

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
REGIONWIDE COMMUNITY FUND  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019/20**

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## **1. Introduction**

Windfarm Community Benefit monies now form an important aspect of community resilience and empowerment.

Dumfries and Galloway Council first considered the establishment of a region-wide fund in January 2015 and the arrangements were subsequently agreed by the Council's Communities Committee in October 2018.

The regionwide Fund acts mainly as a 'last resort', to ensure as much funding as possible is drawn into the region from windfarm developers and to give community groups a choice - for example, if there is no local community group in existence to manage the funds; or available groups are unable or unwilling to process the amount of funding available then the RWCF would accept and distribute it.

The Council continues to promote the position that the most local appropriate group receives any available windfarm funding and there will be absolutely no obligation on either communities or developers to contribute to the RWCF - it is entirely at their discretion.

As evidenced in this first Annual Report, the existence of the Fund and the contribution from Airies Windfarm has provided local groups with funding that is being used for a range of projects that will benefit our region.

The recruitment of the Management Committee, agreement and setting up of the application and payment arrangements has all gone smoothly and on schedule which is testament to the commitment and expertise of the Committee and staff involved in the Fund.

## **2. Management Committee and arrangements**

### Membership

2.1 Representation on the Management Committee was invited from public sector bodies and members were appointed for a three-year term by Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dumfries and Galloway College, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

2.2 Independent members of the Management Committee were recruited with the assistance of Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, to maintain a level of separation between the Council and the selection of Independent Members. 5 members have been appointed for a three-year term.

### Meetings during 2019/20

2.3 The first meeting of the Management Team took place in October 2019 where the Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Grant arrangements for 2019/20 were agreed; and there has been two other meeting in April and June 2020 where the Grant Applications were decided.

## 2.4 Constitution and Terms of Reference

### **Full name**

Dumfries and Galloway Windfarm Voluntary Region Wide Fund  
Abbreviated to 'Region Wide Community fund' or 'RWCF'

### **Aims**

The Region Wide Community Fund will be a source of funding to support applications aimed at improving:

- Local business and skills
- Community and environment
- Culture and tourism
- Affordable housing
- Community transport
- Broadband connectivity
- Fuel poverty
- Energy conservation and production

### **Remit**

The Management Committee's remit is to:

- Allocate the funds from the RWCF using the information provided in the Fund's Application Form and based on the above Fund Criteria and associated Scoring Framework.
- Agree grants given have met the aims of the fund.
- Agree effective and efficient management arrangements of the Fund.

The Management Committee has the power to grant or reject applications for the Fund's money with no right of appeal.

### **Membership**

The Management Committee will be made up of 9 members, with a majority of independent members; i.e. 5 drawn from non-public sector organisations and 4 from public sector organisations.

The Chair will be an independent member elected by the Management Committee.

Membership of the Management Committee will be for a maximum term of three years.

Members will be expected to undertake any relevant training and briefing during their term of appointment.

All members will be required to adhere to the Standards of Public Life and the Council's Code of Conduct.

### **Meeting Arrangements**

The quorum for making valid decisions at each meeting will be a minimum of five, with a majority of independent members required.

If a Member cannot attend a meeting and they have a suitable substitute available, the substitute can attend in their place.

In the absence of the Chair at a meeting, the Committee will elect a Chair for the meeting.

Meetings are private and the agenda, reports and minutes will be circulated to Committee Members only.

### **Executive and Administrative Support**

An Officer of Dumfries and Galloway Council will provide this support.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

There will be at least an annual meeting of the Management Committee and normally two meetings each calendar year.

Any changes to the schedule (i.e. more or fewer meetings) can be determined by the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chair.

### **Decision Making Process**

Decisions will be made by the scoring of applications by the Management Committee against the Fund Criteria and Scoring Framework provided. Committee Members will be provided with applications in advance of meetings, so if unable to attend can submit their scores in advance.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

Successful applicants will submit a monitoring report on at least an annual basis for the duration of their project, and a report will be scrutinised by the Management Committee to ensure that the funding has fulfilled its purpose.

### **Finances**

The monies will be held and administered on behalf of the Fund's Management Committee by Dumfries and Galloway Council's finance system;

Payments will be made to and come from a designated account held by the Council, and are only accessed by those authorised to administer the Fund – the funds cannot be spent on anything else.

At least an annual Budget Monitoring Report will be submitted to the Management Committee.

Running costs will come from the fund itself, initially at 10% in line with other funds of this type. The percentage will be reviewed in the event of extra funds being contributed to the RWCF, to ensure costs are met without over-charging the Fund.

## **3. Budget**

### 3.1 Income

The total contributed to the Fund ahead of the first round of applications was £190,750 coming from the first 2 years of contributions from the Airies Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

### 3.2 Expenditure

The outgoings of the Fund in 2019/20 were: £174,989.01 committed to projects in the region.

As previously agreed, 10% of the fund will go towards running and admin costs which will equate to around £9,000 per year. It's agreed by the Management Committee that any excess funding not allocated will be carried forward for the next round of applications.

#### **4 2019/20 Grants**

4.1 The application form, criteria, eligibility, and Scoring Framework were agreed by the Management Committee and also the timetable as follows:

Applications opened – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Closing of applications - 5pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

4.2 59 valid applications were received and after scoring and consideration by the Management Committee, 29 were successful as set out in Table 1. Unsuccessful applicants have been advised they can re-apply to future rounds of the Fund.

4.3 The grant application process, the Scoring Framework, checks on the governance arrangements and financial sustainability of applicants and the grant conditions are based on established arrangements that are already in place for other grants and are therefore consistent with Audit Scotland 'Following The Public Pound' and other best practice guidance.

4.4 Each successful project is required to submit a Monitoring Report to evidence the achievement of the project outcomes. These Monitoring Reports are to be returned within 12 months of accepting the award, and this information will be submitted for consideration by the Management Committee. As this is the first year of the fund, information isn't available yet to report feedback from successful projects, though this will be included in future annual reports.

Table 1

<b>Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Award</b>
Ae Community Council	Ae Banking Project – recreational area	£5,843.10
Annandale Community Transport Services	Community transport in Langholm & Canonbie area	£7,500.00
Auchencairn Community Council	Feasibility study to make the village hall and toilets inclusive, disabled friendly and relevant to current needs	£1,822.50
Birchvale Players	St Peters School Refurbishment	£7,500.00
Bunbury Banter CIC	Beneath The Dust 2021	£7,500.00
Carsethorn Community Development Group	Carsethorn Sea Defences	£7,500.00
Castle Douglas Development Forum	Future proofing the Heart of Galloway	£5,067.00
Crawick Multiverse Trust	Understanding the Crawick Multiverse	£7,012.50
Creetown Building Preservation Trust	St Joseph's Performing Arts Venue	£7,500.00
Dalbeattie Star Youth Football	Improvement to Colliston Park Community Football Pitch for Youth Team Football, access to winter training facilities and additional kit to support Dalbeattie Star Youth Football Club.	£1,411.66
DG Outdoor Access Trust	New Galloway Link Path	£7,500.00
Dumfries Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition	£5,142.00
Ecclefechan Day Centre	Maintaining services to vulnerable people during the COVID19 pandemic	£1,425.00
Galloway Community Transport	Patient Transport Service	£6,300.00
Glentrool & Bargrennan Community Trust	3 Semi Detached Houses in Glentrool Village	£10,000.00
Kirkcudbright Community Tennis Club	Kirkcudbright Community Tennis Club Community Development	£7,500.00
Kirkpatrick Fleming Play Park SCIO	Kirkpatrick Fleming Inclusive Play Park	£10,000.00
Langholm Initiative	Digital Skills Project	£7,237.50
LIFT D&G	Lift D&G	£8,430.00
Moffat Community Woodlands	Community woodland development – 10% challenge	£7,460.25
Moffat Walkers Weekend	Moffat Walking Weekend	£375.00
New Galloway Community Enterprises	Glenkens Oil-buying Co-operative	£2,317.50
Newton Stewart Museum	Essential repair to turret	£7,500.00
Palnackie Village Shop limited	The Palnackie Village Shop Limited – increasing sustainability	£5,550.00
Solway Sk8ing Club	Solway Sk8ing Club	£1,875.00

Stranraer Development Trust	Gateway to Galloway Visitor Centre - Community Hub	£6,750.00
Upland CIC	Making our Future	£5,970.00
Upper Nithsdale Tourism Partnership	Promoting Upper Nithsdale As A Tourist Destination through Events and Festivals	£7,500.00
Whithorn Trust	Whithorn Trust Capital Development Planning	£7,500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£174,989.01</b>

### **5. Communications and information**

5.1 A webpage for the Fund was created on the dumgal website: <https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/20249/Dumfries-and-Galloway-Regionwide-Community-Fund> and has received 1294 unique visitors over the past 12 months

5.2 The promotion of the Fund was through the Council's website, social media, information distributed to Elected Members, Community Councils, as well as being included in third sector funding information for the region.