

Report

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| Report to: | Enterprise Services Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 3 September 2013 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) |

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| Subject: | Renewable Energy Fund – New Contributions |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide an update in relation to new renewable energy developments 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 Bankend Rig Windfarm; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised to conclude administrative matters in relation to the incorporation of the community benefit using the established REF mechanism.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Bankend Rig Windfarm is located south of Strathaven near the village of Drumclog.
- 3.2. Negotiations have concluded with the developer of Bankend Rig Windfarm to make a one off contribution of £35,750 instead of small annual payments. The capitalised payment achieved is appropriate bearing in mind the small annual contribution that would have been achieved.
- 3.3. The agreement reached places an obligation on the Council to administer the community benefit received from the Windfarm.
- 3.4. The Council has already established the REF for the collection and distribution of 'community benefit' payments at a number of similar developments including Blacklaw, Whitelees, Pates 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 Wind Farm Fund.
- 3.5. It is proposed that the arrangements in place for the distribution of funds through the REF be used also to administer the renewable energy development at Bankend Rig.

4. Criteria for Distribution of REF Grants from Bankend Rig Windfarm

- 4.1. The eligible area for the funds generated from Bankend Rig is shown on Plan 1 and is broadly the area within 15km of the wind turbine application boundary. Projects located within 5km of the wind farm would be given priority when applications for funding are received.
- 4.2. It is proposed that the arrangements for the distribution of funds from this site will be similar to those of existing Wind Farms administered under the mechanism of the REF although, due to the scale of the amounts of funding received from this development, it is proposed that the fund should be administered centrally through the Main Fund by Regeneration Services.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The REF will be increased with an additional £35,570 of funds.

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.
- 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 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)

8 August 2013

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Approvals – Millburn Farm, Dykehead Farm, Haspielaw Farm, Upper Haywood and Tanhill

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004 “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.

Contact for Further Information

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

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