

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>17 March 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund - Forth and District Initiative, Trim Track Trail</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No. 36(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to consider an application to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from Forth and District Initiative for additional financial assistance towards the construction of a Trim Track Trail.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the following action taken, in terms of Standing Order No. 36(c), by the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, be noted:-
- ◆ that a revised grant be awarded to Forth and District Initiative of up to £23,699.40 towards eligible costs associated with the construction and installation of a Trim Track Trail at the Recreation Area, Forth, subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of this being received by the Council.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. At the Executive Committee of 31 March, 2004, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund (REF) in respect of Blacklaw Windfarm and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of REF funds.
- 3.2. The Fund is financed from the payments from Scottish Power who operate the Blacklaw Windfarm. To date Scottish Power have made payments into the Blacklaw Fund totalling £607,868 including interest. 70% of this total i.e. £425,507 is available to the REF with the remaining 30% being matched to Leader Resources.
- 3.3. The REF is administered by Enterprise Resources, who have responsibility for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring project.

#### **4. Proposals**

##### **Forth and District Initiative: Trim Track Trail**

- 4.1. Forth and District Initiative (FDI) is a registered charity, originally founded in 2000 and reconstituted in 2002, operating in Forth and the surrounding communities. It has a range of social, economic and physical objectives aimed at improving the quality of life for the people who live in these communities.
- 4.2. FDI has previously received support from the REF for the construction of a Play Park at the Recreation Area. This current project for consideration is the third phase of planned improvement works for the area. It received approval for a grant of £18,920 at the Committee meeting in May 2009. However the cost of the project has changed and FDI are seeking additional support.
- 4.3. The Trim Track Trail project will involve the installation of equipment offering physical activity including hanging bars, weight lifting and balancing exercises. In addition to this, the access network in and around the proposed site will be improved with the upgrading of paths. The project will be designed and managed on site by Community Resources. Following completion, Community Resources will manage and maintain the facility.
- 4.4. Due to a change in the administration of VAT by Community Resources, it is not possible for VAT to be reclaimed on this project leading to an increase in the overall cost. Additionally, the tenders have been returned slightly over the estimated budget.
- 4.5. The revised total eligible cost of the project is £47,398.80. The proposed grant from the Blacklaw fund is £23,699.40 equating to an intervention rate of 50% and £4,779.40 more than previously agreed. The Levenseat Trust has confirmed funding of £18,920 towards the project. An indicative programme for the works is anticipated from the group.
- 4.6. This application scored 28 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. To date Scottish Power have made payments into the Blacklaw Fund of £607,868 including interest.
- 6.2. Blacklaw has already committed funds, from the main Fund, of £395,047 towards projects from an available budget of £425,507 (70% of the total £607,868 which has been allocated to the REF). There are sufficient funds available therefore to meet the additional grant of £4,779.40 requested.
- 6.3. The Local Grant Scheme (30% of the total £607,868) has awarded grants of £121,238 from an available budget of £182,360.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None

## **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. Community Resources has confirmed their support for the project, accepting responsibility for ongoing management and maintenance of projects.

**Colin McDowall**  
**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

17 February 2010

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- People focused
- Improve health and increase physical activity

### **Previous References**

- Executive Committee Report on Community Benefit – 31 October 2004
- Enterprise Resources Committee Report on FDI Trim Track REF Application, 20 May 2009

### **List of Background Papers**

None

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers for want further information, please contact:- Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services  
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