

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

<b>To:</b> POLICY AND RESOURCES (REGENERATION & INFRASTRUCTURE) SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE		<b>Subject:</b> ENVIRONMENTAL KEY FUND - ANNUAL UPDATE
<b>From:</b> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		
<b>Date:</b> 16 May 2013	<b>Rep:</b> 1723	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report seeks to update Committee on the delivery of the Environmental Key Fund (EKF) and to detail the key performance indicators for the organisation since the fund relaunched in June 2009.

**2. Background**

2.1 The EKF, established in 2004, is an incorporated and enrolled Distributing Environmental Body (DEB) which is a completely separate entity from North Lanarkshire Council (NLC). The EKF has a responsibility to comply with the Landfill Community Fund (LCF) regulations and to distribute LCF generated by NLC as a landfill operator, at Auchinlea Landfill Site, in line with criteria set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations and by ENTRUST, the LCF regulator who in turn are managed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). It is ENTRUST's role to ensure that this funding is distributed to not-for-profit organisations to be spent on projects which either improve the environment, support the development or upgrade of community facilities or help repair or restore places of worship or buildings of architectural and historic interest.

2.2 The EKF, as reported to committee in January 2009, was restructured so that it:

- (i) is now governed by three member organisations: North Lanarkshire Council (NLC), Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) and Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT); and
- (ii) has a board comprising of a maximum of seven directors: one representative from each member organisation and a maximum of four co-opted directors from the private, public and voluntary sector.

2.3 As previously reported to committee in November 2010, as a result of the development of Blacklaw Windfarm on the boundary of North and South Lanarkshire and West Lothian; Scottishpower Renewables (UK) Limited currently makes available a relatively small Community Benefit Contribution to NLC which is transferred to the EKF for distribution to not-for-profit organisations in parallel with the LCF criteria outlined above and detailed in Table 2 below.

2.4 However the eligibility to apply to this community benefit grant scheme is restricted to projects taking place within the 'Eligible Grant Areas' of Shotts, Allanton, Bonkle and Hartwood which are directly adjacent to the development site.

### 3. EKF Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the Period 2009-2013

3.1 Table 1 below outlines the KPI's for the period June 2009 to 31 March 2013 for LCF Income:

Table 1

Financial Period	Projects Registered	LCF Income Received	EKF Grant Approval	Total Eligible Project Costs	LCF Expenditure
<b>1 June 2009 Opening Balance £ 661,339</b>					
2009/2010	14	£ 243,002	£ 266,485	£ 792,510	£ 99,716
2010/2011	14	£ 274,489	£ 281,190	£1,353,937	£ 188,495
2011/2012	12	£ 355,167	£ 488,706	£1,232,396	£ 250,036
2012/2013	14	£ 341,835	£ 242,158	£ 645,124	£ 496,597
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>£1,214,493</b>	<b>£1,278,539</b>	<b>£4,023,967</b>	<b>£1,034,844</b>

3.2 Since the fund re-launch in 2009 £1,214,493 LCF income has been received, with £1,034,844 paid out by the Environmental Key Fund; of which £85,924 (8.3%) has been applied to regulatory and other operating/management costs.

3.3 There have been 54 projects registered with ENTRUST, the LCF regulator, 37 of which are complete, 2 have been withdrawn and 1 is in the process of being withdrawn. The Environmental Key Fund LCF cash in bank is £844,591 which includes interest payments of £3,603. Grant claims to 14 projects totalling £426,862 are currently outstanding.

3.4 Table 2 below provides a sample range of projects supported by the fund:

Table 2

Name of organisation	EKF Awarded	Grant	Purpose of Grant
Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT)	£22,102		towards the improvement of Carbars Highwood on the edge of Netherton, Wishaw
Cumbernauld Condorrat Parish Church	£30,000		towards the repair and refurbishment of the Sanctuary area of this historic church.
Glenboig Neighbourhood House (GNH)	£30,000		towards the purchase of an area of semi-derelict land in Glenboig and the hire/purchase of equipment required to help improve this site.
Longriggend Village Association	£27,274		towards the refurbishment of a play area and open space within the village of Longriggend
Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)	£30,000		towards improving access to Northside Wood (Cumbernauld).
Friends of Stepps Park	£30,000		towards the creation of a 'natural' play area.
Parents Action for Safe Play (PASP) - Coatbridge	£10,801		for the purchase of new play park equipment.
The Waterways Trust Scotland (TWTS)	£150,000		towards the restoration of a replica of the first iron built boat in Scotland (the Vulcan) at Summerlee Heritage Museum and the improvement of the Monkland Canal Corridor from the Museum.
Brigbae Residents Association	£1,980		for new fencing to protect and improve access to Bluebell Woods (Mossend)
Focus Youth Project	£30,000		towards extending existing youth facilities at the Focus Youth Project in Viewpark.

3.5 Table 3 below outlines the KPI's for the period June 2011 to 31 March 2013 for Blacklaw Community Benefit Funds.

Table 3

Financial Period	Projects Registered	Blacklaw Community Benefit Funds Received	Grant Approved	Total Eligible Project Costs	LCF Expenditure
<b>1 June 2011 Opening Balance £0</b>					
2011/2012	n/a	£ 31,493.10	£18,489	£21,040	£14,046
2012/2013	n/a	£ 15,850.46	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 47,343.56</b>	<b>£18,489</b>	<b>£21,040</b>	<b>£14,046</b>

3.6 Wishaw & District Housing Association claimed an approved grant of £14,046 which contributed towards the development of an Ecogarden at Easter Road (Shotts) in partnership with Dykehead Primary School. Currently the Environmental Key Fund Blacklaw Community Benefit cash in bank is £33,298 with no outstanding grant claims although there is a published call for projects due on Friday, 7 June 2013.

#### 4. Future Challenges

4.1 As outlined in 2.1 above, Auchinlea Landfill Site is the only local authority operated landfill site, and is the primary source of income for the EKF, the most recent qualifying contribution payment of £81,072.73 having been received in February 2013.

4.2 Currently the Environmental Key Fund holds circa £400,000 for distribution in 2013/2014 with a current portfolio of requests for grant support totalling £87,638 and also has a published call for projects on Friday, 7 June 2013.

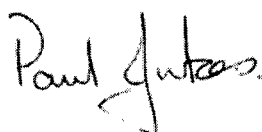
4.3 In a previous report, dated 29 January 2013 submitted by the Executive Director of Environmental Services, committee were provided with an update on the managed closure of Auchinlea Landfill Site to Regulatory Authority requirements; and the outcome of the tender process conducted to secure an alternative disposal outlet for the Council's municipal waste. The successful sub-contractor for landfill services being FCC whose current participation in the HMRC scheme transfers all qualifying contributions to Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN).

4.4 However as a result of the currently approved development of Blacklaw Windfarm, Scottishpower Renewables (UK) Limited agreed Community Benefit Contribution to North Lanarkshire Council is anticipated to grow quite significantly in future years (circa £60,000 per year) due to the existing extension of the windfarm which will be implemented around Autumn of 2013 and reported on in 2014.

#### 5. Recommended

5.1 It is recommended that Committee

- (i) note the contents of this report.



Paul Jukes

**Executive Director of Environmental Services**