

Report

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

Subject:	Blacklaw and Stallashaw Moss Renewable Energy Funds – Applications for Funding
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Consider applications to the Blacklaw and Stallashaw Moss Renewable Energy Funds from
 - ◆ Carluke Milton Rovers for financial assistance toward the upgrading of their training pitch
 - ◆ Tarbrax Common Association for financial assistance towards environmental and upgrading works at Tarbrax Common Green
 - ◆ Forth and District Initiative for financial assistance towards the Forth Gateways Project
 - ◆ Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council for financial assistance towards refurbishment of the existing Playpark at Rosebank
 - ◆ St Nicholas Church, Lanark for financial assistance towards the refurbishment of the church hall

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a conditional grant be awarded from the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund to Carluke Milton Rovers of up to £18,644 towards the costs of the upgrading of their training pitch at Burn Road, Carluke, subject to match funding for the project being secured.
- (2) that a conditional grant be awarded to Tarbrax Common Association of up to £62,580 (split equally between Blacklaw and Stallashaw Moss REF) towards environmental and upgrading works at Tarbrax Common Green subject to match funding for the project being secured.
- (3) that a conditional grant be awarded from the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund to Forth and District Initiative of up to £37,927 towards the costs of the Forth Gateways Project, subject to match funding for the project being secured and Planning Consent and Building Warrant being granted.

- (4) that a conditional grant be awarded from the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund to Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council of up to £11,985 towards the costs of refurbishment of the existing play park at Rosebank, subject to match funding for this project being secured.
- (5) that a conditional grant be awarded from the Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund to St Nicholas Church, Lanark, of up to £24,000 towards the cost of refurbishment of its church hall subject to match funding for this project being secured.

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 £1,020,908.28 including interest.
- 3.3. At the Enterprise Committee on 15 June 2011, approval was given to set up a Renewable Energy Fund in respect of Stallashaw Moss Windfarm, and to the administrative arrangements associated with the allocation of funds.
- 3.4. The Fund is financed from payments from Muirhall Windfarm Ltd who operate the Stallashaw Moss Windfarm. To date, Muirhall Windfarm Ltd has made payments into the Fund totalling £44,700 including interest.
- 3.5. The Renewable Energy Fund is administered by Regeneration Services who are responsible for advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.
- 3.6. Tarbrax Common Association received an award of £50,000 grant at the Enterprise Resources Committee on 23 November 2010. Due to changes in the proposed project and the composition of funding, with the agreement of the group this offer was withdrawn and a new application has been submitted. The proposed new award detailed below will be the highest award which the REF has issued to date for a single project if approved.

4. Proposals

Carluk Milton Rovers – Burn Road Pitch Replacement

- 4.1. Carluk Milton Rovers Youth Football Club was formed in 1991 as a local community response to address increasing instances of youth issues in the town of Carluk.
- 4.2. The club currently has 14 teams, at every age group from under 5's through to a Senior Amateur Men's and Senior Ladies Team, including a girls under 13 team. The club work with over 280 young people aged 5 – 25 years aiming to provide positive experiences and activity programmes which develop confidence, self esteem, knowledge, learning potential and employability skills in order to enhance their own and wider community life.

- 4.3. In 2010 the club attained Scottish Football Association Quality Mark Community Club Status, one of only 4 clubs in Scotland to achieve such an award. The club was also recognised for its services to the community and was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2010.
- 4.4. The present facility has been in use for 8 years and, due to continued usage by the club, is in poor condition and beyond its life expectancy. The proposed works involve the replacement of an existing and worn out artificial playing surface with a new 4th generation multi use sports surface, with a life expectancy of 10 years, along with new floodlights.
- 4.5. The facility is presently leased from South Lanarkshire Council. There are 12 years remaining on the lease.
- 4.6. The total eligible cost of the project is £46,818. The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £18,644 (excluding administration fee of £1000), equating to an intervention rate of 40%. The remaining confirmed funds are £23,424 from Carlisle Milton Rovers own funds and £4,750 from the Developing Local Communities Fund.
- 4.7. The project will be managed by a committee from Milton Rovers to whom the contractor will report directly. It is anticipated that the works will take approximately 6 weeks to complete and be undertaken in summer 2012.
- 4.8. This application scored 22 points from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 40%.

Tarbrax Common Association – Common Green

- 4.9. Tarbrax Common Association was formed in April 2007 to take forward local concerns over the condition of the Common Green within the village. The Common Green suffers from flooding due to the high levels of peat present, making it unusable for local groups for much of the year
- 4.10. A series of public meetings have been held with considerable local support received to tackle these issues. A feasibility study was undertaken during which local input towards the plan was received.
- 4.11. The proposed works as set out in the November 2011 Committee paper still involve excavation and drainage works to enable the Common Green to be utilised by groups for formal events and by children as a general play area, as well as new footpaths, benches, planted areas and ducting for lighting. However, the planned drainage works are now more extensive and the layout of the paths and infrastructure has changed.
- 4.12. Roads and Transportation Services have confirmed proposed works in Tarbrax over the next financial year which will complement the Common Green works. The road into the village and adjacent to the Common Green will be resurfaced at an estimated cost of £40,000. Subject to completion of the Common Green works, further road and footpath improvements around the Common Green with an estimated value of £20,000 will be undertaken.
- 4.13. Planning Permission for the project was granted in March 2009.

- 4.14. The total eligible cost of the project is £203,005. The proposed grant from Blacklaw and Stallashaw Moss REF is £62,580 (excluding administration fee of £2,000 split equally between both funds) equating to an intervention rate of 30%.
- 4.15. The remaining confirmed funds are £25,000 from the South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust, £25,420 from Viridor Credits and £25,000 from Leader. The remaining balance is being funded by the group and £60,000 from Roads and Transportation for their programmed works.
- 4.16. The project will be managed by a Contract Administrator who will report back to Tarbrax Common Association on project progress and cost issues. It is expected that works would be undertaken in summer 2012 and take approximately 6 months to complete.
- 4.17. This application scored 21 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 35%.

Forth and District Initiative – Forth Gateways

- 4.18. Forth and District Initiative was founded in February 2000. The group presently has 7 members and has secured funding in excess of £600,000 over the past 10 years for a number of projects in the Forth area. Blacklaw REF Funds totalling just over £50,000 have previously been secured by the Initiative for various improvements to the Recreation Area in Forth.
- 4.19. Forth and District Initiative regularly enter into the Beautiful Scotland competition and have received three silver awards in recent years. The Forth Gateways project will involve the construction of three gateway features at key entrance points into the village and will also enhance the Beautiful Scotland entry for forthcoming years.
- 4.20. Gateway 1 will be positioned at Longdales Road and Lanark Road and feature a south facing seated area with views towards Tinto Hills. An accompanying information board will also detail all visible features.
- 4.21. Gateway 2 is a specially designed pit wheel which relates to the mining heritage of the village. This will be located on Climpy Road
- 4.22. Gateway 3 is a small landscaped area and will be sited on Main Street at the eastern entrance to the village.
- 4.23. Each gateway will have the name “Forth” displayed prominently and use solar uplighters where appropriate.
- 4.24. All proposals were displayed in the local library and a total of 52 people responded to the proposals with no negative comments being received.
- 4.25. The total cost of the project is £73,774 which includes all consultant fees and Planning fees (excluding administration fee of £1500). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £37,927 which equates to an intervention rate of 52%. A confirmed offer of grant from Leven Seat Trust of £35,847 has been received by the group.
- 4.26. The project will be managed by a Contract Administrator who will report back to Forth and District Initiative on project progress and cost issues. It is expected that works would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity following Planning Consent being granted and will take approximately 2 months to complete.

4.27. This application scored 29 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 55%.

Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council – Rosebank Play Park

- 4.28. Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council was established in 2009 has an active membership of 10 and meets on a monthly basis.
- 4.29. The project will develop, enhance, secure and maintain an existing play area in Rosebank. Funding is being requested to upgrade the existing provision by providing more modern “fit for purpose” play equipment and to install perimeter fencing to enhance community safety as the playpark sits alongside the busy A72.
- 4.30. Members of the Community Council have been working closely with staff from the Council’s Community and Enterprise Resources on the most appropriate way to take this development forward, and to ensure long term sustainability of the play park
- 4.31. Extensive consultation within the village and surrounding area has also been undertaken to inform and guide the project.
- 4.32. The total cost of the project is £39,950 (excluding administration fee of £1,000). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £11,985 which equates to an intervention rate of 30%. The remaining funds are being sought from environmental funding bodies.
- 4.33. The project will be managed by Community and Enterprise Resources and commence summer 2012 at the earliest and take two months at most.
- 4.34. This application scored 22 from a possible total of 32 during the assessment process. This score permits an intervention level of up to 40%.

St Nicholas Church, Lanark – St Nicholas Improvement Scheme

- 4.35. St Nicholas Church hall is over 100 years old and is presently used by over 30 groups on a regular basis.
- 4.36. The hall is no longer in a suitable condition to meet the demands placed upon it. In order to meet present demands and cater for future needs, an extensive programme of refurbishment works are required.
- 4.37. The project will focus upon the renovation and refurbishment of the hall taking cognisance of the needs and priorities of hall users who took part in a survey. The main areas of work are a new efficient heating system, new windows, new stage facilities with light projection and sound including induction loop and decoration.
- 4.38. The total cost of the project is £72,852 (excluding administration fee of £1,500). The proposed grant from Blacklaw REF is £24,000 which equates to an intervention rate of 33%. The remaining funds are being sought from environmental funding bodies.
- 4.39. The project will be managed by a Contract Administrator who will report back to the Church on project progress and cost issues. It is expected that works would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and would take approximately 1 month to complete.
- 4.40. This application scored 20 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). A further payment of approximately £145,000 is anticipated in July 2012.
- 6.2. There are sufficient funds available from the current balance and the payment to be made in July to meet the total of £129,846 (including administration fees of £6,000) requested by Forth and District Initiative, Carluke Milton Rovers, Tarbrax Common Association, Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council and St Nicholas Church.
- 6.3. To date, Muirhall Windfarm Ltd has made payments into the Stallashaw Moss Fund of £44,700 including interest.
- 6.4. There is an available budget of £31,290 from the main fund with the remaining balance of £13,510 transferred to the Developing Local Communities Fund. No monies have been allocated from either fund at present.
- 6.5. A further payment of £50,700 is anticipated from Muirhall Windfarm Ltd in April 2012. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available from the existing balance of £31,290 and future payments to meet the total of £32,290 (including administration fee of £1,000) requested by Tarbrax Common Association.

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 projects will have no impact on the Council.
- 7.4. Without the contributions from the Renewable Energy 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. Consultation has taken place with Community and Enterprise Resources and Roads concerning Tarbrax Common Green regarding ongoing maintenance costs and future roads and footpath improvements.
- 8.3. Consultation has taken place with Community and Enterprise Resources and Roads and Transportation regarding land ownership and ongoing maintenance for the Forth Gateways project.
- 8.4. Consultation has taken place with Community and Enterprise Resources regarding the refurbishment of the play park at Rosebank.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Community & Enterprise Resources)

19 January 2012

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

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

Previous References

- Enterprise Resources Committee 30 March 2011

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 20 December 2011 received from Tarbrax Common Association.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 21 December 2011 for Tarbrax Common Association.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 19 December 2011 received from Carluke Milton Rovers.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 19 December 2011 for Carluke Milton Rovers.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 15 December 2011 received from Forth and District Initiative.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 19 December 2011 for Forth and District Initiative.
- Completed REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated 19 December 2011 received from Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council.
- Completed REF assessment form dated 21 December 2011 for Ashgill and Netherburn Community Council.

Contact for Further Information

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

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