

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment Committee

3 June 2015

Community Environment Challenge Fund Update

Depute Director (Environment)

This report provides an update on the award of Community Environment Challenge Funding to Community Groups between April 2014 and March 2015.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1. The Committee Report in June 2014 (Report No. 14/250 refers) updated the Environment Committee on the funding awarded to Community Groups since key changes were made to the Fund.
- 1.2. The Environment Committee approved changes to the Community Environment Challenge Fund (CECF) in June 2013 to make the Fund more accessible to community groups and local organisations, to streamline the assessment and approval process and to assist community groups to improve their areas, in partnership with the Council (Report No.13/271 refers).
- 1.3 The Community Environment Challenge Fund allows communities to bid for environmental improvement funding, which can link to conservation area appraisals and other regeneration initiatives. The Fund is aimed at community groups leading and delivering projects which would make a significant difference to their local environment, and be widely supported within the community. Up to £100,000 of funding has been made available annually between 2011/12 and 2015/16.
- 1.4 To apply for funding, groups must be constituted with the project supported by all local elected members in the ward where the project is taking place. It must also have the support of a range of local community groups including the Community Council. The project must be completed within two years, using at least 50% match funding from other sources which may include fundraising activities and 'in kind' contributions.
- 1.5 In order to maximise the number of groups and areas benefiting from the funding, each community group can currently only apply for funding for one project per financial year. To ensure the projects make a significant difference to the local environment, funding levels are set between £5,000 and £10,000 per project, although larger funding applications will be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.6 The revised Fund is aimed at community groups leading and delivering projects to make significant improvements in their local environment which are widely supported by the community. Additionally, as a requirement of the

revised Fund, it is the communities' responsibility to develop and adopt a long term maintenance commitment for the environmental projects undertaken through the Fund.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the distribution of funding to community projects from the CECF for the period 01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, as detailed in Appendix 1. The CECF has supported 16 new projects in 2014/15, awarding grants totalling £97,000. However, the total cost of these 16 projects amounts to £511,249.
- 2.2 The outcomes of the CECF will continue to be reported to the Environment Committee on a 12 monthly basis.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The revised CECF is continuing to fund the development of sustainable community-led environmental improvement projects through an accessible, stream-lined, effective assessment and approval process.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- i) Notes the contents of this Report.
 - ii) Instructs the Depute Director (Environment) to report the outcomes of the CECF for 2015/16 to the Committee in 12 months' time.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals in this report relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of following the priorities:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (ii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (ii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The CECF has the following levels of funding available over the period 2013/14 to 2016/17: Up to £97,000 of funding available annually between 2012/13 and 2016/17.
- 2.2 For the period 01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, the CECF has committed £97,000 to 16 projects with an administration fee of £3,000 paid to the Quality of Life Trust.

Workforce

- 2.3 The proposals in this report have no workforce implications.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.4 The proposals aim to enhance public open space assets and/or potentially reduce the maintenance burden on the Council by working in partnership with community groups.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in the Community Environment Challenge Fund report were considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and were assessed as relevant and the following positive outcomes are expected following implementation.
- The criteria for the grant require the applicant to have consulted widely in the community and have community support for the project they are seeking funding for. An improved environment or facilities funded by the grant should benefit most groups and the effect would therefore be positive. An annual review of the success of the grant aid programme will be undertaken including an assessment of equalities in relation to the funding awarded and any negative impacts will be addressed.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

- 3.4 The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Challenge Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.6 Prior to June 2013, there was no method of monitoring the impacts of the Community Environment Challenge Fund. It was therefore agreed in June 2013 that an End of Project Feedback Form is sent to each group that has received funding so that the impacts on the community and their local area can be recorded.
- 3.7 By working in partnership with the community to enhance and maintain the environmental quality in locally important areas, we are ensuring a sustainable approach is taken to the environment, community and economy.

Legal and Governance

- 3.8 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted on the content of the report.
- 3.9 Funding is only released when proof has been supplied that Match funding has been secured. This proof could be in the form of a Letter of Support for Guaranteed Funding from Other Funder(s). Groups are asked to submit proof of requests of payments (i.e. copy of invoices) as soon as possible and payment of the grant is made on that basis before the invoice has been paid. The applicant is requested to also provide evidence of 'in kind contribution' and the grant is paid against proof of "in kind" expenditure up to the level of grant agreed.
- 3.10 An End of Project Monitoring Report is sent to each group that has received funding so that the positive impacts on the community and their local area can be recorded, shared and celebrated. Overall, the form will evaluate the outcomes of the project and confirm what work was carried out.

Risk

- 3.11 Risks associated with individual projects are identified and managed through the assessment process.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted on the content of the report.

External

- 4.2 Before submitting the June 2013 Committee Report, the amended essential and desired criteria were consulted on with representatives from Take A Pride in Perthshire.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Below is a list of the communications which continue to be undertaken as part of implementing the proposals, including the key target audiences and the communication methods.

- PKC website
- Leaflet

Target Audience

- 5.2 Communities across Perth and Kinross including:

- Local groups
- Individuals
- Take A Pride in Perthshire
- In Bloom Committees

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to material extent in preparing the above Report:-

- Environment Committee Report (Ref No. 14/250) – dated 04.06.14
- Environment Committee Report (Ref No. 13/271) – dated 05.06.13
- Environment Committee Report (Ref No. 11/446) – dated 07.09.11

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Projects approved by the CECF since April 2014

Appendix 1

Projects supported by the CECF from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

Applicant	Project Brief	Sum Requested	Grant Awarded	Financial Year	Other Notes
Methven Playing Field Committee	Renovation of King George V Park	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	2013/14	Improvement of local park Total project cost of £213,450
Crieff in Leaf Association	Reinstating local wall and installing planters on the High Street	£9,044	£9 044	2014/15	Application awarded in 2013/14 but the money coming from 2014/2015 budget Total project cost of £19,488
Blackford Primary School Parent Council	To create a Ryder Cup Sensory Garden for use by both the local community and the school children.	£2,515	£2,515	2014/15	Garden Project Total project cost of £7,529
Dunkeld & Birnam In Bloom	St Ninian's Garden - Phase II	£4,151	£4,151	2014/15	Garden Project Total project cost of £8,553
Tay Landscape Partnership	Tay Reed Beds £8,000 and Kinfauns Churchyard £7,432	£140	£140	2014/15	Add to the £15,292 awarded to the project in 2013/2014

Applicant	Project Brief	Sum Requested	Grant Awarded	Financial Year	Other Notes
Kinnoull Primary School	Kinnoull School Council Commonwealth Garden Improvement Project	£10,000	£10,000	2014/15	Garden Project Total project cost of £29,675.72
TRACKS	Living Lomond Landscape Partnership	£8,500	£8,500	2014/15	Paths Project Total project cost of £22,806
Killiecrankie Community Council	Pathway between Killiecrankie Village and The National Trust for Scotland's Visitor Centre	£3,968	£3,968	2014/15	Paths Project Total project cost of £9,923
Portmoak Community Council	Michael Bruce Way Improvements	£2,564.80	£2,564.80	2014/15	Paths Project Total project cost of £5,129.60
Kettins Parish Hall	Car Park for Lindsay Park, Kettins	£6,950	£6,950	2014/15	Car Park Project – improving the parking facilities at Lindsay Park. Phase 1 of a wider project for developing the Park, a new hall and sports changing facilities. The intention is to also eventually plant an orchard, a school garden and make improvements to the football pitch. Total project cost of £19,760

Applicant	Project Brief	Sum Requested	Grant Awarded	Financial Year	Other Notes
Coupar Angus Pride of Place	Coupar Angus Environmental Improvements 2014 -	£2,660	£2,660	2014/15	<p>A trio of projects in the town:</p> <p>i) interpretation panel for the Clyde Horse Sculpture,</p> <p>ii) tree planting in Larghan Park and iii) creation of a tree management plan for the local river (the burn screening).</p> <p>Total project cost of £6,036.80</p>
Comrie Youth Extreme Sports	Building a bike and skate park in Comrie	£10,000	£10,000	2014/15	<p>A bike and skate park</p> <p>Total project cost of £66,000</p>
Mount Blair Community Development Trust	Kirkmichael Path Network	£10,000	£9,091.44	2014/2015	<p>Paths Project</p> <p>Total project cost of £63,838.08</p>
Crieff in Leaf Association	Golf Club entrance, polytunnels, Duchlage Care Home garden	£4,090	£4,090	2014/2015	<p>Golf Club entrance, polytunnels, Duchlage Care Home garden</p> <p>Total project cost of £8,290</p>

Applicant	Project Brief	Sum Requested	Grant Awarded	Financial Year	Other Notes
Crieff Community Trust	Acorn Dell path improvement - Stage 1 & Purchase of Equipment	£11,097	£11,097	2014/2015	Paths Project and purchase of maintenance equipment which can be shared between neighbouring communities. Total project cost of £24,320
Auchterarder Community Sports Association	Feasibility study for the development of Core paths within catchment area.	£3,225	£3,225 £996.44 to be paid from 15/16 budget	2014/2015	Paths Project Total project cost of £6,450
			2014/15 TOTAL =£97,000		Total project cost of all the 2014/15 projects = £511,249