, there is no community / voluntary group within the local area with the capacity to undertake this and therefore, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture have taken forward this application with the support of the local community.
- 4.5. The total eligible costs of the project is £80,500 (plus an administration fee of £1,500). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £16,425 with Stallashaw Moss REF contributing £16,875. Combined this equates to a total grant of £33,300 and an intervention rate of 41%. An application for £33,300 has been submitted to the Leven Seat Trust. The balance of £13,900 will be met by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture from existing budgets.
- 4.6. The project will be managed by an appointed project manager from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. It is expected that works will begin in November 2012 and be completed by May 2013.
- 4.7. This application scored 26 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 45%.

George V Play Park, Carnwath

- 4.8. King George V Play Park in Carnwath is located centrally, away from busy roads and is accessible from all areas of the village. This makes the play park an ideal site for children of all ages to use. However, the park is limited in the range and quality of play equipment which it contains restricting its appeal considerably. Immediately adjacent to the park are tennis courts which also require investment.
- 4.9. This project will remove existing obsolete equipment and replace it with modern equipment which local children have identified as their preferred choice. South Lanarkshire Council (Land Services) are converting the adjacent disused tennis courts into a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- 4.10. Carnwath in Bloom will work in partnership with Clydesdale Community Initiatives to improve the landscape around the entire park area. A wild flower area will be created along one boundary and path improvement works will enable the whole area to be accessible for all sections of the community.
- 4.11. The total eligible elements of the project are £119,726 (plus an administration fee of £1,750). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £27,872 with Stallashaw Moss contributing £20,971. Combined this equates to a grant of £48,843 and an intervention rate of 40%. South Lanarkshire Council (Land Services) have confirmed a contribution of £40,000 towards the project and the group have secured £9,500 from Awards for All. It is anticipated that the remaining funds of £21,976 will be met via an application to Leader and local fundraising.
- 4.12. The play park aspect of the project will be procured and managed by Land Services who will report to Carnwath in Bloom. The environmental aspects of the project will be undertaken by Clydesdale Community Initiative who will also report to Carnwath in Bloom. It is expected that works would begin in spring 2013 and be completed by Summer 2013.
- 4.13. This application scored 24½ from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 45%.

Staikhill Garden Project, Lanark

- 4.14. Scottish Autism currently own a property at Staikhill, Lanark. The property is home to four adult men with autism. The men receive 24 hour support allowing a degree of independent living whilst offering respite to the individuals' family carers.
- 4.15. The rear garden of the property is presently in poor condition and requires considerable improvement works. The four residents have been consulted with how they would like to see their garden re-developed and what features they would enjoy.
- 4.16. Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI) have been identified as a preferred contractor to undertake the works. CCI have experience in this field having previously worked with a range of groups with specific needs, including autism, when creating the Sensory Garden area at Lanark Loch.
- 4.17. For this programme, CCI have developed an integrated programme of training and landscaping works for the residents whilst also involving the wider community. Ongoing contact and engagement with the wider community will aid the residents' confidence and reduce anxiety within an environment where they are comfortable.

- 4.18. The works involve a creation of a number of “spaces” within the garden. One space will involve an area for growing vegetables which can be consumed by the residents. A second area will be a “play” space and a third area will be covered to allow “outdoor living” sheltered from adverse weather conditions.
- 4.19. The total eligible elements of the project have been costed at £13,452 (plus an administration fee of £500). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £6,053, equating to an intervention rate of 45%. The remaining funds of £7,399 will come from additional sources of funding to be confirmed.
- 4.20. The project will be managed on site by Clydesdale Community Initiatives who will report to Scottish Autism on programme and budgetary issues. It is expected that works would begin in spring 2013 and be completed by summer 2013.
- 4.21. This application scored 25 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 45%.

Kirkfieldbank Development Play Area

- 4.22. There is presently no play park within the village of Kirkfieldbank. The Primary School has recently been rebuilt as part of the Schools Modernisation Programme but external improvements were limited. School pupils and parents have expressed a desire for a soft landscaped outdoor area which can combine play and learning.
- 4.23. The school presently encourages other members of the community to participate where possible in the education of the children. There is already a gardening club in operation which involves children, parents and grandparents. It is envisaged that this project would build and develop upon that success.
- 4.24. The project involves the creation of a small play area alongside a series of environmental elements which includes a garden area where children can study insects and birds, a sheltered area to facilitate outdoor learning and an art wall which would allow children to draw and paint outdoors.
- 4.25. A local contractor has been identified for the works and is committed to include a training element which will enable both school children and young adults with support needs to be involved in the works.
- 4.26. The total eligible elements of the project is £11,298 (plus an administration fee of £500). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £4,519, equating to an intervention rate of 40%. A funding application is being prepared for Awards for All for the balance of the funds.
- 4.27. The project will be managed by the Head Teacher and will involve a committee that comprises school pupils. It is expected that works would begin in early 2013 and be completed within six months.
- 4.28. This application scored 22 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 40%.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. To date, Muirhall Windfarm Limited has made payments into the Stallashaw Moss Fund of £100,958.72 including interest.
- 6.2. Stallashaw Moss REF has committed funds, from the Main Fund, of £31,290 towards projects from an available budget of £70,761.10 (70% of the available budget of £100,958.72). The remaining monies comprise the Local Grant Scheme which is administered by Leader.
- 6.3. A further payment of approximately £53,000 is anticipated from Muirhall Windfarm Limited in March 2013. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available from the existing balance of £39,471.10 to meet the total of £21,846 (including administration fee of £875) requested by Carnwath in Bloom and £17,625 (including administration fee of £750) requested by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.
- 6.4. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Blacklaw Fund of £1,169,197.75 including interest (i.e. a £1,140,910.56 contribution and £28,287.19 interest). A further payment of approximately £150,000 is anticipated in July 2013.
- 6.5. Blacklaw REF has committed funds, from the Main Fund, of £809,236.40 towards projects from an available budget of £866,923.58. The remaining monies comprise the Local Grant Scheme which is administered by Leader.
- 6.6. There are sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £57,687 to meet the total of £17,175 (including administration fees of £750) requested by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, £28,747 (including administration fees of £875) requested by Carnwath in Bloom, £6,553 (including administration fees of £500) requested by Scottish Autism and £5,019 (including administration fees of £500) requested by Kirkfieldbank Parent Teacher Association.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme.
- 7.2. The applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within the present budgets subject to agreement from the REF on any changes to their proposed project. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.
- 7.3. Delays to the programme will have no impact on the Council.
- 7.4. Without the contributions from the Renewable Energy Fund, it is highly unlikely that the projects outlined will proceed.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All appropriate consultation has taken place with Council Resources and the Leisure and Culture Trust.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

1 October 2012

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

- Improve the quality of the physical environment
- Raise educational attainment for all
- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Increase participation in arts and culture
- Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- Efficient and effective use of resources
- Sustainable development
- Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- Enterprise Resources Committee 30 March 2011

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated September 2012 received from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 26 September 2012 for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated September 2012 received from Carnwath in Bloom.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 26 September 2012 for Carnwath in Bloom.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated September 2012 received from Scottish Autism.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 25 September 2012 for Scottish Autism.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated September 2012 received from Kirkfieldbank Parent Teacher Association.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 25 September 2012 for Kirkfieldbank Parent Teacher Association.

Contact for Further Information

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

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