

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>12 December 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund from Thornton Road Community Centre Association
- ♦ consider a grant application to Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund from East Renfrewshire Council
- ♦ consider a grant application to Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from Lanark Community Development Trust

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Thornton Road Community Centre Association of up to £14,995 from Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund towards the Thornton Road Community Centre Association project to acquire a community facility.
- (2) that a grant be awarded to East Renfrewshire Council of up to £31,839 from Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund towards the management and maintenance of the network of routes throughout the windfarm area which extends into South Lanarkshire.
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Lanark Community Development Trust of up to £76,986.45 from Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the Castlebank Horticultural Training Facility project.
- (4) that the above grants are subject to match funding being secured and written confirmation of this being received by the Council.

## 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. Proposals

*Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund*

Thornton Road Community Centre Association — £53,660

Proposed Grant Award – £14,995 – Intervention rate 28%

- 4.1. Thornton Road Community Centre Association (TRCCA) was formed by local volunteers for the benefit of Kirkmuirhill, Blackwood and the surrounding area. The organisation became a Scottish Charity in June 2015.
- 4.2. A range of activities are held in the premises for all sections of the community. TRCCA lease their present facility from South Lanarkshire Council on a sub-lease which expires in August 2018. The head lease between the property owner and South Lanarkshire Council also expires in August 2018. TRCCA are seeking to purchase the property from the current owner to guarantee its long term future in the community
- 4.3. Acquisition of the property will enable TRCCA to develop the range of services it offers the local community and offer them at times that are convenient for users.
- 4.4. The application scored 34/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 40% of eligible costs.
- 4.5. The total cost of the project is £53,660 with £25,000 of funding from Falck Auchrobert Community Fund and £13,665 of the group's own funds. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £14,995, representing an intervention rate of 28%.
- 4.6. The acquisition of the property will take place in early 2018 with ownership commencing upon expiry of the existing sub lease in August 2018.

*Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund*

East Renfrewshire Council – Management and Maintenance– £97,966

Proposed Grant Award – £31,839 – Intervention rate 32.5%

- 4.7. The Enterprise Resources Committee on 27 June 2007 approved a Section 75 Agreement which placed an obligation on the Council to jointly prepare and implement an access strategy for Whitelee Windfarm.
- 4.8. The maintenance of these access works can utilise up to 40% of the community benefit monies received each year.
- 4.9. A ranger service, managed by East Renfrewshire Council, is presently employed which significantly reduces the ongoing costs of maintenance over the longer term, allowing more funds to be diverted towards assisting community projects. The ranger service comprises two full time rangers employed by East Renfrewshire Council. They offer a proactive management service and are also able to promote responsible access to a wide range of users.
- 4.10. The project will be managed by the Whitelee Access Officer, who reports on a regular basis to the three authorities within whose boundaries the windfarm is located.
- 4.11. The application scored 34/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 40% of eligible costs.

- 4.12. The total cost of the project is £97,966 with £66,127 of funding from East Renfrewshire Council. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £31,839, representing an intervention rate of 32.5%.
- 4.13. Works are scheduled to commence in November 2017 and be completed by April 2018.

*Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund*

Lanark Community Development Trust – Castlebank Park – £191,250  
Proposed Grant Award – £76,986.45 – Intervention rate 40%

- 4.14. Lanark Community Development Trust was formed in 2009 as a charity limited by guarantee. The Trust has 12 board members and a wider membership of 111 people. The Trust aims to reinforce success in Lanark by funding new activities, encouraging local projects, advancing education and community development and maintaining the historical town. The Trust has a successful track record of secured funding and has undertaken a wide range of projects within the town over the last few years.
- 4.15. The project involves the creation of a multi-use community space which will provide opportunities for learning and development. This will be achieved by developing and expanding the derelict sawmills buildings within Castlebank Park in Lanark. There will be opportunities for local people to gain new skills, build their confidence and capabilities in an engaging and sustainable way.
- 4.16. Facilities created will include a large learning space, a smaller classroom, an office, kitchen and storage corridor which will link to the existing toilet block and growing spaces.
- 4.17. The application scored 33/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 40% of eligible costs.
- 4.18. The total cost of the project is £191,236.45 with £114,250 of funding sought from Leader (part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme) - a decision will be made on this funding request on 12 December 2017. The SLC REF Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £76,986.45, representing an intervention rate of 40%.
- 4.19. Works are scheduled to commence in February 2018 and be completed by August 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 focussed 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)**

**21 November 2017**

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

- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Develop a sustainable Council and communities
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ People focused

### **Previous References**

- Executive Committee Report 31 October 2004
- Enterprise Resources Committee 27 June 2007
- Enterprise Resources Committee 20 May 2009
- Enterprise Resources Committee 15 February 2012

### **List of Background Papers**

- Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from Thornton Road Community Centre Association.
- Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor
- Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from East Renfrewshire Council.
- Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor
- Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from Lanark Community Development Trust.
- Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Planning and Economic Development Services Ext: 4759 (Tel: 01698 454759)  
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