

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund - Castlehill Bowling Club, Carluke
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Consider an application to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from Castlehill Bowling Club.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Castlehill Bowling Club of up to £13,000 towards roof replacement works, subject to planning consent being granted and confirmation of match funding for the project 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 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 £875,585.62 including interest.
- 3.3. The Renewable Energy 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.

4. Proposal

Castlehill Bowling Club – Roof Replacement Works

- 4.1. Castlehill Bowling Club was established in 1921. The club are based at Belstane Road, Carluke, and presently have a 20 year lease from South Lanarkshire Council.
- 4.2. Club membership has increased over the last few years and a number of regional and national competitions have been hosted. In addition to this, the club has also become an important community venue. During 2010, a total of 54 community and social events were held in the club. Demand for use of the community space is anticipated to continue to grow.

- 4.3. The clubhouse was improved and extended in 1979 to create the community space. This extension is self contained but, due to its construction with a flat roof, it is no longer wind and watertight and requires refurbishment.
- 4.4. The works will involve the replacement of the existing flat roof with a new pitched roof. This will enable the extension to continue to be used by both the club and community groups.
- 4.5. The club is presently holding initial discussions with local Primary Schools exploring the possibility of encouraging the sport of bowls amongst children. The club is also seeking to use the facilities to deliver outreach services for a range of local groups.
- 4.6. The total eligible cost of the project is £33,000. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £13,000 (excluding administration fee of £1,000) equating to an intervention rate of 39%. The remaining, presently unconfirmed, funds of £20,000 are being sought from Viridor.
- 4.7. A Project Manager will be appointed who will oversee the works and report back to the Club committee on progress and budget.
- 4.8. This application scored 24 points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 45%.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Blacklaw Fund of £875,585.62 including interest (i.e. a £849,284.79 contribution and £26,300.83 interest).
- 6.2. Blacklaw has committed funds, from the main Fund, of £645,641.40 towards projects from an available budget of £660,800.14 (70% of the total £849,284.73 plus interest of £26,300.83 plus an additional £40,000 transferred from an underspend on the Local Grant Scheme to meet demand). The remaining monies comprise the Local Grant Scheme which is administered by Leader.
- 6.3. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £15,158.74 to meet the total of £13,000 requested.
- 6.4. A further payment from Scottish Power of approximately £139,000 is anticipated in July 2011 of which approximately £97,300 (70%) will be directed into the main REF.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the project are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme.
- 7.2. The applicant has 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 the project 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 necessary consultation arrangements has taken place.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

16 May 2011

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

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

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee Report on Community Benefit – 3 March 2004
- ◆ Executive Committee Report on Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit – 1 December 2010

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated January 2011 received from Castlehill Bowling Club.
- ◆ Completed REF assessment form dated 26 April 2011 for Castlehill Bowling Club.

Contact for Further Information

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

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