

Title of Report:	Landfill Communities Fund Grant Awards 2023/24
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 April 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
For discussion 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	£15,000 (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	Date: 29-03-24
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes /No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 29-03-24
	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 can 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.

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 remains open until all available grant-aid is committed for the year, or Council closes the fund.

- 1 application was received in March 2024 with a request totalling £15,000.

- This application passed the stage 1 eligibility assessment and proceeded to full assessment and scoring.
- The application was assessed and scored against the stage 2 criteria for Object DA, scoring above the 65% minimum threshold. (Full criteria set out in **Annex A**).

Table 1

Rank	Applicant & Project	Score	Total project costs	Amount requested	Distance to Landfill site (miles)	Amount Awarded
Assessed in March 2024						
1	Sea2it C.I.C Building capacity and enhancing resilience – Sea2it Marine and Freshwater Litter Cleanups	76%	£23,000	£15,000 65%	2 miles	£15,000
Total				£15,000		£15,000

3.1 Grant Awards:

There are sufficient funds available to award grant aid to this successful application.

1. Funding totalling £15,000 has been recommended to ENTRUST, the Landfill Regulator, leaving £50,297.10 remaining in the budget.
2. The remaining funds will roll into the 2024/25 budget.
3. This brings to 14, the number of projects awarded funding in the 2023-24 LCF call, the full list of awards is available at **Annex B**.
4. The Landfill Communities Fund is now taking applications for the 2024-25 call.

Annex A – Guidance Notes & Assessment Criteria (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 B: List of projects funded through Landfill Communities Fund in the 2023-24 period.

	Project Titles	Amounted Awarded
1.	Glenullin Playpark Project	£15,000.00
2.	Replace the Existing Heating System in Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Clubhouse	£15,000.00
3.	Floodlighting Upgrade at Coleraine Bowling Club	£9,875.00
4.	Lighting at pitch and walking trail Glenullin GAC	£15,000.00
5.	Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine: Ball Wall	£15,000.00
6.	CAN Compass – Outdoor Observing Nature space / green therapy	£12,125.00
7.	Upgrade Gym Facility at Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	£15,000.00
8.	Ballymoney Evergreen Club: Regeneration of Social Centre	£15,000.00
9.	LCDI Gate Lodge Refurbishment Stage 2	£15,000.00
10.	Drumsumn Community 4G Playground	£15,000.00
11.	Agherton Church, Portstewart: Tower Maintenance	£15,000.00
12.	The Courthouse Bushmills: Shared Space Creative Hub	£15,000.00
13.	Bann Rowing Club: Steps Refurbishment	£15,000.00
14.	Sea2it C.I.C	£15,000.00
	Total Committed in 2023/24	£202,000.00