

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>3 September 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund - Grant Applications</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund from Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust
- ♦ consider a request for a revised grant award from MuirhallStallashaw Renewable Energy Fund to 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 Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust of up to £25,655 from Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund towards refurbishment works to improve the internal and external environment of the facility;
- (2) that a revised grant amount of £84,803 be awarded to Auchengray Church Centre Trust from MuirhallStallashaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the cost of restoration and upgrade works to a community owned hall facility; and
- (3) 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

*Andershaw Renewable Energy Fund*

Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust – £128,273

Proposed Grant Award – £25,655 – Intervention rate 20%

- 4.1. Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust is a committee of volunteers who manage Crawfordjohn Heritage Museum and their purpose is to promote the heritage and history of the village and the surrounding area.
- 4.2. The refurbishment works to the interior will improve environmental conditions within the museum by installing a humid statically controlled conservation heating system and improved ventilation to manage the high levels of relative humidity which are adversely affecting the Museum collections. This will also include the creation of a small archive/research room to allow optimum environmental conditions for storage to be achieved and provide visitors to the museum with a comfortable area in which to carry out family history and social history research. In addition, the project aims to install photovoltaic solar panels and battery storage and also carry out drainage and external fabric improvements to minimise penetration of dampness.
- 4.3. Consultation has been carried out by the Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust Committee and has identified among the visitors and the wider communities who enjoy and use the facility, the need for improvement to the building to preserve the historical collection and create a more welcoming usable space for all.
- 4.4. The application scored 32 and 33 from a possible 50/50 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 36.5% of eligible costs.
- 4.5. The total cost of the project is £128,273 with £83,476 of funding contributions from the Clyde Wind Farm and £19,142 of funding from Museum Galleries Scotland. The Council managed Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £25,655, representing an intervention rate of 20%.
- 4.6. Works are due to commence on 29 September 2019 with an estimated completion date for the project of April 2021.

*MuirhallStallashaw Renewable Energy Fund*

Auchengray Church Centre Trust – Refurbishment Project £492,872  
Proposed Grant Award – £84,803 – Intervention rate 17.2%

- 4.7. The Community and Enterprise Resources Committee at its meeting on 19 March 2019 approved a grant award of £70,000 to Auchengray Church Centre Trust. The project activity proposed 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. The original application intimated that a range of other match funding sources were anticipated to cover the cost of the project.
- 4.8. Whilst funding support has been confirmed and listed in paragraph 4.10, other funding applications to support the project were unsuccessful: Viridor £46,000, Land Trust £20,000, WREN £70,000 and Robertson Trust £50,000 leaving a shortfall in the overall funding package of £186,000. As a consequence, the project has been scaled back from the original cost of £611,250 to £492,872, a saving of £118,378. The savings have been made through a reduction in external conservation works and the internal fit out whilst maintaining the thermal, carbon and financial benefits gained from the

heating and insulation works and still deliver all the community facility benefits of the project.

- 4.9. The March 2019 application scored 34 and 35 by the two appraisers from a possible 50/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 40% of eligible costs. The scores have been reviewed and the reduction in the scale of the project has not altered the project scores
- 4.10. The total eligible cost of the project is £492,872 with funding contributions from LEADER £100,000, Levensat £50,000, Garfield Weston £20,000, Green Economy Fund £40,000, SSE £40,000, Scotland Churches Trust £3,000, WATIF £50,000, WAT Group £10,000, Local Funding £4,500, Personal Donations £12,500, Listed Places of Worship £78,069. SLC Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £84,803, representing an intervention rate of 17.2%

## **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)**

24 July 2019

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Encouraging participation in physical and cultural activities

## **Previous References**

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee - 19 March 2019
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee - 22 May 2018

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form dated May 2019 Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet dated June 2019 Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust

**Contact for Further Information**

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

Colin McFarlane, Project Development Officer, Planning and Economic Development Services Ext: 5922 (Tel: 01698 455922)

E-mail: [colin.mcfarlane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.mcfarlane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)