

Report

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Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2018
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 Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited
- ◆ consider a grant application to Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund from East Renfrewshire Council
- ◆ consider a grant application to Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund from Carstairs Community Council
- ◆ consider a grant application to High Dyke, Dykehead, Tanhill and Couplaw Renewable Energy Fund from Strathaven Dynamo AFC
- ◆ consider a request for a revised grant award from the Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund from Coalburn Miners' Welfare.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited of up to £80,000 from Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the upgrade of a current sand dressed pitch with a 3G surface;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to East Renfrewshire Council of up to £40,523 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 Carstairs Community Council of up to £35,023.40 from Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund towards the redevelopment and enhancement of the existing play area in Carstairs Junction;
- (4) that a grant be awarded to Strathaven Dynamo AFC of up to £39,901.73 from High Dyke - £33,333, Dykehead - £2,293, Tanhill - £367 and Couplaw - £3,908.73 towards the creation of a new building to provide changing rooms, showers and toilet facilities;
- (5) that a revised grant amount of £35,304 be awarded to Coalburn Miners' Welfare from Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund towards the cost of a biomass boiler installation project; and
- (6) that the above grants are 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 managed Community Benefit funding through the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) mechanism which is administered by 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

Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited – £248,900.51

Proposed Grant Award – £80,000 – Intervention rate 32.1%

- 4.1. It is proposed to upgrade the existing facility at Lanark Race Course to provide a modern fit for purpose 3G surface.
- 4.2. The application scored 31.5/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 37.5% of eligible costs.
- 4.3. The total cost of the project is £248,900.51 with match funding of £88,900.51 from South Lanarkshire Council and £80,000 of funding from Sports Scotland. The REF will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £80,000, representing an intervention rate of 32%.
- 4.4. Upgrade works are due to commence Summer 2018.

Whitelee Renewable Energy Fund

East Renfrewshire Council – Management and Maintenance– £112,565.00

Proposed Grant Award – £40,523.00 – Intervention rate 36%

- 4.5. The Enterprise Resources Committee on 27 June 2007 approved a Section 75 Agreement which placed an obligation on the Council to jointly prepare and implement an access strategy for Whitelee Windfarm.
- 4.6. The maintenance of these access works can utilise up to 40% of the community benefit monies received each year.
- 4.7. A ranger service, managed by East Renfrewshire Council, is presently employed which significantly reduces the ongoing costs of maintenance over the longer term, allowing more funds to be diverted towards assisting community projects. The ranger service comprises two full time rangers employed by East Renfrewshire Council. They offer a proactive management service and are also able to promote responsible access to a wide range of users.
- 4.8. The project will be managed by the Whitelee Access Officer, who reports on a regular basis to the three authorities within whose boundaries the windfarm is located.

- 4.9. The application scored 34.5/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 42.5% of eligible costs.
- 4.10. The total cost of the project is £112,565.00 with £72,042.00 of funding from East Renfrewshire Council. REF will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £40,523.00, representing an intervention rate of 36%.
- 4.11. Works are scheduled to commence in June 2018 and be completed by April 2019.

Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund

Carstairs Community Council – Carstairs Junction Play Park – £86,520.40
Proposed Grant Award – £35,023.40 – Intervention rate 40.48%

- 4.12. It is proposed to redevelop and enhance the existing play area in Carstairs Junction to provide recreational facilities and promote healthy leisure time activities.
- 4.13. The aim is to offer stimulating and physical active play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities that are not currently available within the village.
- 4.14. The application scored 34.5/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 42.5% of eligible costs.
- 4.15. The total cost of the project is £86,520.40 with £49,397 of funding sought from Viridor Credits and Carstairs Community Councils fundraising of £2,100. The REF will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £35,023.40, representing an intervention rate of 40.48%.
- 4.16. Works are scheduled to commence in July 2018 and be completed by September 2018.

High Dyke, Dykehead, Tanhill and Couplaw Renewable Energy Funds

Strathaven Dynamo AFC – Changing Facilities – £109,901.73
Proposed Grant Award – £39,901.73 – Intervention rate 36.3%

- 4.17. Strathaven Dynamo AFC have provided sport and leisure activities within the Strathaven and local area since 1969 and have developed strong links and partnerships within the local community.
- 4.18. The project will create a new building to provide changing rooms, showers and toilet facilities for over 350 Strathaven Dynamo AFC young people and the surrounding communities.
- 4.19. The application scored 31/50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 37.5% of eligible costs.
- 4.20. The total cost of the project is £109,901.73 with funding contributions of £70,000 sought from Strathaven Dynamo AFC £25,000, W3ST £10,000, Lottery Fund £5,000, Scottish Football Partnership £5,000, Adams Community Trust £2,000, Strathaven Rotary Club £3,000, Clearfield Construction Donation £15,000, Strathaven Rugby Club £5,000. The REF will contribute the remaining balance, an award of up to £39,901.73, representing an intervention rate of 36.3%.

Nutberry Renewable Energy Fund

Coalburn Miners' Welfare – Biomass Boiler – £100,867.73

Proposed Grant Award – £35,303.71 – Intervention rate 35%

- 4.21. The Enterprise Services Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2014 approved a grant award of £10,733 to Coalburn Miners' Welfare for a biomass boiler installation project. The original application intimated that a range of other match funding sources were anticipated to cover the cost of the project.
- 4.22. Whilst funding support was received from Hargreaves Limited and the applicant made a contribution to the project from their own funds, other funding applications to support the project were unsuccessful. To fund the project, Coalburn Miners Welfare took out a loan, the repayment of which is now placing an increasing strain on the organisation's finances and future sustainability.
- 4.23. The 2014 application scored 20/32 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up to 35% of eligible costs.
- 4.24. The total eligible costs of the project is £100,863.73 with funding contributions received from Hargreaves £25,000, Coalburn Miners Welfare £10,153 and Resource Efficient Scotland (loan) £30,407.02. The SLC REF Community Benefit Fund will contribute the remaining balance, a total award of up to £35,303.71, an increase of £24,570.71 on the 2014 REF grant offer and representing an intervention rate of 35%.

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)

30 April 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs.
- ◆ Fair open and sustainable
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 27 June 2007
- ◆ Enterprise Services Committee 16 September 2014

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed Grantvisor REF Grant Application Forms and associated supporting documents from the applicants

Contact for Further Information

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

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