

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 May 2016
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Grant Applications – Muirhall Windfarm
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider a grant application to Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund from Tarbrax Common Association

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Tarbrax Common Association of up to £30,909 from Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund towards Phase 2 of the Tarbrax Common Improvements.
- (2) that the above grant is 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 administered Community Benefit funding through 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. Employee Implications

4.1. *Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund*

Tarbrax Common Association – Tarbrax Common Improvements Phase 2

Project Cost – £80,272

Proposed Grant Award – £30,909

4.1.1. Tarbrax Common Association was formed in April 2007 to take forward local concerns over the condition of the Common Green within the village. This is the second phase of a multi phase project to improve the Common for local residents.

- 4.1.2. At the Enterprise Resources Committee on 15 February 2012, Tarbrax Common Association was awarded £62,580 towards Phase 1 of the project with a total cost of £203,005. Phase 1 involved substantial ground works to help drain the Common and improve the adjacent road and footpath.
- 4.1.3. Phase 2 of the project will involve a newly refurbished play area at the southern end of the Common together with associated path and soft landscaping.
- 4.1.4. The total cost of the project is £80,272. It is proposed that the overall funding package will include REF, Viridor Credits, which distributes landfill communities tax and in kind contributions.
- 4.1.5. Works are scheduled to commence in Summer 2016 and would be completed by late Autumn 2016.

5 Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Muirhall Renewable Energy Fund has 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 indicated 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 any community consultations, have taken place.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

15 April 2016

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Develop a sustainable Council and communities
- Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- People focused

Previous References

- Executive Committee Report 31 October 2004

- Enterprise Resources Committee 20 May 2009
- Enterprise Resources Committee 15 February 2012

List of Background Papers

- Completed REF Grant Application Form, associated information and assessment received from Tarbrax Common Association.

Contact for Further Information

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

Stuart Hodge, Project Development Officer, Planning and Economic Development Services
Ext: 4759 (Tel: 01698 454759)

E-mail: stuart.hodge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk