

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 August 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Application
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) from Leadhills Golf Club

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Leadhills Golf Club of up to £48,768.28 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the Leadhills Golf Club ground maintenance machinery.

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 to ensure the best practices in grant provision and monitoring are undertaken to ensure the necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.

3.2. Grant awards above £20,000 require approval from Committee, awards below this level are approved by the Head of Service under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 741

Leadhills Golf Club – project value £97,536.56.

Proposed Grant award £48,768.28 Intervention rate of 50%

The proposed REF grant of £48,768.28 will be funded from Andershaw windfarm which contributes into the REF.

4.2. By way of background, Leadhills Golf Club (LGC) is an established Charity with its purpose being:-

- ♦ to promote and encourage the sport of golf without any distinction of sex, colour, nationality or of political, religious or other opinions. The Club is a non-profit

making organisation with all profits and surpluses being used to maintain and improve the Club facilities. The Club's aim is to keep the facility and greens in good working order for all members and visitors to benefit from. Maintaining the grass to a high playing standard and offering good club facilities and institute and carry through annually, stroke and match play competitions for benefit of the members. The Club has also developed a footgolf course to run alongside to encourage more younger users and family activities. The Club endeavour to work in partnership with all local businesses, groups and schools to help promote and increase usage of its facility

- 4.3. The LGC has 11 management committee members, 3 regular volunteers, 49 members and it has consulted regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.4. The grant will allow LGC to replace and investment in new machinery the Club will be able to continue to maintain the course to a high standard. Providing sustainability by upgrading to cleaner more versatile machines, as well as protecting and enhancing the natural environment. This financial support will enable the success of the club to continue, attracting new members and visitors for the development of the whole village, encouraging a prosperous community. The Club endeavours to improve the vitality of Leadhills and the rural villages surrounding it. It works with local businesses to enhance tourism, attracting more visitors and it works well with the Primary School to encourage the younger residents to enjoy the game of golf.
- 4.5. The project requires capital funding to cover the purchase of new machinery, this will include 2 ride-on mowers to accommodate the fairway and rough, a walk behind mower to maintain the tees and greens and, a trailer to transport tools and equipment. The new equipment will allow LGC staff and volunteers to maintain and enhance the activities and opportunities the golf course provides for years to come.
- 4.6. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve rural exclusion, events and leisure activities for the area.
- 4.7. The application scored 28 and 30 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 29 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 55% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 50% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
Clyde Wind Farm	To be confirmed	£48,768.28
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (50%)		£48,768.28
Total project value		£97,536.56

- 4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in August 2022 and be complete by November 2022. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The award will come from Andershaw windfarm which contributes to the Renewable Energy Fund to ensure sufficient reserves remain for future applications in 2021/2022. The funds have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitment detailed in this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. The project will help LGC longer term sustainability, reduce carbon emissions and allow the group to continue to support a very rural local community through providing leisure activities within the rural area.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns, delays to the projects or match funding not being secured and the long-term use of the asset. Work will continue with the applicant to help ensure match funding is secured and that projects are delivered broadly on time and within budget.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

19 July 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 741
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 741

Contact for Further Information

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

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