

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 October 2012
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Whitelees Windfarm – Grant Application – Calderwood Baptist Church for Works to Former Hunter House Museum
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Seek approval of the application by Calderwood Baptist Church for financial assistance towards phase 3 works incorporating the refurbishment and fitting out of Hunter House, East Kilbride.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant of £18,684 (plus an administration fee of £1,000) be awarded to Calderwood Baptist Church towards the cost of the Phase 3 works at Hunter House, East Kilbride.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June 2007, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Whitelees 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 Whitelees Windfarm. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Whitelees Fund of £783,366.87 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

Calderwood Baptist Church

- 4.1. The Church has been established for forty years and is a registered Scottish Charity. The Church has broad and inclusive church and community objectives and runs various projects in collaboration with local schools as well as providing counselling services for children and families from East Kilbride. The counselling service is carried out in partnership with Kerith Counselling and the Health Visitor Group. The

Church have previously used accommodation within Hunter House during the two years prior to the Museum's closure. They acknowledge the historical legacy associated with the property and reflect this in their proposed redevelopment and management of the property.

- 4.2 It is envisaged that Hunter House will provide a neutral, off-site counselling venue for children and families in a quality environment which will assist the counselling process. The Church already works in partnership with the Council and NHS Lanarkshire in social care and wellbeing.
- 4.3. The Church acquired Hunter House from South Lanarkshire Council as part of the Public Asset Transfer Programme approved at the Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 20 June 2012.
- 4.4. A phased programme of refurbishment was then instigated. Phase 1 incorporated the acquisition and refurbishment of the offices and counselling room. Phase 2 is nearing completion and involves the renovation of the former stable building. The third phase of refurbishment works focuses upon fitting out the community "hub" including a café area and the installation and provision of multi media and audio visual facilities throughout the building.
- 4.5. The final phase of the project will see the car park upgraded and garden areas improved. Work has already begun on this element with potential funders identified.
- 4.6. The project will be managed by a project design team comprising members of the Church with relevant skills supported by an architect and surveyor. It is anticipated that works will commence in November 2012 and be completed within 6 weeks to ensure the facility is open and operational as soon as possible.
- 4.7. The total eligible cost of the project is £41,522. The proposed grant from Whitelees REF is £18,684 (plus an administration fee of £1,000) equating to an intervention rate of 45%. The remaining funding will be contributed by Calderwood Baptist Church from their own funds.
- 4.8. This application scored 25 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process which allows an intervention rate 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 Whitelees Fund of £783,366.87 including interest (i.e. a £767,733.83 contribution and £15,603.04 interest).
- 6.2. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June, 2007, approval was given to utilise 31 months of income (£265,248.43) from Whitelees REF towards the access works required and associated costs. There is therefore an available budget total for the REF of £381,560.58.
- 6.3. Whitelees REF has committed funds, from the Main Fund, of £268,563.48 towards projects from an available budget of £387,342.82 (70% of the available budget of £502,485.40 plus interest of £15,603.04 plus an additional £20,000 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.

- 6.4. It is anticipated that an application for approximately £35,000 will be received from East Renfrewshire Council during the course of this financial year. This is the South Lanarkshire Council contribution toward the management and maintenance of the access network at Whitelees Windfarm
- 6.5. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £118,779.40 (less an anticipated application of £35,000), to meet the sum of £18,684 requested (and the administration fee of £1,000).

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. Delays to the programme will have no impact on the Council.
- 7.3. Without the contributions from the Renewable Energy Fund, it is highly unlikely that the project will proceed within the project timescale.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All necessary consultation has taken place with the appropriate Council Resources.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

2 October 2012

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

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

Previous References

- Executive Committee Report on Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit – 1 December 2010
- Housing and Technical Resources Report on the Transfer of the Former Hunter House Museum, Maxwellton Road, East Kilbride under Public Asset Transfer – 20 June 2012.

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form dated September 2012 received from Calderwood Baptist Church.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 25th September 2012 for Calderwood Baptist Church

Contact for Further Information

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

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