

Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Expressions of Interest	14th February 2016
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report to make recommendations to Council on the expressions of Interest received to the Landfill Communities Fund.

Introduction

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) 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 in the vicinity of the landfill sites. Landfill Operators are able to claim a credit (currently 5.7%) against their landfill tax liability, they then make this contribution to Environmental Bodies who administer the fund on their behalf.

The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST and managed by her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). It is Entrusts' role to ensure that the LCF monies are received and spent by organisations on projects which comply with the objectives set out in The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996.

There are a number of Objects under which an application for funding can be made (Additional Detail in **Annex A**):

- Object A: The reclamation, remediation or restoration of land that cannot be used.
- Object B: Reduction of Pollution.
- Object D: Public Parks and Amenities.
- Object DA: Conservation of Biodiversity.
- Object E: Restoration of Religious Buildings or Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest.

Strategic Context

In February 2016 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund Policy.

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".

Principles

- Council approval of projects to the LCF is at the sole discretion of Council and will be dependent on the current available LCF funds.
- Activities funded must be fully consistent with the objects of the Landfill Community Fund.
- Due regard will be given to equality considerations in accordance with Section 75 and any other statutory duty.
- Council must ensure proper, prudent and effective use of Public Money.
- Contracted administration services for an Environmental Body must be tendered in adherence to the Council's Procurement Process.
- Eligibility for funding is determined through ENTRUST's specified criteria.

Agreed Application & Process:

In April 2016 Council appointed the Ulster Wildlife Trust as the Environmental Body to administer the fund on behalf of Council for a three year period.

In November 2016 Council agreed the following grant process for the Landfill Communities Fund:

Stage 1 Eligibility:

- Open call for Expressions of Interest from interested organisations wishing to carry out projects aligned to the objects of the Fund.
- Expressions of Interest to be submitted via Council's online funding hub.
- Preliminary eligibility check by Council's Funding Unit and Ulster Wildlife Trust.
- Report to Council on outcome of the eligibility assessment.

Stage 2 application assessment and award:

- Council approved Expressions of Interest invited to submit a full application to Ulster Wildlife Trust.
- Ulster Wildlife Trust and Funding Unit assess, score and rank projects and present a report to Council for approval of grant awards.
- Upon approval from Council, Ulster Wildlife Trust register projects with ENTRUST (The Landfill regulator) for final approval.
- Upon approval from ENTRUST the Ulster Wildlife Trust will issue the successful applicant with a Letter of Offer.

Outcome:

Four information roadshows were held in November 2016 and information, guidance and support was provided to potential applicants. The programme was advertised in local press, local community networks, Council's website, social media and via the local community networks.

Deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest was 12noon on Friday 20th January 2017.

Eligibility Assessments:

Eighteen Expressions of Interest were received before the deadline. (See attached **Annex B** for full details).

Eligibility assessments were undertaken by Funding Unit staff and Ulster Wildlife Trust staff using the agreed criteria:

	Criteria for eligibility	Pass / Fail
1	Project located within 10 miles of a registered landfill site?	
2	Fulfil the requirements of the relevant LCF objectives in line with ENTRUST guidance	

All 18 applications were deemed eligible under criterion 1.

Two applications were deemed ineligible under criterion 2:

Applicant	Assessment Panel Decision
Stendhal Festival Ltd	Submitted an application under three separate objects – A, B and DA. All were considered ineligible for the following reasons: Object A – proposal did not relate to land the use of which for any economic, social or environmental purpose has been prevented or restricted because of the carrying out of an activity which has now ceased. Object B – proposal did not relate to land, the condition of which by reason of carrying out of activity on the land which has now ceased is that pollution is being or may be caused. Object DA - proposal for fencing, bridge installation and moving a generator would not pass test with regulator of provision, conservation or restoration (confirmed with regulator).
North West Lifelong Learning Limited	Submitted an application under Objects D and DA Assessment concluded educational aspect not an eligible activity although works to stream and other aspects had potential as a public amenity. Multiple and some private ownership of project site – so access for the general public difficult. As presented, the project is not eligible.

Recommendations:

1. Council agree to invite 16 applicants to submit a full application to Ulster Wildlife Trust.
2. Ulster Wildlife Trust will work with the Funding Unit to assess, score and rank the applications under this call.
3. In the case of a tie break situation following scoring two objective measures will be used for ranking: 1). Distance from landfill site; 2). Level of match funding provided.
4. The outcome of the assessment, scoring and ranking will be reported back to Council for further decision on grant awards.
5. As per Principle 1 of the Landfill Communities Fund Policy, funding awards will be dependent on current available funds.

ANNEX A

ENTRUST OBJECTS AND ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Proposed projects must fall within one of the following ENTRUST approved OBJECT categories to receive funding.

OBJECT A – The reclamation, remediation or restoration of land which cannot currently be used.

The work must be on a single site where there was once something that took place that now stops it being used. The site may have been contaminated in some way. The principle is that the person who polluted the land must now not own or operate from the land. Any orders that the current landowner is under from the relevant environmental agency must not be fulfilled by using the Landfill Communities Fund.

OBJECT B – The prevention of potential for pollution or the remediation of the effect of pollution.

You must be able to demonstrate that the work you propose is directly linked to help mitigate, prevent or reduce pollution.

OBJECT D – Public Amenity

Projects which provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site, and which promotes positive land management and community involvement e.g. creation of wildlife habitats or play areas.

OBJECT DA – The conservation of a specific species or a specific habitat where it naturally occurs.

Projects which promote biodiversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat: or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. (Please note that projects should demonstrate links to local or national Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)).

OBJECT E - The Restoration of a place of religious worship or historic or architectural interest.

The primary intent of this objective is to maintain, repair or restore a place of worship: or a building or structure that must have listed status or equivalent where the general public can access the building. This objective does not allow works to private residences.

Refer to the ENTRUST Guidance Manual for further details on the above Objects. The link to their website is:

<http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/guidance-library/guidance>

ANNEX B

	Applicant	Project	Object	Total Cost	Match Funding	LCF Request
1	Focus on Family 11-19 Glenburn Cresent, Ballysally, Coleraine, BT52 2QR	Cornfield Project: - To provide facilities at the meadow and woodland site; - Shipping container for 2 sheds to store tools & equipment; Generator for lighting & catering; Gazebo, gym, footfall counters, compost toilet, waterproof clothing.	D	£35,760	£5,760 Volunteer time / in kind	£30,000
2	CERES Ltd 15 Loughermore road, Ballykelly, Co L'Derry, BT49 9PW	To contribute to the survival of the Irish Honey Bee in the Roe Valley area, Ballykelly. Roe Valley bee keepers require space for their apiary and educational programme. Permissions will be sought with the landowner to grow these plants. Additional work will be carried out with gardeners, beekeepers and carpenters to develop a mobile way of getting either hives quickly to a flowering location or flowering mobile gardens to hives.	DA	£30,000	0	£30,000.
3	Ashes to Gold 4 Life 251 Dunhill Road, Dunderg, Coleraine BT51 3QJ	To develop a community garden on donated land, growing fruit and vegetables where local school children, older people, unemployed and those with mental health issues can work and learn together.	D	£75,000	£15,000 Donation from ATG Services (Ireland) Limited	£30,000
4	Stendhal Festival Ltd, Ballymully Cottage Farm, Limavady, Co Derry/Londonderry	To maintain three woodland site areas, currently used as part of the yearly festival by walkers and campers, to its natural beauty. To open up two garedn areas to local groups providing them with tools to maintain it.	A,B,DA	£38,000	£8000	£30,000

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	, BT49 0NQ					
5	Greysteel Community Enterprises, the Vale Centre, Clooney Road, Greysteel, co Derry. BT47 3GE	To develop an environmentally focused space within the Vale centre grounds, to enhance the public leisure facilities. To introduce and maintain perimeter pathway trails, introduce indigenous native trees, introduce bat and bird boxes and plant wildflower seed mixes.	D	£30,000	0	£30,000
6	Ballymacconnelly Regeneration Group, 239 Vow road, Rasharkin Co Antrim, BT44 8TB	To provide a green corridor at the developed area opposite 239 Vow road, which can be enjoyed by the public and residents of the vilage To incorporate a pond, new seating along the path and a wooden shelter/outdoor classroom.	D	£28,500	0	£28,500
7	Keady Clachan Nature Trail 58 Ringsend Road, Limavady, BT49 0QJ	To develop the Nature Trail element of the long term plans for the organisation. To prepare the pond, spring, the diversity within the broad leaf woodland, and birdlife to further the opportunity for users to have access to a rural facility.	DA	£16,000	£4500	£11,500
8	CC&GBC Garvagh Forest Trail, Garvagh forest, Main Street, Garvagh, BT51 5NH/ BT51 5AE	To develop 19kms of multiuse trails for cyclists and walkers. This will aso see improvements to the existing forest car park.	D	?	?	?
9	CC&GBC Coastal Access Project- Portballintrae, Bay head Road,	To develop a new coastal walking trail on the western fringe of Portballintrae village. About 1.5km in length, the trail will provide a sgnificiant new section of off road	D	£17,850	0	£17,850

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	Portballintrae, BT57 8DN	walking along this national trail.				
10	Ulster Defence Regiment, Londonderry County Committee, Main street, Ballykelly, BT49 9HS	To repair and replace damaged, broken and worn Memorials within the memorial Garden, Ballykelly, to improve the grass area within the garden and construct a tarmac pathway and enhance the seating.	E	£5000	0	£5000
11	Ulster Wildlife Sea Coast Road, Limavady, BT49 0LH	Scrub Clearance at the Umbra Nature Reserve, Limavady. The project will seek to protect the natural habitat for native species. Contractors will be appointed to clear this 45 hectare sand-dune system within the Magilligan dune system as part of a 2 stage process.	DA	£22,450	£2450 In Kind	£20000
12	Glack Parish, St Finloughs Church, 20 loughermore road, Glack, co Derry, BT49 9PD	To restore windows and doors to St Finloughs Church and bring this listed building, which is a working church, back to it's original state.	E	£20,000	£2000 Church funds	£18000
13	LCDI 24d Bevenenagh Drive, BT49 0AQ	To install an economically renewable heating system at the old workhouse in Limavady. As a working building open to the public, this will ensure the services provided are more comfortable for users.	E	£80,000	£50,000 LCDI's funds	£30,000
14	North West Life Long Learning 3 Shackleton Drive, Ballykelly, Co Londonderry,	Educational programme to introduce plant, flower shared areas, planting boxes, picnic table and seating areas in Loughview Housing Area in Ballykelly. To clean, dredge and map an area of stream that runs through the area as well as re paint the bridge. The intention will be for residents to maintain these.	D and DA	£30,000	£2000 In Kind	£28,000

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	BT49 9PR					
15	Cloughmills Community Action Team, Cloughmills, Biopark, 60 main Street, Cloughmills BT44 9LF	To install 3 viewing galleries/fishing platforms along the Cloughmills Water at Cloughmills Biopark. The materials used would be recycled and will open up new vistas along the river bank, the siting of the platforms will take account of the habitants.	D	£12,000	£500.00	£11,500.
16	Faughanvale GAC Clooney Road, Greysteel, co Derry, BT47 3DY	To create a safeplay park, the only one in the village, at the playing fields, Greysteel, which will be open to the entire community and the public. This will create community cohesion and enhanced services.	D	£25,000	0	£25,000
17	Riding for the Disabled Causeway coast Arena, 184 Castleroe road, coleraine BT51 3RW	Development of a woodland garden in Castleroe, Coleraine. To fence off a large forest area to allow the site to be opened up and wildlife corridors to be established.	DA	£30,000	0	£30,000
18	Vineyard Compassion 10 Hillmans Way, Ballycastle road, Coleraine	To contribute to the building of a community hub (Compassion Centre) which will be open to the general public, providing a safe and welcoming space offering practical, emotional and financial support under one roof.	D	£774,000	£744,000 Donations, gift from church, grants from Ulster Garden Villages, TBF & KL ThompsonTrusts	£30,000