

Title of Report:	Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Grant Award Decisions
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16th June 2020
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	£72,124 (From Ulster Wildlife Trust LCF Budget)
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 10.10.17
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 30.09.19
	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 ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) for projects to be supported under the Landfill Communities Fund for the 2020-21 period.

The current available budget for the financial year 1st April 2020-31st March 2021 is **£73,361.66.**

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 their landfill sites. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council operate the Craigahuller landfill site in Portrush. Council are able to claim a credit against their landfill tax liability, they then make this contribution to Ulster Wildlife, the registered Environmental Body appointed to administer this fund on behalf of Council.

Applications are assessed and scored by Ulster Wildlife 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.

2.1 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 and November 2019).

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 November 2019 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund programme and criteria for 2020-21. (See Annexes A-C)

3.0 Assessment Overview

The fund opened for applications on 4th December 2019 and closed on 28th February 2020

- 15 x applications were received with requests to the fund totalling £377,496.50.
- 3 x applications were ineligible and did not proceed to scoring and assessment.
- 12 x applications with requests totalling £287,696.50 were assessed and scored.

Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment

3 x applications were deemed ineligible:

- 2 x applied under Object DA: **Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancement Programme**, 1 x applied under Object D: **Public Parks and Amenity**, all failed to satisfy the eligibility criteria for the reasons detailed in table 1.

Table 1 - Ineligible Applications

Name of organisation	Project	Outcome
The Cornfield Project (Focus on Family)	The Bee Project at Cornfield - £30,000	Bulk of project expenditure not on physical conservation works.- <i>Ineligible</i>
Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Coastal Biodiversity Challenge - £29,800	Bulk of project expenditure not on physical conservation works.- <i>Ineligible</i>
St Finlough's Hall Project	St Finlough's Hall Project - £48,000	Project outside 10 mile radius.- <i>Ineligible</i>

Stage 2: Assessment & Scoring

12 x eligible applications were assessed and scored against the agreed criteria. (Full criteria set out in Annexes A and C).

7 x applications obtained a score above the 65% threshold and are eligible to be considered for an award.

Table 2 – Assessments & Scores

	Applicant & Project	Score	Total project costs	Amount requested	Amount recommended
1	<i>St Matthews GAC, Drumsurn- Enhancement of Community Premises</i>	80%	£24,690	£18,517.50 75%	£12,240
2	<i>Ballymoney RFC – Modernisation of clubhouse heating system</i>	80%	£47,814	£29,884 75%	£29,884
3	<i>Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club- Female changing and shower facilities</i>	80%	£72,335.50	£30,000 41%	£30,000
4	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - <i>Sea change</i>	76%	£22,000	£16,500 75%	£0
5	Coleraine Rugby, Football, Cricket and Hockey Club – <i>Multi-Sport hub facility scheme</i>	76%	£29,300	£21,975 75%	£0
6	Vineyard Compassion – <i>landscaping of vineyard compassion site</i>	68%	£81,875.60	£30,000 37%	£0

7	Ulster Wildlife Trust – <i>Umbra Invasive species control</i>	68%	£11,764	£8,820 75%	£0
8	Drumachose Presbyterian Church – <i>Repair to listed window frames Drumachose Church</i>	64%	£145,170	£30,000 21%	£0
9	Kilrea GAC – <i>upgrading of parking facilities at Pearse Park, Kilrea</i>	60%	£70,000	£30,000 43%	£0
10	Portrush Community Cultural and Crafts Group – <i>refurbishment of kitchen & toilets both DDA compliant</i>	60%	£16,120	£12,000 74%	£0
11	Ulster Seaplane Association – <i>Clubhouse/ reception and landscaping/planting</i>	60%	£71,500	£30,000 42%	£0
12	Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers Ltd – <i>Farlow woods and sampsons tower</i>	52%	£40,000	£30,000 75%	£0
Total			£632,569.10	£287,696.50	£72,124

4.0 Recommendations

As per Council's Landfill Communities Fund Policy, approval of projects is at the sole discretion of Council and will be dependent on the current available LCF funds.

The current funds available for allocation from the Landfill Community Fund are **£73,361.66**.

1. It is recommended that Council award funding to projects 1-3 totalling **£72,124**. (The balance of £1,237.66 will remain in the fund for allocation in next year's programme).
2. All projects scoring above 65% are kept on a reserve list for funding, Council do not open the fund next year but instead allocate available funds to projects 4,5,6 and 7.

OR

3. No reserve list is held, the fund re-opens in December 2020 and all projects are advised to reapply.

Note:

This year has seen a significant increase in the number of applications being made to the Landfill Communities Fund. This is the first year that we are unable to make awards to all projects scoring above 65%. It is recommended that Council take account of the increasing demand on this fund and give careful consideration to the criteria and levels of grant-aid for the 2021/22 programme (Decision in November 2020).

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 	

Annex A – Guidance Notes (Object D)

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 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	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

Annex B – Guidance Notes (Object DA)

	<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"> ✓ Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore 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

Annex C – Guidance Notes (Object E)

			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