

Report

11

Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 February 2014
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Renewable Energy Fund - New Contribution, Nutberry Windfarm
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide an update in relation to a renewable energy development and seek approval for associated community benefit payments to be managed through the Renewable Energy Fund (REF).

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Council's REF incorporate provision for the receipt and disbursement of community benefit payments in respect of the Nutberry Windfarm; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised to conclude administration matters in relation to the community benefit using the established REF mechanism.

3. Background

3.1. The Nutberry Windfarm lies south west of the village of Coalburn.

3.2. Following approval of the Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy at the Executive Committee on 1 February 2010, the Council seeks a minimum payment of £2,500 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity per annum. In relation to small scale developments, in order to maximise contributions without prejudicing potential development, a commuted sum may be negotiated. In this case, however, negotiations have secured annual contributions to the REF in accordance with the policy (see table below) and the agreement places an obligation on the Council to administer the community benefit received from the windfarm.

Planning Application Number	Site	Consent Granted	Development	Annual Contribution to Renewable Energy Fund (plus indexation)
CL/06/0662 PPA-380-435	Nutberry	March 2011	6 x 2.5 mw turbine	£2,500 per mw = £37,500

- 3.3. The Council has an established REF for the collection and distribution of 'community benefit' payments at a number of similar developments including Blacklaw, Whitelees, Paites Hill, and Stallashaw Moss Windfarms and Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood and Tanhill single turbine sites. The established REF model was also used when developing the Clyde Windfarm Fund.
- 3.4. It is proposed that existing arrangements in place for the distribution of funds through the REF be used also to administer the renewable energy development at Nutberry Windfarm.

4. Criteria for Distribution of REF Grants from Nutberry Windfarm

- 4.1. The eligible area for the funds generated from Nutberry is shown on Plan 1 and is broadly the area within 10km of the wind turbine application boundary. In this case the 10km area was chosen to reflect population density in the area and reflects that of other REF contributing wind farm developments. Projects located within 5km of the windfarm will be given priority when applications for funding are received.
- 4.2. It is proposed that the arrangement for the distribution of funds from this site will be similar to developed windfarms administered under the mechanism of the REF. This policy specifies that the contributions normally be split into two specific funding streams; South Lanarkshire's Rural Partnerships Developing Local Communities Fund (30%) and the Main Fund (70%). However, due to the relatively small scale of the amounts of funding received from this development, it is proposed that the fund should be administered centrally by Regeneration Services. This is in line with the management of other similar sized funds. All other aspects of the Fund management will be as set out in the REF including the intervention rates and associated scoring matrix.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The additional REF contributions will be managed using existing resources within Regeneration Services.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed fund.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding, the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations.

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. Community benefit will provide support to a wide range of voluntary, charitable and community groups/bodies across an extensive area of rural Clydesdale. Consultation has taken place with Planning Services and the developers.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

6 January 2014

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Decision – Nutberry Wind Farm CL/06/0662
- Planning Appeal – PPA-380-435

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004 “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.
- Executive Committee 1 February 2010 “Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy.”

Contact for Further Information

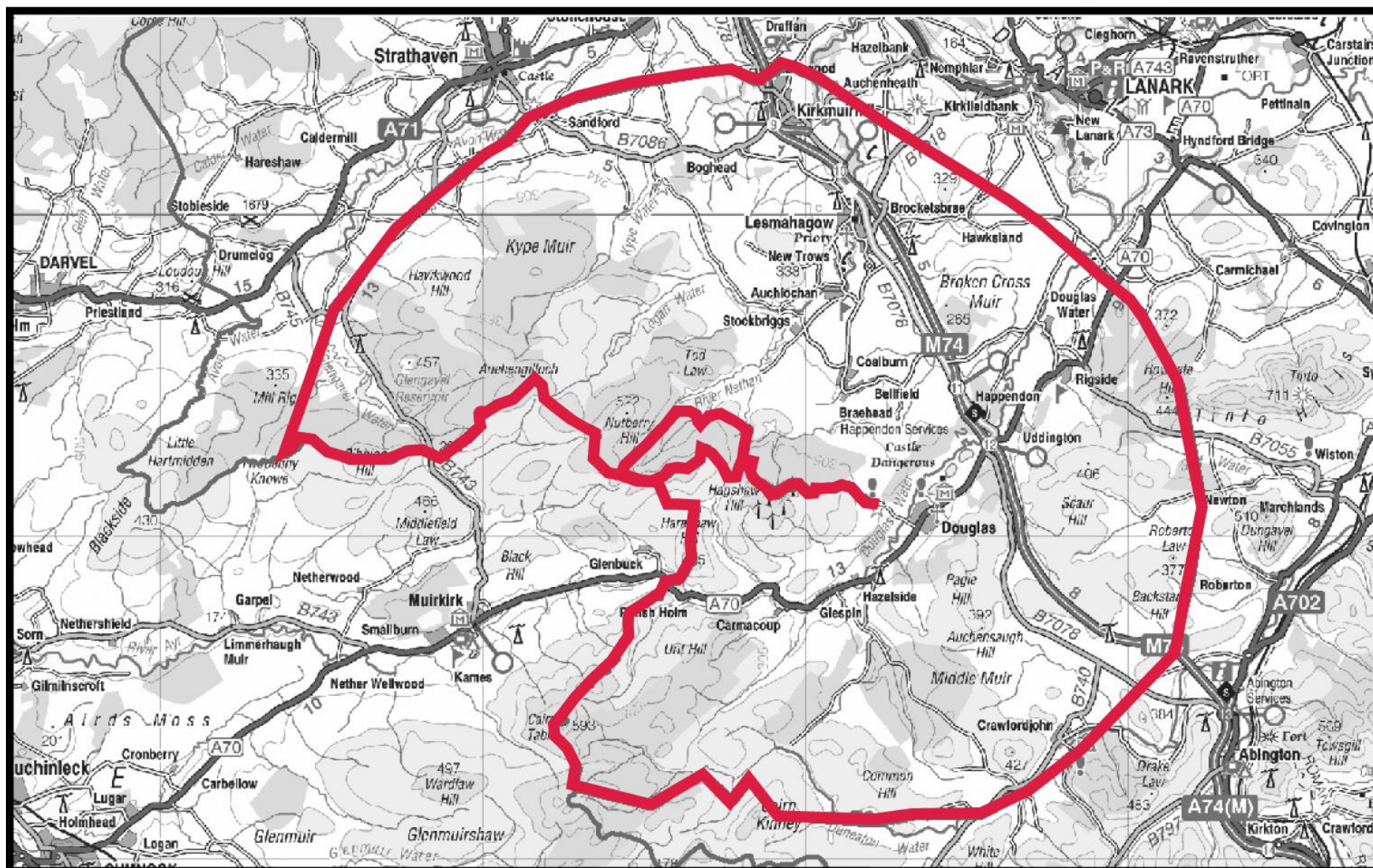
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

John Archibald, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services

Ext: 5181 (Tel: 01698 455139)

E-mail: johnarchibald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Nutberry Hill



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2013. Not to scale/indicative only

