

Report

17

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Report to: | Enterprise Resources Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 15 February 2012 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Subject: | Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund – Applications for Funding |
|----------|--|

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Consider applications to the Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund from
 - ◆ Biggar Rugby Football Club for financial assistance towards pitch, changing and clubhouse improvements
 - ◆ 1st Tinto Biggar Scout Group for financial assistance towards the purchase of canoes, trailer and associated equipment
 - ◆ Leadhills Family Action Group for financial assistance towards the creation of a new play park
 - ◆ The Rural Development Trust for financial assistance towards the purchase of two mini buses

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Biggar Rugby Football club of up to £110,000 towards pitch, changing and clubhouse improvements subject to appropriate consents being granted and confirmation of relevant match funding;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to 1st Tinto Biggar Scout Group of up to £9,110 towards the purchase of canoes, trailer and associated safety equipment;
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Leadhills Family Action Group of up to £10,203 towards the creation of a new play park subject to appropriate consents being granted and confirmation of relevant match funding; and
- (4) that a grant be awarded to the Rural Development Trust of up to £72,000 towards the purchase of two minibuses on the basis that it will be available for the use of the communities within the 15km Clyde Wind Farm Community Fund area and subject to confirmation of relevant match funding.

3. Background

3.1. The Enterprise Resources Committee of 17 March 2010, approved the Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.

- 3.2. The Fund is financed from payments from SSE Renewables who operate the Clyde Wind Farm. To date, SSE Renewables has made payments into the Fund totalling £510,600
- 3.3. The Clyde Wind Farm 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.
- 3.4. Grant awards from the main Community Fund require approval of the Committee with grant awards of 50%-90% of eligible costs being achievable. Grant awards for successful applications to the Community Fund Small Grant Scheme (up to £5000) and all awards from the Development Fund are delegated to the Head of Regeneration Services for approval. Applications to the Small Grant Scheme benefit from a grant intervention level of 100% of eligible costs. Applications to the Development Fund can receive 50% match funding up to a maximum grant award of £25,000.

4. Biggar Rugby Football Club

- 4.1. Biggar Rugby Football Club has been established for 36 years and is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club with over 40 volunteer coaches and 3 senior teams. The club is community based providing facilities and training for those interested in rugby from age 4 to 50+ from Biggar and the surrounding area. The club has teams at all ages from 7 through to 18 including a girls team. In addition, the club supports a Youth Development Officer in partnership with the Scottish Rugby Union, who works closely with the local primary and secondary schools to promote rugby and related sporting activities in the wider youth community.
- 4.2. Currently, changing facilities consist of 3 interlinked changing rooms and communal showers that are inadequate in terms of design and capacity to meet the club's needs.
- 4.3. To accommodate the club's growth the changing facilities need to be expanded and improved. A grant from Cashback for Communities, through the SRU and Sport Scotland, has given the club money to expand the existing facilities by 4 changing rooms. In addition, as the first phase of the overall expansion plan, the club wishes to improve the clubhouse by upgrading the existing communal changing rooms to the same standard as the new ones, improve the referees changing facilities, upgrade the toilets and, importantly, create a new DDA compliant access.
- 4.4. To facilitate the increased intensity of pitch use and membership levels, there is also a requirement to upgrade the drainage facilities to provide a better training and playing facility. The improved drainage would see use of the main pitch increasing to 40 matches per year from the current 15 per year, and access to the overall facility would increase by around 600 hours per annum.
- 4.5. In addition to providing better facilities for Biggar Rugby Club, the improvements would also allow the possibility of pitches being utilised by other local sports clubs when not in use for rugby, such as the local athletics and cricket club.

- 4.6. The total eligible cost of the project is £220,000. The club are seeking a grant from Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund of up to £110,000 equating to an intervention rate of 50%. The club has indicated that it has the matching 50% (£110,000) in place by means of cash savings, in-kind support and grant award from "Cashback for Communities".
- 4.7. A Project Manager will be appointed by Biggar Rugby Football Club who will oversee the works and report back to the Club on progress and budget.
- 4.8. This application scored 75% during the assessment process. As the application is for more than £5000 this score permits an intervention level of up to 75% of eligible costs.

1st Tinto Biggar Scout Group

- 4.9. 1st Tinto Biggar Scout Group provide opportunities for young people between the ages of 6 and 15 to develop their full potential as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- 4.10. The Scout Group have been working over the past two years with an appropriately qualified coach to advance paddlesports. This has been very popular with the children and the Group wish to develop this by purchasing a canoe trailer and 6 canoes with the necessary equipment. There has also been an increase in interest from other local groups and this facility could be expanded to allow use and coaching to groups such as the Girl Guides Association and Biggar Rugby Club juniors.
- 4.11. The total eligible cost of the project is £15,610. The grant sought from Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund is £9,110 equating to an intervention rate of 58%. The Group has indicated that it has the match funding of 42% (£6,500) in place through its own funds and in kind support.
- 4.12. This application scored 75% during the assessment process. As the application is for more than £5,000 this score permits an intervention level of up to 75% of eligible costs.

Leadhills Family Action Group - Leadhills Play Park Project

- 4.13. Leadhills Family Action Group was set up in autumn 2008 with the objective of providing a safe environment for local families to meet and interact through sport and recreation, to provide opportunities for young people and children to socialise and to enhance their quality of life.
- 4.14. The intention through this project is to create a place for families to meet, play, relax and enjoy the local environment at the heart of Leadhills Village.
- 4.15. There currently exists a generous plot of land in the centre of the village, adjacent to the school, on the main street that runs through the village. The land consists of a roughly grassed area and a stepped slope bordered by some mature trees and young saplings. The site is Council owned and has previously functioned as a play area. The plot is served by a car park and public toilet.
- 4.16. There is currently limited use of the site and so it is proposed that the Action Group purchase and install a suite of new play equipment, chosen by the children of the village through a consultation process, as well as paths and seating.

- 4.17. The Council has agreed to project manage the installation and maintain the equipment once installed. A working relationship has been established between the Action Group and the Council to ensure the long term success of the scheme.
- 4.18. The total eligible cost of the project is £107,735. The grant sought from Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund is £10,023 equating to an intervention rate of 9.5%. The Group has indicated that it is seeking the match funding of 90.5% (£90,212) from the Big Lottery and this application is presently being assessed.
- 4.19. This application scored 98% during the assessment process. As the application is for more than £5000 this score permits an intervention level of up to 90% of eligible costs.
- 4.20. The works will be delivered by South Lanarkshire Council Land Services who will report back to Leadhills Family Action Group on progress and budget.

Rural Development Trust – Transport Initiative

- 4.21. The Rural Development Trust Ltd. [RDT] is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives of public agencies, community organisations and local business sectors. RDT's main activities are community transport and programme management.
- 4.22. The organisation provides community transport across the whole of South Lanarkshire from its main depot at Douglas Water and a satellite base at Cambuslang, operating 10 vehicles and carrying out over 100,000 passenger journeys per year. It is the largest community transport operator in South Lanarkshire and one of the largest (non-public sector owned) in Scotland.
- 4.23. The client group is very diverse, the Trust carry out everything from local bus services to school contracts and provide volunteer driven minibuses. Associated to this, they also provide MIDAS training for volunteer transport drivers.
- 4.24. Access to suitable and affordable public transport services continues to be a priority issue for rural South Lanarkshire, in particular, the remoter areas. For the past 2.5 years RDT have been running 2 pilot community centred transport schemes which aim to link local transport provision with school contracts in a resource efficient manner that allows the community to influence the way the vehicles are used/services provided outwith the school contract period.
- 4.25. The trial has been a success for the schools involved (Wiston, Crawfordjohn and Crawford PS's) with significant benefits to the community. Other rural schools wish to make use of the same type of service. RDT have met with Education Resources and SPT and both these partners also wish to roll out the service format to more schools in the future. The school contract element generates revenue income that can be used to support wider rural services, however it does not support the capital cost of new vehicle purchase, which is essential if the quality and range of rural provision is to be enhanced. RDT are seeking support to purchase two additional 16 seat mini-coaches to increase its fleet from 8 to 10 vehicles.
- 4.26. During the pilot as much as 40% of the community bookings, on a monthly basis, for RDT's fleet of buses came from the wind farm area demonstrating strong demand for the service in this area. The communities used the vehicles for anything from shopping trips, access to healthcare, access to leisure facilities, access to theatres and community group/local clubs transport. In addition, it is possible that a local time

tabled bus service could be part of the initiative if the community supported this option. RDT would propose to establish local user groups for all community centred projects that would be consulted on proposals and influence the nature of service delivery.

- 4.27. The two new buses will allow RDT to develop the provision of rural community transport services within the CWF operating area. These will be similar to those which RDT currently operate and therefore bring maintenance and operating efficiencies. Vehicles are currently based at Douglas Water but RDT are keen to locate vehicles closer to the area of use if suitable facilities can be found in the communities they service.
- 4.28. The total eligible cost of the project is £96,000. The grant sought from Clyde Wind Farm Community and Development Fund is up to £72,000 equating to an intervention rate of 75%. The Group has indicated that it has access to the match funding of 25% (£24,000) from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).
- 4.29. The application scored 86% during the assessment process. As the application is for more than £5,000 this score permits an intervention level of up to 90% of eligible costs.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Clyde Wind Fund of £510,600.
- 6.2. The Community Fund (70%) has received income of £357,420 of which there is currently £338,113 available for project funding. The Development Fund (30%) has received income of £153,180 of which £147,030 is currently available.
- 6.3. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available within the Community Fund to meet the proposed grant totalling £201,313.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risks associated with the project are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme.
- 7.2. The applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within their present budgets subject to agreement from the Clyde Wind Farm Fund 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 Clyde Wind Farm Fund, it is highly unlikely that 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. It is a requirement of the Clyde Wind Farm Fund that a consultation on all applications to the Community Fund, small and main schemes, will be undertaken with the Clyde Wind Farm Community Group, a constituted group with representatives from 6 Community Councils within the eligible area of the Community Fund. A number of individual comments were received in relation to the applications. These were duly noted and considered during the final assessment process with the applicants providing further supportive evidence where appropriate. A single consultation feedback on behalf of the whole group was not however supplied in relation to these applications.
- 8.3. All necessary consultation arrangements within the Council have taken place.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

19 January 2012

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

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

Previous References

- Report to Enterprise resources Committee of 17 March 2010 – Clyde Windfarm Fund

List of Background Papers

- Completed Clyde Wind Farm Grant Application Forms and associated information for all applications.
- Completed Clyde Wind Farm Fund assessments for each of the applications.

Contact for Further Information

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

John Archibald, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services

Ext: 5181 (Tel: 01698 455181)

E-mail: john.archibald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk