

Report

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Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 October 2017
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

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

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider grant applications to Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from St Mary's Church, Lanark.
- ◆ consider grant applications to Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund from Hamilton Gymnastics Club and Claremont Church, East Kilbride.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to St Mary's Church, Lanark of up to £70,000 from Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the St Mary's Church Roofing project to completely overhaul the roof of the grade A listed building;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Claremont Church, East Kilbride of up to £50,750 from Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund towards the replacement heating system project to fit an environmentally friendly and efficient heating system;
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Hamilton Gymnastics Club of up to £46,816.40 from Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund towards the Hamilton Gymnastics Club Big Plans project to renovate and fit out a new training facility; 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 ensure they are accessible to and necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.

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

4. Proposals

Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund

- 4.1. *St Mary's Church Re-roofing – Project Cost £509,709
Proposed Grant Award – £70,000*
- 4.2. Established in 1850, St Mary's Church in Lanark was built around 1859 with the present Church, a grade A listed building, dating from the early 20th century. The Church roof is in poor condition and requires completely overhauled. The Church and adjacent hall is used by a number of local groups including the choir, Lanark Grammar School, music recitals, elderly groups, line dancing classes, a slimming club, a community café, and SLC Social Work for events.
- 4.3. The project involves re-slating the entire roof by re-using existing Westmoreland slate where possible with new Westmoreland slate making up the balance.
- 4.4. The total cost of the project is £509,709. The REF Community Benefit Fund will contribute £70,000, representing an intervention rate of 14%. The balance of funding is being raised by the applicant. Works are scheduled to commence in November 2017 and be completed by March 2018.

Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund

- 4.5. *Claremont Parish Church – Replacement Heating System – Project Cost £182,412
Proposed Grant Award – £50,750*
- 4.6. Claremont Parish Church operates from a 1970s building in the St Leonards area of East Kilbride. A comprehensive and gradual process of upgrade and refurbishment is ongoing with significant improvement in insulation having been achieved to all but the main sanctuary.
- 4.7. The project is to replace the ageing heating system that serves the Claremont building complex. This is essential work that will allow use of the facilities to continue and expand. A wide range of groups use the facilities on a regular basis, ranging from mother and toddler groups to a community cafe and Councillor surgeries. The proposed works will safeguard the future use of the building.
- 4.8. All elements of the present heating system – the boilers, distribution system, heat emitters and controls – are inefficient and increasingly unreliable. The proposed works will contribute to the building remaining fit-for-purpose for the next 20 years.
- 4.9. The total cost of the project is £182,412, with the balance of funding being raised by the group, leaving a request to SLC Community Benefit Fund of £50,750 - an intervention rate of 28%. Works are scheduled to commence in November 2017 and be completed by April 2018.
- 4.10. *Hamilton Gymnastics Club – Hamilton GC Big Plans Project – £185,518.40
Proposed Grant Award – £46,816.40*
- 4.11. Hamilton Gymnastics Club offers inclusive gymnastics classes for all children aged 18 months to adults. They offer non-competitive, recreational and pre-school classes to Hamilton and the wider community of South Lanarkshire. They also offer competitive gymnastics in a variety of disciplines. They provide young leader training and have employment, self employment and volunteering opportunities for residents of Hamilton and further afield.

- 4.12. The Club is in the process of expanding their facility in Unit 10 Blantyre Industrial Estate (15,000sq ft) aimed to reduce its existing waiting list and develop their student talent to international standard. They currently have 1,200 members and this extension work will allow a further 600 students to join, removing their current waiting list, and allowing new members to join.
- 4.13. The total cost of the project is £185,518.40, the balance of funding has been raised by the group leaving a request to the Community Benefit Fund of £46,816.40 - an intervention rate of 25%. Works are scheduled to commence in late October 2017 and be completed in December 2017.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Both Blacklaw and Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitments detailed in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the project are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the projects. The applicant has agreed that any cost increases will be managed within their present budgets, 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 any community consultations, have taken place.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

1 September 2017

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Develop a sustainable Council and communities
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ People focused

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 20 May 2009
- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 15 February 2012

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from St Marys Church.
- ◆ Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor
- ◆ Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from Claremont Church.
- ◆ Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor
- ◆ Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Form, associated information, supporting documents received from Hamilton Gymnastics Club.
- ◆ Assessment and decision documents on Grantvisor

Contact for Further Information

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

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