

Title of Report:	Landfill Communities Fund Grant Awards 2023/24
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 February 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed in Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Develop & promote stable & cohesive communities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£90,000 (Ulster Wildlife LCF Budget)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the recommendations for grant awards to ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) for projects to be supported under the Landfill Communities Fund in the 2023-24 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 just outside 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 assessed and scored by Ulster Wildlife and Funding Unit Officers. 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.

2.1 Strategic Context

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council review and agree the Landfill Communities Fund Policy and programme on an annual basis.

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".

In November 2023 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund programme and criteria for 2023-2024. (**See Annexes A, B, & C**).

Council further agreed that the fund would be a rolling grant programme, remaining open throughout the year until available funds are allocated, with Officers bringing reports into Council to inform members of the outcome of the process.

2.2 Eligibility

Applications are accepted from properly constituted, not for profit community or voluntary based organisations. Projects must be located within a 10 mile radius of the 2 licensed landfill sites in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. (Craighulliar Landfill site, 45 Craighulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN or Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF).

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**

3.0 Assessment Overview

Landfill Communities Fund is a rolling fund and will remain open until all available grant-aid is committed for the year, or Council closes the fund.

- 6 applications were received (3 in December 2023 , 1 in January 2024 and 2 in February 2024) with requests totalling £90,000.
- All 6 applications passed the stage 1 eligibility assessment and proceeded to full assessment and scoring.
- All 6 applications were assessed and scored against the stage 2 criteria, scoring above the 65% minimum threshold. (Full criteria set out in table 1).

Table 1

Rank	Applicant & Project	Score	Total project costs	Amount requested	Distance to Landfill site (miles)	Amount Awarded
Assessed in December 2023						
1	Ballymoney Evergreen Club <i>Regeneration of Social Centre building to upgrade to modern standards for sustainability purposes.</i>	84%	£175,180.80	£15,000 %8.5	9.5	£15,000
2	St Matthews GAC Drumsumn <i>Regeneration of derelict land to a new multi-sports playground with an artificial grass surface. To provide year-round sports and fitness opportunities</i>	68%	£35,000	£15,000 43%	8.3	£15,000
3	Limavady Community Development Initiative <i>Enhancement of current listed lodge to expand, enhance and provide community services.</i>	68%	£20,678.40	£15,000 72%	8.2	£15,000
Assessed in January 2024						
4	Agherton Parish Church <i>The project aims to undertake vital repairs to the church tower which will ensure the structural integrity of the building and preserve it for generations to come.</i>	68%	£21,500	£15,000 69%	4.3	£15,000
Assessed in February 2024						
5	Enterprise Causeway <i>The restoration of the Bushmills Courthouse aims to repurpose this historic building and develop a vibrant creative hub, enhancing its cultural and historical value and making it suitable for delivery of community activities</i>	96%	£20,000	£15,000 75%	5	£15,000
6	Bann Valley Rowing Club <i>The replacement of the boathouse steps. The replacement of the steps</i>	68%	£20,000	£15,000	4.71	£15,000

	<i>would allow for rejuvenation and public accessibility around this key potential public asset on the River Bann including the development of a publicly accessible, safe and user friendly.</i>			75%		
Total				£90,000		£90,000

Grant Awards:

There are sufficient funds available to award grant aid to all successful applications.

Fund Awards

1. Funding awards for projects 1-6 totalling £90,000 have been recommended to ENTRUST, the Landfill Regulator leaving £65,297 remaining in the budget.
2. The Landfill Communities Fund will remain open for further applications.
3. A full list of the 2023-24 awards are available at **Annex D**.

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	Demonstrate a positive environmental impact (natural and social environment): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the area prior to the project starting and show how it will not have an 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	High level of community involvement and support demonstrated: <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"> ✓ Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore 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? 		X 12	60

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			
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"> ✓ Craigmere Landfill Site, Craigmere Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF ✓ Craigahulliar landfill Site, 45 Craigahulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Annex D: List of projects funded through Landfill Communities Fund in the 2023-24 period.

Project Titles	Amounted Awarded
Glenullin Playpark Project	£15,000.00
Replace the Existing Heating System in Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Clubhouse	£15,000.00
Floodlighting Upgrade at Coleraine Bowling Club	£9,875.00
Lighting at pitch and walking trail Glenullin GAC	£15,000.00
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine: Ball Wall	£15,000.00
CAN Compass – Outdoor Observing Nature space / green therapy	£12,125.00
Upgrade Gym Facility at Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	£15,000.00
Ballymoney Evergreen Club: Regeneration of Social Centre	£15,000.00
LCDI Gate Lodge Refurbishment Stage 2	£15,000.00
Drumsumn Community 4G Playground	£15,000.00
Agherton Church, Portstewart: Tower Maintenance	£15,000.00
The Courthouse Bushmills: Shared Space Creative Hub	£15,000.00
Bann Rowing Club: Steps Refurbishment	£15,000.00
Total Committed in 2023/24	£187,000.00