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| Report to: | Enterprise Services Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 12 July 2016 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) |

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| Subject: | Community Benefit Funds – New Contribution - Woodlands Wind Turbine |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval for community benefit payments generated from the development and operation of the Woodlands Wind Turbine, Lesmahagow, to be managed through the Renewable Energy Fund (REF)

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Council's REF incorporate provision for the receipt and disbursement of community benefit payments in respect of Woodlands Wind Turbine; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised to conclude administrative matters in relation to the incorporation of the community benefit using the established REF mechanism.

3. Background

Woodlands Wind Turbine

3.1. The wind farm operated by Wind Energy Renewables LLP is located immediately west of the village of Lesmahagow and comprises a single turbine.

3.2. Through its Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy the Council has sought a community benefit annual payment of £2,700 per MW of installed capacity. This is the minimum contribution sought for a development of this nature at the time the planning application was submitted in 2013. To ensure support from developers, without prejudice to any development and to maximise contributions, a flexible approach is taken particularly in the case of small developments. This includes the use of 'one off' payments in lieu of small recurring annual contributions, which would have disproportionate resource implications.

Details of the development and the agreed contribution to the REF are:

| Application Number | Site | Consent Granted | Development | Contribution to REF | Contribution calculation |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|--|
| CL/13/0374 | Woodlands Wind Turbine | March 2014 | 1 x 900Kw turbine | A one off capitalised payment of £38,350 to the REF | 2013 application when £2700 per mw was sought annually |

3.3. The agreement with the developer places an obligation on the Council to administer community benefit received in respect of this development through the established REF process. The REF currently manages community benefits from a number of windfarm developments including Blacklaw, Whitelees, Pates Hill, Stallashaw Moss, Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill, North Brackenridge, Blantyre Muir, Browncastle, Burnbrae, Calder Water, Lampits and Andershaw wind turbine sites.

4. Eligible Area for Distribution of REF Grants from Woodlands Wind Turbine

4.1. The eligible area for the funds generated from the development at Woodlands Wind Turbine is shown on Appendix 1 within this report and is broadly within 10km of the application site boundaries.

5. Employee Implications

This REF contribution will be managed using existing resources within Planning and Economic Development Services.

6. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed new funds.

7. Risk Assessment and Other Implications

7.1 There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding the Council would not be acting in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations and community based projects.

8. Equality Impact Arrangements and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. Community benefit will provide support to a wide range of voluntary, charitable and community groups/bodies across an extensive area of the rural area. Consultation has taken place with Planning Services and the developers.

8.2. 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.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

9 June 2016

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Application Approval – Woodlands Wind Turbine.

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004, “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.
- Executive Committee 01 December 2010, Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit.
- Enterprise Services Committee, 01 April 2014, Scottish Government Consultation on Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments

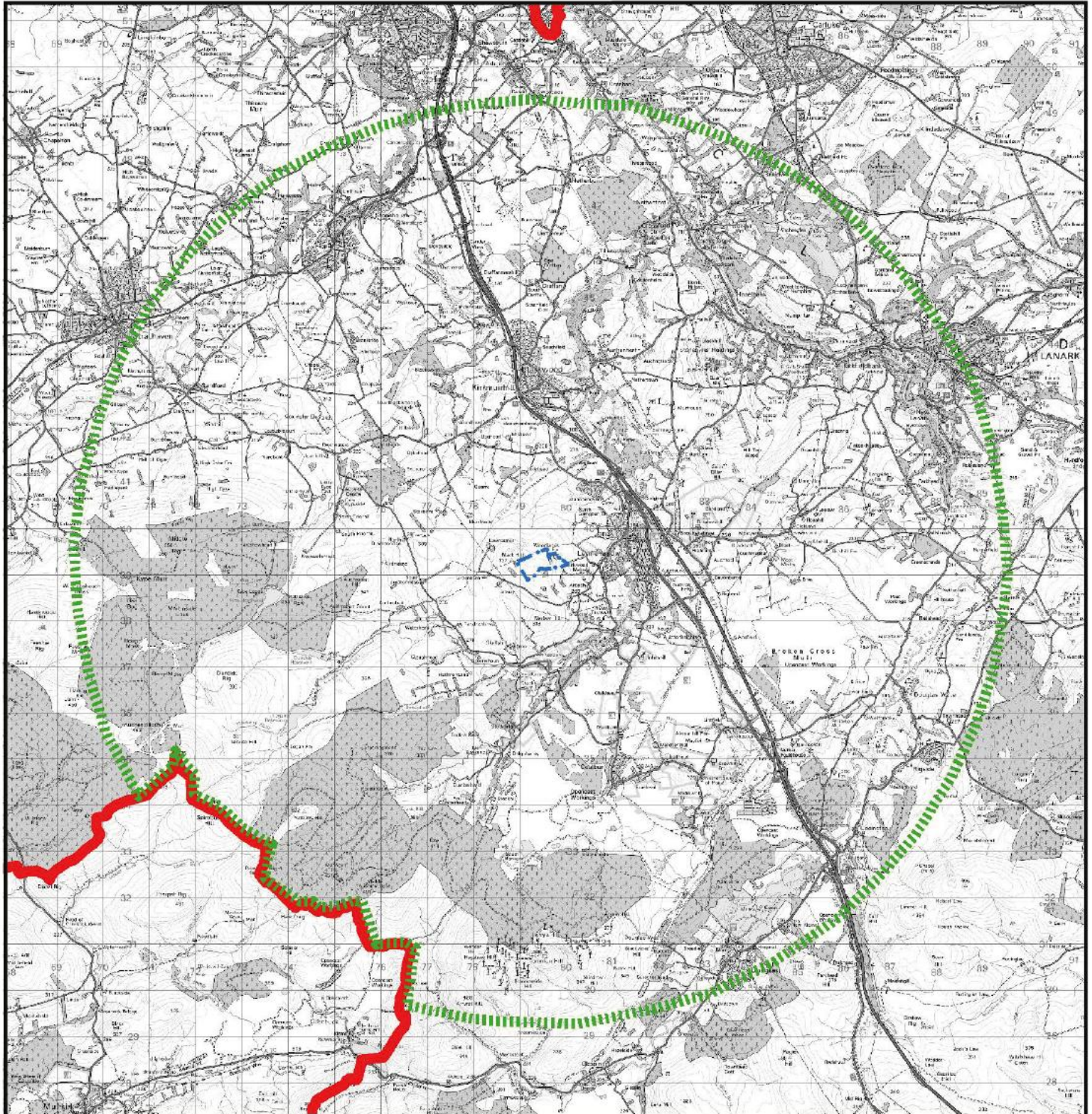
Contact for Further Information

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

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Appendix 1

Woodlands Farm Wind Turbine CL/13/0374



KEY

-  Windfarm
-  Windfarm 10k boundary
-  SLC boundary

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