

# Report

8

Report to:	<b>Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>23 November 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund – Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club, East Kilbride</b>
----------	--

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval for the application to the Whitelees Renewable Energy Fund from Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club, East Kilbride.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club of up to £20,408.50 towards the construction of a new multi-use clubhouse subject to match funding for the project being secured, planning consent being granted and lease arrangements for the site being agreed and written confirmation of all elements being received by the Council.

## 3. Background

3.1. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June 2007, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Whitelees Windfarm, and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.

3.2. The Fund is financed from payments from Scottish Power who operate the Whitelees Windfarm. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Whitelees Fund of £662,142.05 including interest.

3.3. The Renewable Energy 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.

## 4. Proposal

### **Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club – Athletics Hub**

4.1. Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club and East Kilbride Athletics Club have operated out of portacabins placed adjacent to the running track at John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride, for a number of years. Both portacabin facilities are now showing significant signs of deterioration.

4.2. Working with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, the clubs have agreed on the creation of an “athletics hub”. The hub would facilitate the following:-

A classroom environment.  
Coach/Official resource centre/library  
Strength and conditioning training  
Equipment Storage  
Rest/recovery area

4.3. The provision of a hub enables both clubs to jointly progress their ambitions of encouraging more people within the local community to participate in athletics. It will also ensure that the training and club facilities meet the needs of members and that there is sufficient access to the resources needed to develop.

4.4 The new clubhouse will be fully wheelchair accessible which will assist with access for potential new members and the existing two members who presently experience access difficulties to the present facility.

4.5. A survey of demand involving members of both clubs highlighted the lack of a suitable indoor facility for ongoing learning and development as a key issue facing both clubs.

4.6 It is anticipated that improved facilities will enable the membership of both clubs to grow and increase from the present 225 to approximately 250 over the coming year.

4.7. The project will be managed on site by an appointed architect who will report back to the management committee of the club on an ongoing basis.

4.8. Upon completion the ongoing management of the clubhouse will be overseen by a management committee comprising members of Whitemoss AAC, East Kilbride Athletics Club and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. Running costs for the facility will be met by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture in return for use of the facility for events, etc.

4.9. The second stage of the project will see funding being sought from elsewhere to fund Continuous Professional Development programmes for club officials and volunteers.

4.10. The project is scheduled to commence in January 2012 and be completed by April 2012.

4.11. The total eligible cost of the project has been estimated at £101,832 (excluding administration fee of £1,500). The proposed grant from Whitelees REF is £20,408.50 equating to an intervention rate of 20%. Funding from Viridor of £30,000 has been confirmed as has a contribution from the club of £2,000. An application has been submitted to SportScotland for the remaining £49,423.50.

4.12. This application scored 23 points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process, allowing an intervention.

## **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 Whitelees Fund of £662,412.05 including interest (i.e. a £646,809.01 contribution and £15,603.04 interest).
- 6.2. At the Enterprise Resources Committee of 27 June, 2007, approval was given to utilise 31 months of income (£265,248.43) from Whitelees REF towards the access works required and associated costs. This equates to an available budget total for the REF of £381,560.58.
- 6.3. Whitelees REF has committed funds, from the main Fund, of £231,182.98 towards projects from an available budget of £302,695.45 (70% of the available budget of £381,560.58 plus interest of £15,603.04 plus an additional £20,000 transferred from an underspend on the Local Grant Scheme to meet demand). The remaining monies comprise the Local Grant Scheme which is administered by Leader.
- 6.4. Therefore, there will be sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £71,512.47, to meet the sum of £20,408.50 requested (excluding administration fee of £1,500).

## **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 applicant has indicated that any cost increases will be managed within their present budget subject to agreement from the REF 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 Renewable Energy Fund, it is highly unlikely that the project will proceed.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All necessary consultation has taken place with the appropriate Council Resources.

**Colin McDowall**  
**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

28 October 2011

### **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**

- Enterprise Resources Committee report - Whitelees Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund – 27 June 2007
- Executive Committee Report on Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit – 1 December 2010

### **List of Background Papers**

- Completed REF Grant Application Form dated October 2011 received from the Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club
- Completed REF assessment form dated October 2011 for Whitemoss Amateur Athletics Club

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Regeneration Services

Ext: 4759 (Tel: 01698 454759)

E-mail: [stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)