

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET23 March 2017Report by Director of EnvironmentEAST RENFREWSHIRE RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND PANEL ADMINISTRATION  
ARRANGEMENTS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to clarify administration arrangements in relation to the East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund (ERREF) Panel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Cabinet is asked to;
- (a) Agree that the quorum for the ERREF Panel is two Elected Members;
  - (b) Agree to delegate decision making to the ERREF Panel subject to any applications where there is a split decision being referred to the Director for a decision on whether or not the application should be supported; and
  - (c) Homologate the decisions of the first meeting of the ERREF Panel held on 8 February 2017 in the absence of any previously established quorum requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Previously the Whitelee Fund Panel comprised three officers, one Elected Member and two community representatives. Decisions required to be approved by the Director of Environment.

4. In April 2016 the Cabinet approved the establishment of the ERREF as the successor to the Whitelee wind farm fund. At that time, a number of changes were made to this Council-managed community benefit fund including a change to the decision making body. It was agreed that the ERREF Panel would comprise three Elected Members (subsequently agreed as Councillors Green, Lafferty and Waters) and the Chief Executive of Voluntary Action, East Renfrewshire.

5. In establishing the new ERREF Panel, the Cabinet report did not clarify the quorum for the Panel, or that the Panel had delegated decision making powers.

**REPORT**

6. Given the increased Elected Member representation on the new ERREF Panel, it is considered appropriate to devolve decision-making powers to the Panel without the need for recommendations made by the Panel to be approved by the Director of Environment. This would be subject to the quorum for the Panel being two Elected Members, and that (as was the case with the former Whitelee Panel) in the event of a split decision the Director will decide whether or not a proposal should be supported

7. It is proposed therefore that the quorum for the ERREF Panel should be two Elected Members.

8. The first meeting of the ERREF Panel took place on 8 February. Only two Elected Members were present. Grant applicants have been advised of the Panel's recommendations. A copy of the Panel's recommendations is attached (Appendix 1).

### **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

10. Consultation has taken place with the Democratic Services Manager on the administration arrangements for the Panel. The composition of the ERREF Panel demonstrates positive partnership working between the Council and the third sector.

### **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

11. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities or sustainability implications of this report.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

12. The recommendations in this report seek to clarify the arrangements relating to the ERREF Panel operation and decision making process.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. The Cabinet is asked to;

- (a) Agree that the quorum for the ERREF Panel is two Elected Members;
- (b) Agree to delegate decision making to the ERREF Panel subject to any applications where there is a split decision being referred to the Director for a decision on whether or not the application should be supported; and
- (c) Homologate the decisions of the first meeting of the ERREF Panel held on 8 February 2017 in the absence of any previously established quorum requirements.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from - Sharon McMurtrie, 0141 577 3051 or [sharon.mcmurtrie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.mcmurtrie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Convener contact details

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(Convener for Environment)

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February 2017

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet report and minute on East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund  
<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ChttpHandler.ashx?id=16433&p=0>  
<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=16608&p=0>

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## East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund

## Briefing Note for Councillors

February 2017

The East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund (ERREF) superseded the Whitelee wind farm fund in 2016. Income is received from ScottishPower Renewables for Whitelee and Middleton wind farms and is administered by East Renfrewshire Council as a community benefit fund. Applications are invited annually from organisations within East Renfrewshire - including Council services.

Applications to the fund are considered by the ERREF Panel that comprises three councillors and the chief executive of Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire. A briefing note is issued to all councillors following the Panel.

Further information on the fund and how to apply is available on the Council website at <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/1551/East-Renfrewshire-Renewable-Energy-Fund>

**The ERREF Panel considered the current round of applications on 8<sup>th</sup> February. 18 applications totalling £422,000 were submitted, competing for the available grant of £200,000. Below is a summary of the decisions.**

## ERREF Applications 2016

Applicant	Settlement	Project Summary	Grant Requested	Decision	Grant award	Notes
Giffnock Community Council	Giffnock	Hub feasibility study	£10,500	Refused	£0	Uncertainty over funding for a hub plus other demands on the fund.
Sykes Terrace and Hamilton Place Residents Association	Neilston	Equipment for community garden/allotments	£8,502.18	Approved in full	£8,502.12	
121st Glasgow (Clarkston) Scout Group	Clarkston	Minibus	£27,051	Approved in part	£20,000	Grant reduced due to other demands on fund
ERC Parks	Eaglesham	Outdoor exercise equipment	£23,492	Refused	£0	Not seen as a priority plus other demands on the fund
28th Glasgow (Giffnock) Scout Group	Giffnock	Renovate club toilet facilities	£12,500	Approved in full	£12,500	
Barrhead Community Sport Hub	Barrhead	Minibus	£26,244	Approved in full	£26,244	
205th Glasgow Co, Boys Brigade, Eaglesham	Eaglesham	Minibus	£21,953	Approved in full	£21,953	

Eaglesham Fair	Eaglesham	Equipment for fair and Christmas lights	£27,270	Refused	£0	Previously advised that no further funding would be approved (after 3 previous awards) plus other demands on fund
ERC Environment	Newton Mearns	Graveyard stabilisation works at Mearns Kirk	£10,000	Approved in full	£10,000	
St Joseph's Parents Council	Busby	Playground improvements	£16,946.84	Approved in full	£16,946.84	
Carolside Parent Teacher Association	Clarkston	PA system, mobile stage, sports equipment, cooking stations	£24,093.64	Approved in part	£18,000	Grant reduced due to other demands on fund
Auchenback Active Ltd	Barrhead	Energy efficiency works to Auchenback Resource Centre	£20,311	Approved in full	£20,311	
Neilston Community Council	Neilston	Toddlers play area at Kingston Park	£55,628	Refused	£0	Grant refused due to large sum requested, lack of other match funding plus other demands on fund
Busby Bowling Club	Busby	Windows and heating improvements to club	£12,691	Approved in full	£12,691	
Off Grid Kids	Clarkston	Landscaping to woodlands and minibus	£37,152	Refused	£0	Grant refused due to large sum requested and other demands on fund
Mearns Bowling Club	Newton Mearns	Refurbishment works to club	£35,000	Refused	£0	Grant refused due to other demands on fund
Mearns Kirk Helping Hands	Newton Mearns	Furniture and equipment, minibus and office equipment	£33,000	Approved in full	£33,000	
Giffnock Village BID	Giffnock	Community events in Giffnock town centre	£19,881	Refused	£0	Grant refused due to other demands on fund

**The Fund will reopen for new applications in summer 2017 with grants awarded c. October/ November.**

For further information contact Sharon McMurtrie, Planning Manager (Projects) on 0141 577 3051 or [sharon.mcmurtrie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.mcmurtrie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

13<sup>th</sup> February 2017