

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 February 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund from Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society
- ♦ consider a grant application to Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund from the Rural Development Trust
- ♦ consider a grant application to Muirhall Stallashaw Renewable Energy Fund from Carstairs Parent Partnership

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society of up to £33,339.40 from Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund to upgrade and improve the external fabric of the building;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to the Rural Development Trust of up to £71,881.50 from Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund to purchase two mini buses for use in the rural area, subject to two conditions as detailed at paragraph 4.13; and
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Carstairs Parent Partnership of up to £30,880.48 from the Muirhall Stallashaw Renewable Energy Fund to upgrade and provide a new play area.

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 Grant awards above £20,000 require approval from Committee, awards below this level are approved by the Head of Planning and Economic Development Services under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

4. Grant recommendations

- 4.1. Application Number 281
Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund
Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society – project value £78,339.40
Proposed Grant award £33,339.40. Intervention rate of 40.42%
- 4.2. Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society is a multi-function community centre. It incorporates a heritage centre, community café, conference facilities, room hire, community shop, food cooperative, public access computers, photocopying facilities, Citizens' Advice Bureau and delivers and supports various activities and courses for the community of Coalburn and surrounding area.
- 4.3. The project will upgrade the exterior of the building undertaking roofing, roughcasting and exterior painting and decorating. The works will help ensure the exterior integrity of the building and the sustainability of the community facility.
- 4.4. A community action plan for Coalburn and Douglas was prepared and published in 2016 and one of the community aims was to make more use of the miners' welfare building for activities, courses and services for the benefit of the local community. Consultations were again held in 2019 and it was agreed that the key points in the original document were still relevant including the sustainability of the Miners' Welfare.
- 4.5. The application scored 25 and 29 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 27 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 50% of eligible costs.
- 4.6. The total cost of the project is £78,339.40, with contributions from Levenseat £10,000, Hagshawhill Windfarm Trust £25,000 and Land Trust of £10,000. All of these contributions have been confirmed. Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £33,339.40, representing an intervention rate of 40.42%.
- 4.7. The project is scheduled to commence in March 2020 and be complete by April 2020.
- 4.8. Application Number 221
Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund
Rural Development Trust – project value £143,763
Proposed Grant award £71,881.50. Intervention rate of 50%
- 4.9. The Rural Development Trust (RDT) is a charity and social enterprise whose main activity is community transport, including group hires for not for profit groups which mainly operates within the rural area of South Lanarkshire.
- 4.10. The funding will help deliver a demand response service within wards 3 and 4, including the villages of Glespin, Blackwood, Lesmahagow, Rigside, Douglas, Leadhills, Crawfordjohn, Abington, Crawford, Symington, Robertson, Carmichael, Lamington, Carstairs, Biggar and Carnwath. The service is a partnership with the community, 3rd sector and public sector and will replace the current MyBus service with an improved, more community directed, service. The new service will cover areas not covered by the original MyBus service such as Abington, Crawford, Elvanfoot, Leadhills, Robertson, Lamington. The new service is revenue funded by SPT and RDT is applying for the capital costs of two new minibuses.

- 4.11. Rural transport was identified within the LEADER rural strategy as a priority area and has been identified within the sustainable travel action plans of nine rural villages covered by this proposal. The application also contained four letters of support. The project will also help support the Local Transport Strategy Policies and Actions.
- 4.12. The application scored 26 and 35 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 30 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 55% of eligible costs.
- 4.13. The total capital cost of the project is £143,763 with a contribution of £71,881.50 submitted to the Clyde wind farm fund and awaiting decision in early 2020. Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £71,881.50, representing an intervention rate of 50%. It is considered proportionate that the two windfarm funds covering the service area each contribute 50% funding. The grant would be conditional on match funding being awarded and that annual reports are provided for 3 years as to the monthly usage of the service.
- 4.14. The project is scheduled to commence in March 2020 but will be subject to delivery schedule of the minibuses.
- 4.15. Application Number 308
Muirhall Stallashaw Renewable Energy Fund
Carstairs Parent Partnership – eligible project value £95,806.48
Proposed Grant award £30,880.48. Intervention rate of 32.23%
- 4.16. The Carstairs Parent Partnership is a constituted parent council with the aim of raising funds for the children of Carstairs and provide activities to the benefit of children in the area.
- 4.17. The Carstairs Parent Partnership, along with South Lanarkshire Council, are working in partnership to redevelop the village green play area. The project will create a safe and welcoming area enhancing the local play provision for children which is of particular importance given the village's rural location. The main project management will be carried out by South Lanarkshire Amenity Services, Landscape Team.
- 4.18. The group has undertaken community consultation and received 170 positive responses. The children and community have been involved in the design and choice of equipment and the application has nine letters of support. The group has raised £3,926 from the community towards the project costs.
- 4.19. The application scored 27 and 28 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 27.5 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 50% of eligible costs.
- 4.20. The total eligible capital cost of the total project is £95,806.48. Contributions of £15,000 from Levenseat and £3,926 from the Carstairs Parent Partnership have been confirmed towards the project costs. Funding decisions of £6,000 from Border biscuits and £40,000 from Wren Community fund are due. Muirhall Stallashaw Renewable Energy Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £30,880.48 representing an intervention rate of 32.22% of the eligible costs.
- 4.21. The project is scheduled to commence in May 2020 and be complete by October 2020.

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. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. The three projects are considered to be positive in terms of helping mitigate climate change, sustainability and environmental implications. All three projects will assist in maintaining rural communities and services and assist in people accessing the facilities they need close to where they live which helps reduce carbon emissions and will help maintain the sustainability of rural communities.

- 7.2. Within the development of application 221 by the Rural Development Trust the use of electrical or Hydrogen buses was discussed. The Rural Development Trust are introducing electrical buses for some of their service, however, currently the bus technology does not fulfil the demands for the distances required within this specific geography and the range limits were too prescriptive at this time. The service will though help people use public transport rather than private car journeys and will assist in reducing emissions.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The risks associated with the projects are focused on the potential for cost overruns, delays to the projects or match funding not being secured and the long term use of the assets. Work will continue with all the applicants to help ensure match funding is secured and that projects are delivered broadly on time and within budget. Monitoring of the impact of the projects will continue after the grant especially in regard to delivery of rural transport services.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

19 December 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Focuses on people and their needs
- ◆ Encouraging participation in physical and cultural activities
- ◆ Working with communities to promote high quality thriving sustainable communities
- ◆ Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 8 August 2007
- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 23 November 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 281
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 281

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 221
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 221

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 308
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 308

Contact for Further Information

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

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