

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 September 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Clyde Windfarm Community Fund – Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider applications to the Clyde Windfarm Community and Development Fund from Leadhills Family Action Group and Friends of Burnbraes Park

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Leadhills Family Action Group of up to £56,715 towards the construction of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Friends of Burnbraes Park of up to £30,000 towards the delivery of the Early Years' Play Equipment Improvements project subject to match funding for the project being secured.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Enterprise Resources Committee of 17 March 2010, approved the Clyde Windfarm Community and Development Fund and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.2. The Fund is supported from payments from Scottish Hydro (formerly SSE Renewables) who operate the Clyde Windfarm. To date, Scottish Hydro has made payments into the Fund totalling £1,496,987. The fund will receive income for a duration of 25 years. The payments received relate to the first 2 years. The payments will rise annually in line with the General Index of Retail Prices.
- 3.3. The Clyde Windfarm Fund is administered by Regeneration Services who have responsibility for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.

- 3.4. Grant awards from the main Community Fund require approval at the Council's Enterprise Services Committee, with grant awards of 50%-90% of eligible costs being achievable. Grant awards for successful applications to the Community Fund Small Grant Scheme (up to £5000) and all awards from the Development Fund are delegated to the Head of Regeneration Services for approval.

4. Proposal by Leadhills Family Action Group – Development of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

- 4.1. The Leadhills Family Action Group was set up in the autumn of 2008 in order to provide a safe environment for local families to meet and interact through sport and recreation. Following extensive consultation, a priority of the organisation is to achieve the redevelopment of Leadhills recreation area and they are seeking to do this in a two phase project. The first phase, re-establishing the play park area, has already been achieved and the second phase, to which this report refers, will see the creation of a MUGA on the site of the adjacent football area.
- 4.2. As the proposed site is adjacent to Leadhills Primary School, and to ensure the primary children could also benefit from the project, the organisation has worked in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's Schools' Modernisation Programme. As part of this programme, Leadhills Primary School will be extensively refurbished and extended with work having commenced on site in January 2013. Under the project there is no capacity for a MUGA on the school site but by working in partnership with Leadhills Family Action Group to provide a facility that can be shared with the school and the local community, the Council has agreed to provide match funding to any monies that can be raised by the community.
- 4.3. Without the support of the Clyde Windfarm, this project will not be able to go ahead as there is insufficient budget within the Modernisation Programme to wholly fund these additional works. The only way of being able to deliver such a development is for Leadhills Family Action Group to work in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's Schools Modernisation Programme to develop the open grassed area adjacent to the school.
- 4.4. It is the intention that during school hours, the MUGA will be utilised by Leadhills Primary School pupils in the first instance. Outwith school hours the MUGA will be open for informal community access.
- 4.5. Total costs of £113,430, for which financial support is being sought, have been identified by the applicant who is seeking up to 50% or £56,715. This application scored 83% during the assessment process. This allows a grant of the level sought to be offered equating to a maximum possible grant of £56,715 from the Community Fund. The remainder of the funding will be provided by South Lanarkshire Council's Schools' Modernisation Programme.

5. Friends of Burnbraes Park – Early Years Play Equipment Improvements

- 5.1. The Friends of Burnbraes Park aim to work with the community in the Biggar area to enhance Burnbraes Park and encourage usage in a number of ways including:
- Raising public awareness of the park.
 - Providing a focal point for discussions of issues relating to the park.
 - Encouraging schools and other groups to use the park.
 - Improving provision of play equipment and other facilities in the park in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council.
 - Raising funds from internal and external sources to support initiatives within the park.

- 5.2. The project aims to improve the quality of play provision in Burnbraes Park with particular emphasis on facilities for younger children. Friends of Burnbraes Park formed in 2006 in response to a local desire for improved facilities and in 2008 raised funds for a project to improve play equipment for the 7-14 age group. Play equipment for the younger age group is now nearing the end of its servicable life with some wooden equipment already having been removed.
- 5.3. This project will provide new play equipment for younger children and importantly upgrade surfacing under existing equipment to make it safer and more attractive, particularly to families with young children and toddlers.
- 5.4. The applicant group has consulted with children and adults via various means. Although this particular project has looked to address the requirements of the younger age group, some equipment has been specifically chosen due to its suitability for those with disabilities or who may not be able to use more conventional equipment.
- 5.5. Friends of Burnbraes Park have worked in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council in the development of the design for the park and the Council's Community and Enterprise Resources has agreed to adopt the park and facilities once completed.
- 5.6. The total eligible costs within the project are £53,121, with the applicant seeking up to 56.5%; £30,000. This application scored 78% during the assessment process. Work to secure the balance of funding is underway.

6. Community Implications

- 6.1. It is a requirement of the Clyde Windfarm Fund that a consultation on all applications to the Community Fund, small and main schemes, will be undertaken with the Clyde Windfarm Community Group, a constituted group with representatives from 6 Community Councils within the eligible area of the Community Fund. A single consultation feedback on behalf of the whole group was supplied in relation to each application. These responses were duly noted and considered during the final assessment process with the applicants providing further supportive evidence where appropriate.

7. Employee Consultations

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

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. To date, SSE has made payments into the Clyde Windfarm Fund of £1,496,987 with a further £797,787 (plus inflation) due in the third quarter of 2013.
- 8.2. The Community Fund (70%) has received income of £1,047,890. Awards of £815,767 have been approved from current income to support projects. Funding to the value of £358,817 has been drawn down from the Community Fund. At the time of writing this report, there is, therefore, a total balance of £689,073 at account with an uncommitted budget of £232,123 available to support eligible Community Fund projects.

8.3. Therefore, due to the staggered implementation dates of supported projects and the available funding there are sufficient funds available to the Community Fund to meet the grants awards of £56,715.13 to Leadhills Family Action Group and £30,000 to Friends of Burnbraes Park.

8.4. On adoption of the Leadhills Muga Pitch and Burnbraes Play Park ongoing maintenance will be managed by Community and Enterprise Resources within existing budgets.

9. Other Implications

9.1. The risks associated with the projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programmes. The applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within present budgets subject to agreement from the Clyde Windfarm Fund on any changes to their proposed projects. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.

9.2. Delays to the programmes will have no impact on the Council. Without the Contributions from the Clyde Windfarm Fund, it is highly unlikely that the projects outlined will proceed.

9.3. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

10.2. All necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

8 August 2013

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Effective and efficient use of resources
- Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- Report to Enterprise Resources Committee of 20 May 2009 – Clyde Windfarm - Community Benefit Agreement
- Report to Enterprise resources Committee of 17 March 2010 – Clyde Windfarm Fund

List of Background Papers

- Consultation proformas completed by Clyde Windfarm Community Group

Contact for Further Information

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

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