

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	28 September 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

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 Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society of up to £65,872 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the refurbishment of Coalburn Miners' Welfare halls.

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

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 641

Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society– project value £130,872.

Proposed Grant award £65,872 Intervention rate of 50.3%

The proposed REF grant of £65,872 will be funded from Kypemuir windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 4.2. By way of background, Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society (CMWCS) is an established Charity with its purpose being:-
- ◆ to provide facilities for such forms of recreation and other leisure time occupation as are conducive to the improvement of the conditions of living of the inhabitants of Coalburn and neighbourhood thereof and to address rural exclusion (including disadvantage by reason of unemployment, poor housing, low income and poor health) and promote the wellbeing of the local community by, among other means, providing a 'One Stop Shop' for the local community
- 4.3. The CMWCS has a membership of 40 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 CMWCS to part refurbish both hall areas as demand has and will increase. The Development Worker has secured extra funding to deliver more services and support new groups within the building. They are looking to modernise the community space to facilitate the events within the village. The halls have not had any major refurbishment for over 20 years other than basic maintenance. As a Charity, funds are limited and are mostly taken up with the normal day to day running of the facility. Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society will be contributing £20,000 towards the overall project cost.
- 4.5. The local community, local groups and organisations will greatly benefit from a facility that is fit for purpose. The Charity delivers over 20 different services and activities throughout the week. Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society is the hub of the village and the activities offered provide social interaction, mental health and wellbeing support to the community.
- 4.6. The project requires capital funding to cover refurbishment cost for both halls. Once refurbished, increased income from functions and events will ensure that the project will be self-sustaining.
- 4.7. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will support employment projects, events and functions.
- 4.8. The application scored 32 and 33 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 32.5 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 61.3% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 50.3% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
CMWCS	Confirmed	£20,000
Galawhistle	To be confirmed	£20,000
Hagshaw Hill Windfarm Trust	To be confirmed	£25,000
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (50.3%)		£65,872
Total project value		£130,872

4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in October 2021 and be complete by January 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 Kypemuir 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 CMWCS longer term sustainability as a Charity which will continue to support the local community through employability services, training and community space 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.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

13 August 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 641
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 641

Contact for Further Information

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

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