

# Report

9

Report to:	<b>Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>30 March 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund - Applications for Funding</b>
----------	--

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Consider applications to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from
  - ◆ Carluke Milton Rovers for financial assistance towards the upgrading of their training pitch at Burn Road, Carluke
  - ◆ Lanark Play Park Action Group for financial assistance towards the upgrading and refurbishment of Lanark Loch play park

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Carluke Milton Rovers of up to £7,561 towards the costs of the upgrading of their training pitch at Burn Road, Carluke, subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of this being received by the Council
- (2) that a grant be awarded Lanark Play Park Action Group of up to £50,000 towards financial assistance towards the upgrade and refurbishment of the Lanark Loch play park subject to match funding for the project being secured and written confirmation of this being received by the Council

## 3. Background

- 3.1. At the Executive Committee of 3 March, 2004, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Blacklaw 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 Blacklaw Windfarm. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Fund totalling £875,585.62 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. Proposals**

##### **Carluke Milton Rovers – Burn Road Pitch Replacement**

- 4.1. Carluke Milton Rovers Youth Football Club was formed in 1991 as a local community response to address increasing instances of youth issues in the town of Carluke.
- 4.2. The club currently has 14 teams, at every age group from under 5's through to a Senior Amateur Men's and Senior Ladies Team including a girl's under 13 team. The club work with over 280 young people aged 5 – 25 years aiming to provide positive experiences and activity programmes which develop confidence, self esteem, knowledge, learning potential and employability skills in order to enhance their own and wider community life.
- 4.3. In 2010 the club attained Scottish Football Association Quality Mark Community Club Status, one of only 4 clubs in Scotland to achieve such an award. The club was also recognised for its services to the community and was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2010.
- 4.4. The present facility has been in use for 8 years and due to continued usage by the club, it is now in poor condition and beyond its life expectancy. The proposed works involve the replacement of an existing and worn out artificial playing surface with a new 4<sup>th</sup> generation multi use sports surface.
- 4.5. The facility is presently leased from South Lanarkshire Council. There are 12 years remaining on the lease.
- 4.6. The total eligible cost of the project is £35,122. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £7,561, equating to an intervention rate of 22%. The remaining confirmed funds are £10,000 from Carluke Milton Rovers own funds and an anticipated grant from SportScotland for £17,561. An application has been submitted and a decision is expected in April 2011.
- 4.7. The project will be managed by a committee from Milton Rovers to whom the contractor will report direct. It is anticipated that the works will take approximately 6 weeks to complete and be undertaken in summer 2011.
- 4.8. This application scored 19½ points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 30%.

##### **Lanark Play Park Action Group – Play Park Regeneration**

- 4.9. Lanark Play Park Action Group (LPAG) was formed in 2009 with a number of aims focussing upon the improvement of the play parks within Lanark.
- 4.10. LPAG held a public meeting in April 2009 to raise awareness of the group and gather support for their proposal to improve Lanark Loch Play Park. Following this meeting, the group undertook a petition which gathered 1300 signatures. This was followed by a survey which gained 629 responses and assessed the community's aspirations for play parks.
- 4.11. The works will involve the upgrade of the existing play park, with the renewal of old equipment, whilst also preserving and enhancing the surrounding woodland environment which will include picnic benches and tables for use by all.

- 4.12. The Group has also taken the needs of all members of the community into consideration when finalising design. Access to the play park will include improved pathways and there will also be equipment within the play park specifically for those with physical disabilities.
- 4.13. The total eligible cost of the project is £154,402. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £50,000 equating to an intervention rate of 32%. The remaining unconfirmed funds are £30,000 from Common Good Fund, £10,000 from Awards for All, £20,000 from Kwik Fit Community Fund, £30,000 from Viridor and £2,400 from Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Initial enquiries to these sources of funding have met with a positive response. The remaining balance of £12,002 will be raised locally by the group.
- 4.14. The project will be managed by Community Resources who are responsible for the design and implementation of the works. A Partnership Agreement has been entered into by both parties. Community Resources will report to the group on progress on an ongoing basis.
- 4.15. This application scored 24 points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 45%.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1 There are no employee implications arising from this report, Community Resources design and implementation works will be resourced within existing staff resources.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Blacklaw Fund of £875,585.62 including interest (i.e. a £849,284.79 contribution and £26,300.83 interest).
- 6.2. Blacklaw has committed funds, from the main Fund, of £592,453 towards projects from an available budget of £620,800.14 (70% of the total £849,284.73 plus interest of £26,300.83. The remaining 30% comprising the Local Grant Scheme which is administered by Leader).
- 6.3. A further payment of approximately £139,000 is anticipated in July 2011 of which approximately £97,300 (70%) will be directed into the main REF.
- 6.4. Both applicants have indicated that no funds would be drawn down until August 2011.
- 6.5. Therefore, there will be sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £28,347.14 and the anticipated income of £97,300, to meet the total of £57,561 requested.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. The risks associated with all projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme.
- 7.2. All applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within the present budgets subject to agreement from the REF on any changes to their proposed projects. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.
- 7.3. Delays to the programme will have no impact on the Council.

7.4. Without the contributions from the Renewable Energy Fund, it is highly unlikely that either of the projects outlined will proceed.

## **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. Consultation has taken place with Community Resources concerning Lanark Loch Play Park regarding ongoing maintenance costs.

**Colin McDowall**

**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

28 February 2010

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

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

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee Report on Community Benefit – 3 March 2004

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 7 January 2011 received from Carluke Milton Rovers.
- ◆ Completed REF assessment form dated 14 February 2011 for Carluke Milton Rovers.
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 10 February 2011 received from Lanark Play Park Action Group.
- ◆ Completed REF assessment form dated 14 February 2011 for Lanark Play Park Action Group.

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services

Ext: 4759 (Tel: 01698 454759)

E-mail: [stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)