

THE MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LANDFILL TAX SUB-COMMITTEE****19 MARCH 2008****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors J Russell (Chairman), G Leadbitter, G McDonald and A Wright.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Divers, J Hamilton and R Shepherd.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Financial Services, the Environmental Protection Manager, K McPherson, Senior Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the Meeting.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 the meeting that the Council's Administration Group had discussed and agreed it's prioritisation of the 'Objects' set out in section 3.5 of Agenda item 5 'Landfill Communities Fund'. There were no other declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda.

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting agreed in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, to exclude the public and media from the meeting during consideration of Items 4 & 5 of Business so as to avoid the disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraphs 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The meeting noted that there were no written questions.

4. LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services advising the Sub-Committee on the operation of the Landfill Communities Fund, formally the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The report also invited the Sub-Committee to consider the Council's priorities against six Landfill Communities Fund Objectives, details of which were set out in Section 3.5 of the report, and to consider delegating authority to the Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, to award future Landfill Communities Fund donations.

During discussion it was noted that the Council's annual procedure for seeking applications for Landfill Communities Fund monies is to advertise in the Northern Scot and Press and Journal, in December, and send out the appropriate application forms to Environmental Bodies who have previously applied and to Local Community Associations/Groups.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms and conditions of allocating funds to Environmental Bodies through the Landfill Communities Fund;

- (ii) that in respect of the applications under consideration at this meeting the 'Objects' be prioritised as 'D' , 'DA' & 'E';
- (iii) not to grant delegated authority in respect of awarding future Landfill Communities Fund donations; and
- (iv) in future, to advertise seeking applications in all the local papers covering Moray and the Council's Community Planning website.

5. QUESTIONS TIME

There were no questions on any business within the remit of the Sub-Committee

6. LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND APPLICATIONS 2007/2008 [Para 6]

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services inviting the Sub-Committee to consider applications from ENTRUST registered Environmental Bodies for grants from the 2007/08 Landfill Communities Fund.

The meeting also noted that at the closing date seventeen applications had been received, compared to seven in 2007, details of which were set out in Appendix I to the report. Details of the individual application forms were set out in Appendix II to the report.

The meeting noted that the total amount of grant funding being sought by eligible applicants was £210,803 against a Landfill Communities Fund of £73,000. The meeting also noted that were the total amount of funding available to be awarded the Council would be required to contribute £7,300 being 10% of the total available for disbursement, an allowance for which has been included in the 2007/08 Revenue Budget.

The meeting also noted an application from the Garmouth and Kingston Amenities Committee was subsequently withdrawn as they were not prepared to register with ENTRUST as an environmental body.

Following discussion the Sub-Committee agreed that the seventeen applications be dealt with as follows:-

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	GRANT REQUESTED	GRANT AWARDED
1. Burghead Headland Trust	Repairs to Visitor Centre roof and general maintenance of site	£9,000 (75%)	£9,000
2. Drummuir and Botriphnie Community Trust	Refurbish and extend Drummuir Village Hall. Employment of a Quantity Surveyor	£7,500 (60%)	£7,500
3. Forres Community Woodlands Trust	Construction of a mountain bike trail, car park, signage and interpretation at Sanquhar Woodlands, Forres	£40,000 (%)	£20,000
4. Lochpark Challenge Limited	Upgrading community/countryside paths with woodchips through a training project for adults with learning difficulties	£77,994 (100%)	£27,000
6. The General Anderson Trust	Street light footpath through Anderson's grounds	£14,217 (100%)	None

7. The Quarrelwood Woodland Park Association	A total of seven applications have been received and these are listed in the Association's priority for funding:- (1) Upgrade all abilities path (2) Create new path at woodland entrance at Spynie Hall (3) Provision of bird boxes (4) Provision of seats and picnic benches (5) Provision of descriptive brochures of the Quarrelwood (6) Replacement Interpretative Panel at Duffus Road Car Park (7) Funding for Visitor User Survey	£10,000 (100%) £2,750 (100%) £500 (100%) £1,900 (100%) £1,250 (100%) £500 (100%) £2,500 (100%)	None £2,750 £500 £1,900 £,1200 £500 None
8. The Scottish Wildlife Trust	Design, production and installation of two new Interpretation Panels on the Reserve at Spey Bay	£2,027 (91%)	£2,027
9. Scottish Native Woodlands	Controlling non native species regeneration of oakwood and creation of deadwood habitat within the Oakwood, Elgin	£11,700 (61%)	None
10. St Giles and St Columba's South Church, Elgin	Provision of Disabled Access to Church and Church grounds	£8,400 (100%)	None
11. St Gerardine's High Church Lossiemouth	Major Church roof repairs	£20,000 (11%)	Nil
TOTALS		£210,238	£72,427

- (ii) that the surplus £ 573 remain unallocated; and
- (iii) that the required submission of quarterly monitoring reports includes appropriate evidence to substantiate the use for which the grant funding was awarded.