

Report

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

Subject:	Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund - Forth Royal British Legion
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval for an application to the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund from Forth Royal British Legion

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Forth Royal British Legion of up to £7,000 towards the refurbishment and internal improvement of the social club, subject to a building warrant being granted and confirmation of match funding for the project being received by the Council

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Executive Committee on 3 March 2004, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Blacklaw 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 Blacklaw Windfarm. To date, Scottish Power has made payments into the Fund totalling £1,018,921.92 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

Forth Royal British Legion – Building Improvements

- 4.1. Forth Royal British Legion has operated from their present premises in Forth since 1993. A wide range of local groups have used the facility since this date.
- 4.2. Due to the severity of recent winters, the flat roof section of the building has suffered and requires substantial renewal. To coincide with these external improvements, the project also involves internal refurbishment. The final part of the project is the installation of entrance and exit ramps to make the building more wheelchair friendly.

- 4.3 The building is presently made available free of charge for charitable events and an average of 6,000 visitors per year use the building.
- 4.4 Upon completion of the works, the building will continue to operate as it presently does. It is estimated that the building will gain new users due to the improved access arrangements which will exist.
- 4.5 The project will be managed on site by members of the Club who have experience in running similar refurbishment projects elsewhere. It is due to start on site in December 2011 and be completed by March 2012.
- 4.6 The total eligible cost of the project is £21,336. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £7,000 (excluding administration fee of £500) equating to an intervention rate of 33%. The remaining, presently unconfirmed, funds of £14,336 are being sought from the Levensat Trust, South Lanarkshire Council Rural Community Fund and the club's own funds.
- 4.7 This application scored 22 points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 35%.

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 Blacklaw Fund of £1,020,908.28 including interest (i.e. a £992,621.09 contribution and £28,827.19 interest).
- 6.2 Blacklaw has committed funds, from the main Fund, of £645,641.40 towards projects from an available budget of £763,121.95 (70% of the total £992,621.09 plus interest of £28,827.19 plus an additional £40,000 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.
- 6.3 Therefore, there are sufficient funds available from the remaining balance of £117,480.55 to meet the total of £7,000 requested.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 The risks associated with the projects 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 the present budgets subject to agreement from the REF on any changes to their proposed project. 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 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. All necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

28 October 2011

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

- Effective and efficient use of resources
- Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- Executive Committee Report on Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit – 1 December 2010

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 11th October received from Forth Royal British Legion.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 14th October 2011 Forth Royal British Legion.

Contact for Further Information

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

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