

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 March 2019
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 The Rural Development Trust
- ◆ consider a grant application to Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund from East Renfrewshire Council
- ◆ consider a grant application to Muirhallstallashaw Renewable Energy Fund from Auchengray Church Centre Trust

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to The Rural Development Trust of up to £29,457 from Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund towards a new build garage to improve and expand the community-based services;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to East Renfrewshire Council of up to £88,108 from Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund towards the management and maintenance of the network of routes throughout the windfarm area which extends into South Lanarkshire;
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Auchengray Church Centre Trust of up to £70,000 from Muirhallstallashaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the refurbishment project of Auchengray Church Centre; and
- (4) that the above grants be subject to match funding being secured and written confirmation of this being received by the Council.

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. Details of all grant awards, including those grants up to £20,000 which had been approved by the Head of Planning and Economic Development Services under delegated authority, are reported annually to the Committee.

4. Proposals

4.1. *Galawhistle Renewable Energy Fund*

The Rural Development Trust – £98,190

Proposed Grant Award – £29,457 – Intervention rate 30%

- 4.2. The Rural Development Trust (RDT) provides a varied portfolio of rural development projects. This application relates to community transport services. RDT offers services across South Lanarkshire, however, has a focus on the rural area.
- 4.3. The new garage facility will enable RDT to improve and expand the community-based services and the management and maintenance of their fleet services.
- 4.4. RDT currently operates 9 sixteen seat mini coaches and has a maintenance shed with two inspection pits for maintaining vehicles. The proposed development will enable the organisation to increase the fleet of vehicles and garage all vehicles undercover. This will increase the lifespan of the vehicles and protect staff from working outdoors in inclement weather conditions when undertaking routine maintaining and checks of vehicles.
- 4.5. The application was scored 27 and 31 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 33% of eligible costs.
- 4.6. The total cost of the project is £98,190.00, with £68,733 of funding from Lanarkshire Leader. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £29,457, representing an intervention rate of 30%.
- 4.7. Works are due to commence 01 April 2019
- 4.8. *Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund*

East Renfrewshire Council – Management and Maintenance is a recurring project within Whitelee Wind Farm, approved year on year – £244,748
Proposed Grant Award – £88,108 – Intervention rate 36%
- 4.9. The Enterprise Resources Committee on 27 June 2007 approved a Section75 Agreement which placed an obligation on the Council to jointly prepare and implement an access strategy for Whitelee Windfarm.
- 4.10. The maintenance of these access works can utilise up to 40% of the community benefit monies received each year.
- 4.11. A ranger service (two staff) employed by East Renfrewshire Council, is responsible for managing the maintenance of the footpath network and assisting in implementing community projects. They provide a proactive management service and are also able to promote responsible access to a wide range of users.
- 4.12. The project will be managed by the Whitelee Access Officer employed by East Renfrewshire Council, who reports on a regular basis to the three authorities within whose boundaries the windfarm is located.
- 4.13. The application was scored 30 and 35 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 37.5% of eligible costs.

- 4.14. The total cost of the project is £244,748 (which is split: staff costs £212,748 and works cost's £32,000), with £156,640 of funding from East Renfrewshire Council Community Benefit Fund. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £88,108 representing an intervention rate of 36%.
- 4.15. The current project will continue from April 2019 and be completed by March 2021.
- 4.16. *MuirhallStallashaw Renewable Energy Fund*
- Auchengray Church Centre Trust – Refurbishment Project £611,250.83
Proposed Grant Award – £70,000 – Intervention rate 11.45%
- 4.17. The Auchengray Church Trust serves the remote rural communities of Auchengray, Tarbrax, Woolfords and District, comprising approximately 780 residents in around 325 households.
- 4.18. The project activity will involve the repair, restoration and upgrade works to a community owned hall facility that serves remote rural communities. The renovation project includes the installation of a ground source heating system with under floor heating throughout, internal insulation and refurbishment to maximise heat retention. The renovation of walls, ceilings and doors and windows will create a comfortable high quality community space for the surrounding area.
- 4.19. The application was scored 34 and 35 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 40% of eligible costs.
- 4.20. The total cost of the project is £611,250.83 with Places of Worship £90,965.51, Levensat £50,000, WAT IF £30,000, WAT Group £5,000, Viridor £46,000, Land Trust £20,000, WREN £70,000, LEADER £100,000, SSE £40,000, Garfield Weston £30,000, Robertson Trust £50,000, Scotland's Churches Trust £5,000, ACC Funds £4,285.32. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £70,000, representing an intervention rate of 11.45%.
- 4.21. Works are due to commence 1 April 2019 and be completed by 31 October 2019.

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. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme. The applicant has agreed that any cost increases will be managed within their present budget subject to agreement on any changes to the proposed project. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.
- 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 and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All necessary consultation arrangements, including liaison with Housing and Technical Resources, and any community consultations, have taken place.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

20 February 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 21 August 2018

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form dated January 2019 The Rural Development Trust
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form dated January 2019 East Renfrewshire Council
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form dated January 2019 Auchengray Church Centre Trust
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet dated February 2019 The Rural Development Trust
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet dated February 2019 East Renfrewshire Council
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet dated February 2019 Auchengray Church Centre Trust

Contact for Further Information

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

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