

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 May 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications
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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 Clydesdale Community Initiatives

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Clydesdale Community Initiative of up to £85,000 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the Langloch Barn Extension.

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 Planning and Economic Development Services under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Committee and this is subject to a separate report on the Committee agenda.

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 548

Clydesdale Community Initiatives– project value £195,199.

Proposed Grant award £85,000 Intervention rate of 43.5%.

The proposed REF grant of £85,000 will be funded from Blacklaw windfarm which contributes into the REF.

4.2. By way of background, Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI) is an established Social Enterprise with its purpose being:-

- ♦ To support individuals and communities of Clydesdale and with deprived communities within the urban Lanarkshire area experiencing disadvantage this

includes isolation, health and learning inequalities. CCI delivers person centred, asset-based inclusion projects using a social enterprise model to deliver its mission of empowering individuals and communities to take control and responsibility for their health, wellbeing and aspirations.

- 4.3. The CCI has a membership of 85 regular volunteers and it has consulted widely in regard to the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.4. The grant will allow CCI to extend their current tearoom and gift shop (Langloch Barn Extension) to allow them to offer training and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities, long term illness and serious social disadvantages.
- 4.5. The project requires capital funding to build the extension. Once built income from the tearoom will ensure that the project will be self-sustaining, and it is anticipated that the extension will be a vibrant community asset available to individuals and groups from across Clydesdale and support rural tourism infrastructure.
- 4.6. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will provide employment, particularly to disadvantaged individuals, create a positive intergenerational interface, where older and younger people can work together as part of a team and will create a community owned and managed asset.
- 4.7. The application scored 31 and 33 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 32 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 60% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 43.5% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
SSE Sustainable Development Fund	Confirmed	£80,000
The Edward Gostling Foundation	Confirmed	£10,000
Robertson Trust	To be confirmed	£10,000
Garfield Weston	To be confirmed	£10,000
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (43.5%)		£85,199
Total project value		£195,199

- 4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in May 2021 and be complete by December 2021. 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 Blacklaw 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 Clydesdale Community Initiatives longer term sustainability as a social enterprise which will continue to support local employability and training within

the rural area. The barn extension will increase space for the sale of local produce supporting rural economic sustainability and other SME and micro businesses.

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.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

9 April 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Promote economic growth and tackling disadvantage.
- ◆ Making communities safer and stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs.
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 8 August 2007
- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 23 November 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 548
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 548

Contact for Further Information

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

Colin McFarlane, Project Development Officer, Planning and Economic Development Services

Ext: 01698-455922

Email: colin.mcfarlane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk