

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 March 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

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 Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association of up to £124,694.31 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the Crawfordjohn Public Hall solar heating project, conditional on all funding being in place.

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 under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 701

Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association– project value £166,259.08.

Proposed Grant award £124,694.31 Intervention rate of 75%

The proposed REF grant of £124,694.31 will be funded from Middlemuir windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 4.2. By way of background, Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association (CPHA) is an established Charity with the following objectives: -
- ◆ To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Crawfordjohn and its environs by associating the local authority, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants and in furtherance thereof, but not otherwise, to secure the establishment maintenance and management of the Hall for activities promoted by the Association.
- 4.3. The CPHA has 12 members on the management committee and a membership of 20 regular volunteers, and it has consulted widely regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.4. The grant will allow CPHA to replace an inefficient ground source heat pump at Crawfordjohn Hall. The main hall is currently too cold for general use. The aim of the project is to install solar panels with storage batteries and a new efficient boiler that will allow the heating system to run at a higher capacity and encourage year round activities within the hall, in turn, reducing the hall running costs. This will allow the group to develop opportunities and additional partnerships to enhance the leisure and social opportunities for the Crawfordjohn area.
- 4.5. The project requires capital funding to cover purchase and installation costs for solar panels, storage batteries and boilers to allow CPHA to develop activities and opportunities.
- 4.6. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve rural exclusion, events, functions, and activities for the area.
- 4.7. The application scored 39 and 33 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 36 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 75% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 75% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
Clyde Wind Farm	To be confirmed	£20,782.39
SSE Clyde Extension	To be confirmed	£20,782.38
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (75%)		£124,694.31
Total project value		£166,259.08

- 4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in April 2022 and be complete by August 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 Middlemuir 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 CPHA longer term sustainability, reduce carbon emissions and allow the group to continue to support a very rural local community through providing appropriate community hall 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.

Alistair McKinnon
Interim Executive Director

9 February 2022

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 693
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 693
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 684
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 684

Contact for Further Information

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

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