

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **CHIEF OFFICER, TRANSPORT AND STREESCENE**

**SUBJECT:**           **LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUNDING FROM WASTE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To inform Cabinet of the mechanism to apply for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund.
- 1.02 To confirm the process to raise awareness of the fund within the community.
- 1.03 To seek a recommendation from Cabinet on the process to review and prioritise internal Council applications into the fund.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 The Government introduced a tax on landfill waste in 1996 to help reduce the amount of material sent to landfill and in order to promote more environmentally sustainable methods of waste management and disposal.
- 2.02 Since 1996, Landfill Operators have paid Landfill tax to HM Revenue & Customs on every tonne of waste disposed in their landfill sites. The amount paid per tonne has increased year on year since 1996 and now stands at £80 per tonne.
- 2.03 The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme which 'offsets' some of the negative impacts of landfill site operations. Under the scheme, landfill operators are able to pay a proportion of their Landfill tax liability to 'not-for-profit' organisations which deliver projects for the benefit of communities and the environment in the vicinity of a landfill site. The scheme is nationally regulated by Entrust and organisations can bid for funding up to a level that equate to 90% of the final cost of a scheme, with the final 10% coming from either the promoting organisation or from another source.
- 2.04 Landfill funding must be spent in compliance with Entrust Regulations which set out specific objectives for projects, which include the following:

**Objective A:** The remediation or restoration of land which can not now be used because of a ceased activity that used to take place there.

**Objective B:** The reduction, prevention or mitigation of effects of pollution that has resulted, or may result, from an activity which has now ceased.

**Objective C:** The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity.

**Objective D:** The conservation of a specific species or a specific habitat where it naturally occurs.

**Objective E:** The repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship or a place of architectural importance.

2.05 Until 2012 the Council disposed of its residual domestic in Waste Recycling Groups (Now FCC Environment) Gowy landfill site and the distribution and approval of the LCF was controlled by the companies own Environmental Trust (WREN). Previously and up until the end of the contract, the Council has been successful in obtaining funding for community benefit schemes from this source, with the final schemes being completed in 2013.

2.06 Since 2012, the Councils domestic waste is landfilled in Cory Environmental's Landfill site in Hafod near Wrexham and bids from the Council and community for funding from the LCF are now considered and approved by the independent Cory Environmental Trust (CET)

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Any 'not for profit' organisation can apply for funding directly to Cory Environmental Trust (including Community and County Councils) assuming the bid meets the criteria and that the organisation is able to provide the necessary 10% contribution. The Board of Trustees at CET meets quarterly to assess applications on merit and decide which projects will then receive funding.

3.02 In order that any bid can be considered the following information will be required.

- a description of the project with appropriate plans/maps/drawings/photographs
- an estimate of the total costs including the amount requested (if different) together with copy quotations received for the work
- a list of any other funders involved or approached
- what groups have been involved in the project and or who will

benefit from its completion

3.03 Details on how to make a bid for funding through LCF can be found by visiting the organisations web-site [www.cetb.org.uk](http://www.cetb.org.uk)

3.04 In order to raise awareness of the LCF within communities it is recommended that an information letter is sent to each Town and Community Council and to the Local Member providing them with information on the application process. In addition the Council will issue a press statement, providing details of the scheme and the contact details for Cory Environment Trust. Finally details on how to make a submission will also be provided on the Councils web-site.

3.05 In order to identify Council commissioned submissions which meet the criteria, information on the bidding process will also be provided to service managers and staff in the Council through the following means:

- Through COT
- Through the Councils internal web site
- Through Cabinet Members.

Council submissions need to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> October for each year of the grant scheme.

3.06 In order to prioritise, regulate and provide consistency in the internal Council bidding process, the submissions will be approved by the Cabinet Member for Waste Management Strategy and Public Protection after discussion with the Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation, prior to submission to CET.

The method of prioritising the Council bids passed to CET will be based on the following:

- Degree of local support for the project
- Certainty of funding contribution
- Links to Council Corporate Priorities

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That Cabinet note the mechanism to apply for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund.

4.02 That Cabinet approve the proposals to raise awareness of the fund as detailed in section 3.04 of this report.

4.03 That Cabinet agree the mechanism for selecting suitable internal Council bids based on the criteria in section 3.06 of this report.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Any internal bids into the fund will require a 10% contribution.

5.02 The current level of landfill tax funding linked to Flintshire's waste disposal operations in Hafod is £153,514.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Scheme dependant.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 With Cabinet Member.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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