

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 November 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund – Applications for Funding
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Consider applications to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from
 - Tarbrax Common Association for financial assistance towards environmental and upgrading works at Tarbrax Common Green
 - Forth Community Resource Centre for financial assistance towards a community based arts project
 - Netherburn Tenants' and Residents' Association for financial assistance towards the upgrading of the football pitch in the village

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Tarbrax Common Association of up to £50,000 towards environmental and upgrading works at Tarbrax Common Green subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of all funding being received by the Council
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Forth Community Millennium Wall Hanging Group of up to £14,546 towards a community arts based project subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of all funding being received by the Council;
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Netherburn Tenants' and Residents' Association of up to £12,467 towards upgrading of the football pitch in the village subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of all funding being received by the Council.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Executive Committee of 3 March, 2004, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Blacklaw Windfarm and to 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 have made payments into the Fund totalling £873,444 including interest.

- 3.3. The Renewable Energy Fund is administered by Enterprise Resources who have responsibility for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.

4. Proposals

Tarbrax Common Association

- 4.1. Tarbrax Common Association was formed in April 2007 to take forward local concerns over the condition of the Common Green within the village. The present Common Green suffers from flooding due to the high levels of peat which it contains. This makes it unusable for any local groups for much of the year
- 4.2. A series of public meetings have been held with considerable local support received to tackle these issues. A feasibility study was undertaken during which time local input towards the plan was received.
- 4.3. The proposed works involve excavation and drainage works to enable the Common Green to be utilised by groups for formal events and by children as a general play area. New footpaths will also be constructed along with benches and planted areas. Ducting for lighting will also be installed.
- 4.4. Roads and Transportation have confirmed proposed works in Tarbrax over the next financial year which will complement the Common Green works. The road into the village and adjacent to the Common Green will be resurfaced at an estimated cost of £40,000. Subject to completion of the Common Green works, further road and footpath improvements around the Common Green with an estimated value of £20,000 will be undertaken.
- 4.5. Planning Permission for the project was granted in March 2009.
- 4.6. The total eligible cost of the project is £184,000. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £50,000 equating to an intervention rate of 27%. The remaining confirmed funds are £10,000 from the South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust and £30,000 from Viridor Credits. Further funding applications have been submitted to the Postcode Lottery, Hugh Fraser Foundation and Esmee Fairbairn Trust and decisions are awaited.
- 4.7. The project will be managed by a Contract Administrator who will report back to Tarbrax Common Association on project progress and cost issues. It is expected that works would be undertaken in early 2011 and take approximately 6 months to complete.
- 4.8. This application scored 21 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 35%.

Forth and District Millennium Wall Hanging Group

- 4.9. Forth and District Millennium Wall Hanging Group was established in 1999 with the aim of promoting charitable purposes for the benefit of the residents of Forth and the promotion and practise of modern and traditional crafts.
- 4.10. Forth and District Millennium Wall Hanging Group undertook the design and installation of a piece of artwork for Forth St Paul's Church in 2000. This was followed by the design of further pieces for the community which included community involvement throughout the design process.
- 4.11. The Inspiring Landscapes project is a community based arts project based upon the changing landscape at Blacklaw Windfarm using 3 interpretative art forms – wool crafts, creative writing and digital photography.
- 4.12. Professional artists will lead community workshops resulting in the creation of new art works in the Forth area. These will include commissioning pieces from the professional artists in addition to pieces designed individually and collectively by the local community.
- 4.13. The total eligible cost of the project is £41,560. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £14,546 equating to an intervention rate of 35%. The remaining confirmed funds are £30,000 from Scottish Arts Council and £10,000 from the Rural Community Heritage Fund.
- 4.14. The project will be managed by a steering group which includes representation from community groups and statutory agencies including the Council. An appointed project manager will oversee the day to day running of the project with support from other bodies such as Scottish Arts Council and Universal Connections as and where appropriate.
- 4.15. This application scored 22 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 35%.

Netherburn Tenants and Residents Association

- 4.16. Netherburn Tenants and Residents Association has the aim of safeguarding and promoting the interests of tenants and residents in the area of Netherburn and the social community life of the area.
- 4.17. The main park in the village is presently in poor condition and requires reinstatement to allow its use for football and other community events, both formal and informal.
- 4.18. The project involves the upgrading of the present park focussing upon drainage improvements to allow the park to be used all year round.
- 4.19. The total eligible cost of the project is £41,558. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £12,467 equating to an intervention rate of 30%. Funding applications have been submitted to Viridor and Awards for All. Decisions are awaited on these funding applications.
- 4.20. The project will be managed on site by Community Resources who will report to a committee of Netherburn Tenants and Residents Association. Following completion, the park will be maintained on an ongoing basis by Community Resources within

existing budgets. It is expected that works would commence on site in early 2011 and be completed by summer 2011.

- 4.21. This application scored 17 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 30%.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. To date Scottish Power have made payments into the Blacklaw Fund of £873,444 including interest. A further payment of approximately £135,000 is anticipated in July 2011.
- 6.2. Blacklaw REF has already committed funds, from the main fund, of £513,849 towards projects from an available budget of £611,410 (70% of the total £873,444 which has been allocated to the REF). There are sufficient funds available, therefore, to meet the total of £77,013 requested.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with all projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme.
- 7.2. All 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 projects. 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 any of the projects 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. Consultation has taken place with Community Resources and Roads concerning Tarbrax Common Green regarding ongoing maintenance costs and future roads and footpath improvements.
- 8.3. Consultation has taken place with Community Resources concerning the ongoing maintenance at Netherburn.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

12 October 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Increase participation in arts and culture
- Improve the quality of the physical environment

Previous References

- Executive Committee Report on Community Benefit – 3 March 2004

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated September 2010 received from Tarbrax Common Association.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 21 September 2010 for Tarbrax Common Association.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated August 2010 received from Forth and District Millennium Wall Hanging Group.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 16 September 2010 for Forth and District Millennium Wall Hanging Group.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated August 2010 received from Netherburn Tenants and Residents Association.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 22 September for Netherburn Tenants and Residents Association.

Contact for Further Information

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

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