

Title of Report:	Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Grant Awards
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	20th April 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Develop & promote stable and cohesive communities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£71,587.50 (Ulster Wildlife Trust LCF Budget)
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Revenue/Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: Nov 2019
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: Nov 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions and awards to the Landfill Regulator (ENTRUST) for projects to be supported under the Landfill Communities Fund for the 2021-22 period.

2.0 Background

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is regulated by ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) and managed by her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme that enables Landfill Operators to use some of their landfill tax to directly fund projects that improve the lives of communities living within a 10 mile radius of the landfill sites. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council operate the Craighuiller landfill site in Portrush and are able to claim a credit against their landfill tax liability, they then make this contribution to Ulster Wildlife, the registered Environmental Body who administers this fund on behalf of Council.

Applications are received, assessed and scored by Ulster Wildlife Trust, supported by Officers from the Funding Unit and presented to Council for approval. Successful projects are submitted to ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) whose role is to ensure that the LCF monies are spent by organisations on projects which comply with the objectives set out in The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996.

The Landfill Communities Fund budget available for the 2021-22 financial period is £79,705.75.

3.0 Strategic Context

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council review and agree the Landfill Communities Fund Policy and programme on an annual basis (November 2016, November 2017, November 2018, November 2019 and November 2020)

The policy sets out a framework for the processing of Landfill Communities Fund applications. The overall aim of the process outlined in the policy is:

“To ensure a consistent and transparent process with proper and accountable procedures is in place”.

To be eligible for an award, projects must be located within a 10 mile radius of a licensed landfill site in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. Applications must be made under one of the following Objects set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996:

- Object D - Public Parks and Amenity,
- Object DA - Conservation of Biodiversity; or
- Object E - Restoration of Religious Buildings or Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest.

In April 2016 Council appointed the Ulster Wildlife Trust as the Environmental Body to administer the fund on behalf of Council.

In November 2020 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund programme and criteria for 2020-21. (See Annexes A, B, & C)

4.0 Assessment Overview

The fund opened for applications on 4th December 2020 and closed on 05th February 2021.

- Eight applications were received with requests to the fund totalling £116,578.50.
- One application was ineligible and did not proceed to scoring and assessment.
- Seven applications with requests totalling £101,578.50 were assessed and scored.

- Six applications with requests totalling £86,578.50 scored higher than 65% minimum threshold.

4.1 Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment

1 x application, applying under Object E: **Building Restoration Programme**, failed to satisfy the eligibility criteria:

Table 1: Ineligible Applications

<u>Name of organisation</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Bann Rowing Club	River (Re)Connections - £25,515	Part A of Application not submitted - <i>Ineligible</i>

4.2 Stage 2: Assessment & Scoring

- 7 x applications (Table 2) were assessed and scored against the full criteria. (Criteria detailed in Annex A - C).
- 6 x applications scored above the 65% minimum threshold.

Table 2: Assessment Table

	Applicant & Project	Score	Total project costs	Amount requested	Amount recommended
1.	<i>Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club- Refurbishment of male showers, toilets & changing facilities</i>	100%	£52,308	£15,000 28%	£ 15,000
2.	<i>Portrush Community Culture & Crafts Group- Refurbishment of Kitchen & Toilets both DDA compliant</i>	96%	£20,150	£15,000 74%	£ 15,000
3.	<i>Roe Valley Residents Association – Project Revitalise to refurbish a leased building in Limavady town centre for use as a community hub</i>	88%	£20,000	£15,000 75%	£15,000
4.	<i>The Diocese of Down and Connor Trustees on behalf of St Patrick's Church, Portrush – St Patrick's Church Pews Restoration Project</i>	84%	£22,500	£15,000 66%	£15,000
5.	<i>Sea2it – Sea2it Marine Plastic and Skate Conservation Action (Marine litter & its impacts on priority habitats project)</i>	80%	£15,450	£11,587.50 75%	£11,587.50

6	Ballymoney RFC – <i>Upgrade of floodlights on training pitches</i>	72%	£31,070	£15,000 48%	£0
7.	Portrush Heritage Group – <i>Antrim Gardens Discovery Project Phase 2 (Replace existing heritage wall signs).</i>	64%	£20,000	£15,000 75%	£0
Total			£181,478.00	£101,587.50	£71,587.50

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council recommend to the Landfill Regulator funding to projects 1-5 totalling **£71,587.50**.

Annex A – Guidance Notes (Object D)

Name of Programme	Theme (i): PUBLIC AMENITY PROGRAMME (Object D)			
Overview	<p>Organisations applying for funding from the Public Amenity Programme will have to demonstrate how their project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributes to the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity (examples include community centres, village halls, public sporting facilities, cycle and walking paths); and - Assists with furthering the Council’s priorities of enhancing health and wellbeing and empowering local people to take ownership of projects in their community. 			
Assessment and Scoring	Criteria <i>(pass required on all statements to progress to full assessment and scoring)</i>	Pass/Fail		
	<p>Potential to meet ENTRUST registration requirements for Object D of the LCF:</p> <p>Project located within a ten mile radius of either of the following licensed active landfill sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF ✓ Craighulliar Landfill site, 45 Craighulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is for a single site or defined area owned by applicant or satisfactory access arrangements in place • The amenity must directly benefit the general public and can be accessed without unreasonable restriction and with reasonable access costs. Restrictions include amenities only available to specific user groups defined by age, sex, disability or race. Any amenity that is available for fewer than four evenings or two days a week, or fewer than 104 days in any one year will not be sufficiently open to the general public • Costs directly relate to provision of the amenity or improvements and not management or administration fees. A detailed and accurate budget must be presented for direct works and other eligible costs. Source of match funding clearly stated and in place • The amenity must be run on a not-for-profit basis. Any income made as a result of LCF funded works (e.g. admission charges) must be handled appropriately as LCF derived income. This could include spending on the ongoing maintenance or operation of the amenity 			
Criteria <i>(all questions will be scored out of 5 and weightings applied as indicated)</i>		Score out of 5	Weight	Max Poss Score

Q1	<p>Demonstrate a positive environmental impact (natural and social environment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the area prior to the project starting and show how it will not have a negative impact on the natural environment • has information on how the amenity makes the environment more pleasant or comfortable been included • how the amenity improves the aesthetic qualities of the area • are necessary planning and other consents identified and in place • will the proposed amenity result in improvements to a derelict or run down site • extent to which the amenity benefits the general public and meets the social needs in the area 		X 8	40
Q2	Ability, skills and experience of delivering a similar project demonstrated		X 4	20
Q3	<p>High level of community involvement and support demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description on how the proposed project meets an identified need in the community • how have local people been involved in the project through community consultation and or letters of support • extent to which volunteers will take ownership of the project and be engaged in its development • are satisfactory plans to promote the amenity in place 		X 8	40

Annex B – Guidance Notes (Object DA)

Name of the Programme	Theme (ii): BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT (Object DA)			
Overview	<p>Organisations applying for funding from the Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancement Programme will have to demonstrate how their project contributes to the protection of the environment, conservation or promotion of biological diversity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of any of the natural habitats selected for local priority action namely - <i>coastal, grassland and farmland, marine, peatland and heathland, urban, woodland and wetland</i>; or • The conservation of a species in its natural habitat, on land or in water selected for local priority action namely - <i>harbour porpoise, swift, barn owl, yellowhammer, otter, fish (Atlantic salmon and brown trout), scarce crimson and gold, red squirrel, bumblebee and bats</i> 			
Assessment and Scoring	Criteria <i>(pass required on all statements to progress to full assessment and scoring)</i>	Pass/ Fail		
	<p>Potential to meet ENTRUST registration requirements for Object DA of the LCF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project located within a ten mile radius of either of the following licensed active landfill sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Craigmere Landfill Site, Craigmere Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF ✓ Craigahulliar Landfill site, 45 Craigahulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN • Project at a single site or if multiple, satisfactory connection demonstrated • Project site owned by applicant or satisfactory access arrangements in place • Species or habitat naturally occurs at project site • Project costs solely relate to the conservation of the species or habitat • A detailed and accurate budget presented for direct works and other eligible costs. Source of match funding clearly stated and in place 			
Criteria <i>(all questions will be scored out of 5 and weightings applied as indicated)</i>	Score out of 5	Weight	Max Poss Score	
Q1	<p>Demonstrate a positive environmental impact (natural environment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI priority species or habitat identified in the application. Any other species or habitat mentioned • Is the project site designated (e.g. ASSI) and/or if a priority species, is it red listed? • Is there a clear link between the habitat and or species mentioned in the application form to those listed in the Council's LBAP • Are necessary consents identified and in place • Assessment of the sites current biodiversity and value. • How the proposed project will enhance and conserve the existing biodiversity of the site or in the case of biodiversity creation projects that the new habitat is not being created to the detriment of another (e.g. destroying a meadow to develop a pond), and is appropriate for the site 	X 12	60	

Q2	Ability, skills and experience of delivering a similar project demonstrated		X 4	20
Q3	Opportunities available to the general public to increase their knowledge of the habitat or species identified in the project clearly demonstrated		X 4	20

Annex C – Guidance Notes (Object E)

Name of the Programme	Theme (iii): BUILDING RESTORATION PROGRAMME (Object E)		
Overview	<p>Organisations applying for funding from the Restoration Programme will have to demonstrate how their project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is for the maintenance, repair or restoration of a building or structure which is a place of religious worship or of historical or architectural interest; and - protects the built environment in which we live and empowers local people to take ownership of projects in their community. 		
Assessment and Scoring	Criteria <i>(pass required on all statements to progress to full assessment and scoring)</i>	Pass/Fail	
	<p>Potential to meet ENTRUST registration requirements for Object E of the LCF. Building or structure:</p> <p>Project located within a ten mile radius of either of the following licensed active landfill sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF ✓ Craigahulliar landfill Site, 45 Craigahulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN • Must be owned by project applicant or satisfactory access arrangements in place • Must be a place of worship, have listed building status or is considered to be of architectural or historical interest (works to private residences are excluded) • Must be open and accessible to the general public for a similar amount of time as would be expected from similar buildings or structures (e.g. a place of religious worship would be expected to be open for worship on its primary day of worship) • Works must be for repair, restoration or maintenance and must not be for new works or predominately new works (e.g. an extension). A detailed and accurate budget must be presented for direct works and other eligible costs. Source of match funding clearly stated and in place • Must be run on a not-for-profit basis. Any income generated as a result of LCF funding (e.g. admission charges) must be handled appropriately as LCF derived income. This could include spend on ongoing maintenance or operation <p>Project is in receipt of all necessary planning and other consents including landowner approval if appropriate</p>		
Criteria <i>(all questions will be scored out of 5 and weightings applied as indicated)</i>		Score out of 5	Weight
			Max Poss Score

Q1	<p>Demonstrate a positive environmental impact (built environment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the building listed or has historical or architectural interest been demonstrated • has a description of how physical works that will be carried out will repair, restore or maintain building or structure been included • are necessary planning and other consents identified and in place • will proposed works make changes resulting in improved energy efficiency • will proposed works result in the improvements to a derelict or run down site • is the building or structure of value in promoting CCGBC's tourism offer • how will the restoration ensure prior to commencement, that it will not have a negative impact on the natural environment, e.g. protection of bat roosts, swift nests, etc. (measures can be put in place to protect these and still allow the works to happen) 		X 12	60
Q2	Ability, skills and experience of delivering a similar project demonstrated		X 4	20
Q3	<p>High level of community involvement and support demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have local people been involved in the project through community consultation and or letters of support • Extent to which volunteers will take ownership of the project and be engaged in its development 		X 4	20