

Corporate Services (Community Benefit from Renewable Energy) Sub Committee
20 March 2007

IRVINE, 20 March 2007 - At a Meeting of the Community Benefit from Renewable Energy Sub Committee of Corporate Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.40 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Margaret Munn, John Moffat, Donald Reid and Ian Richardson.

Also Present

P. Allison, Airtricity Developments (UK) Limited.

In Attendance

A. Fraser, Manager, Legal Services (Legal and Protective); J. Cumming, Project Officer and M. Anderson, Corporate Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

David Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Reid.

1. Community Benefit From Renewable Energy

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the proposed terms of the agreement with Ardrossan Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited and arrangements for processing grant applications to the Community Benefit Fund.

A ring-fenced Council fund for Community Benefit from Renewable Energy monies has been established to support environmental improvements to the physical, built and social environment, environmental education and the promotion of sustainability and energy efficiency. Airtricity, which operates the Ardrossan Wind Farm at Busbie Muir behind Ardrossan, has committed £18,000 per annum to the fund for a period of 25 years, subject to a number of conditions outlined within the report. An initial sum of £12,000 will be payable to the fund at 1 April 2007, with a further £6,000 to be paid when the 3-turbine extension to the existing wind farm is operational.

Any constituted group in North Ayrshire is eligible to apply to the fund, as is any national group seeking funding for an eligible project within North Ayrshire. Each grant will be treated as a one-off contribution to a project and awards will be available for up to 80% of the overall cost. In order to attempt to ensure that a balance is kept between large and small projects, applications will be scored high, medium or low on:-

- the level of environmental enhancement;
- the level of community involvement;
- the level of other funding available;
- the ability of the group to deliver the proposed project; and
- the future sustainability of the project.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the contribution from Ardrossan Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited to the Community Benefit Fund, and the terms thereof; (b) to recommend that the Council enter into a Minute of Agreement with Ardrossan Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited, whereby that company contributes an annual grant to the Community Benefit Fund; (c) to authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) to set up a ring-fenced Council fund for Community Benefit from Renewable Energy monies; (d) that the minimum and maximum level of each grant to be awarded to any one group shall be £500 and £5,000 respectively, subject to a review in due course; (e) to recommend that the Council gives powers to the Sub Committee to determine grant applications; and (f) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements for the public launch of the fund.

The Meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.