

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 August 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund - Grant Application – Community Links (South Lanarkshire)
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund from Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Community Links (South Lanarkshire) of up to £27,389.90 from Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund towards the Blairbeth Urban Greenspace Allotments project, which will be match funded as detailed at paragraph 4.5.

3. Background

3.1. Since 2004, the Council has collected and administered Community Benefit funding through Planning and Economic Development Services. The service is responsible for securing the contributions from developers, advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered. Processes are continuously reviewed and refined to make it as straightforward as possible to ensure the necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.

3.2. Details of all grant awards, including those grants up to £20,000 which had been approved by the Head of Planning and Economic Development Services under delegated authority, are reported annually to the Committee.

4. Proposal

Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund

Project – Blairbeth Urban Greenspace Allotments

Applicant - Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Project value – £95,649.84

Proposed Grant Award – £27,389.90 – Intervention rate - 28.64%

4.1. The purpose of Community Links (South Lanarkshire) is to develop and support communities within South Lanarkshire, working to inspire local champions and build community capacity, to support inclusive initiatives and projects within South Lanarkshire.

- 4.2. The Blairbeth Urban Greenspace Allotments, will create 50 allotments and enhance the surrounding area to create a recreational and socially welcoming environment for the community,
- 4.3. The development will reduce current waiting list for allotments, whilst creating an environment that promotes healthy eating and living activities. The site is within a 15% SIMD community. A condition will be applied to allow 40% of applicants from the local area to be allocated an allotment.
- 4.4. The application scored 37.5/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 45% of eligible costs.
- 4.5. The total cost of the project is £95,649.84 with £30,000.00 of funding from South Lanarkshire Council and £38,259.94 funding from Scottish Natural Heritage SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £27,389.90, representing an intervention rate of 28.6%.
- 4.6. Works on the park have commenced with works on the allotments due to commence on 2 September 2018.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. All Renewable Energy Funds have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitment detailed in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme. The applicant has agreed that any cost increases will be managed within their present budget subject to agreement on any changes to the proposed project. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

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 necessary consultation arrangements, including liaison with Housing and Technical Resources, and any community consultations, have taken place.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

12 July 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs.
- ◆ Fair open and sustainable
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 27 June 2007

List of Background Papers

- Blairbeth Allotments REF Grant Application Form
- Blairbeth Allotments Appraisal Forms

Contact for Further Information

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

Colin McFarlane, Project Development Officer, Planning and Economic Development Services Ext: 5922 (Tel: 01698 455922)

E-mail: colin.mcfarlane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk