

HEYSHAM SOUTH WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND GUIDELINES

FILE NOTE

RE/M/741/COM-PR

Purpose of the Fund

A fund to be known as the Heysham South Wind Farm Community Fund has been established to provide financial assistance to community groups, voluntary organisations and the local community in the area of the Heysham South Wind Farm. The geographical boundaries for fund eligibility will normally be restricted to the parishes of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Heysham, Middleton and Overton. Projects outside of these areas may be eligible if it can be shown that they benefit local people from these parishes.

Administration of the Fund

The fund will be administered by the Banks Community Fund in consultation with the Community Fund Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "CFC"). The CFC will be made up of five voting members, as follows:

- One representative from each of the Parish Councils mentioned above.
- One representative from Lancashire County Council
- One representative from Lancaster City Council

Representatives from The Banks Community Fund and Heysham South Wind Farm Ltd may also attend meetings (probably on an annual basis only). Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should take place every two years.

The final decision on individual applications will lie with the Banks Community Fund who will be advised by the CFC. The Banks Community Fund will normally expect to follow the recommendations of the CFC. Successful applicants for grant funding will normally be required to contribute 10% of the value of each grant to cover the cost of administration of the fund by the Banks Community Fund.

Amount of Fund

The fund will be credited with £10,000 per annum. This payment will be subject to an index linked review (RPI) every 5 years. The first payment will be made after the wind farm is commissioned and becomes fully operational. Subsequent payments into the fund will be paid by Heysham South Wind Farm Ltd on an annual basis on the anniversary of the first payment and for a period of 25 years or until the site ceases to produce electricity, whichever is sooner. An additional, one off amount of £50,000 will also be available but will be ring-fenced to support energy efficiency / community renewable schemes to community buildings and spaces.

Administration Costs

The Banks Community Fund will charge an administration fee of 10% which will normally be recovered from successful grant applicants at the discretion of the Banks Community Fund advised by the CFC.

Matched Funding

Where appropriate, and in agreement with the CFC the Banks Community Fund will consider opportunities for securing matched funding and to direct grants through registered charities or to qualifying projects via the local charitable foundations to make grants more tax efficient and to increase the benefits available. (Any administration fees charged by the local charitable foundation may be paid by the Heysham South Wind Farm Community fund).

Who is Eligible?

Community groups and voluntary organisations operating within and benefiting people who live in the eligible area will be considered for grant assistance with particular emphasis being placed on the children, senior citizens and disabled within the community. Examples are:

- Schools, colleges
- Playgroups
- Youth clubs
- Sports clubs and facilities
- The Scout and Guide Movement
- Senior citizens clubs and activities
- Village Halls
- Church Halls
- Parish Council projects
- Residents Associations
- Local charities
- Environmental benefits

Amount of Grant Assistance

The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to as many good causes as is possible within the eligible areas. It is expected that the majority of individual grants will be less than £3,000. Applications to the energy fund will normally be under £10,000. Applications for higher amounts will be considered in special circumstances but will be referred to the Banks Community Fund for final approval.

What Kind of Projects are Eligible for Grant Assistance?

Grants will normally be directed towards capital costs of purchase rather than running costs although in special circumstances some contribution may be available for associated revenue or project management fees. In addition the fund may be used to support training, apprenticeship and employment initiatives for local people within the eligible area of the fund. It is important that the local people decide on the priorities for funding in their area through the CFC.

Application Procedure

All applications should be made on the appropriate form. Standard circular requests for assistance will not be considered. Applications will be considered by the CFC who will make recommendations to the Banks Community Fund on qualifying projects.

Applicants may be invited to provide further information or make a presentation to the CFC in support of their bid if required.

Cheques will be made payable to the supplier of the goods. In the case of advance payments made by the community group the amount will be refunded to the community group applying for the grant once the capital purchase has been confirmed. Where the grant forms a contribution towards the cost of a larger amount, the Banks Community Fund may issue a pledge certificate which sets aside an amount from the fund for a period of 12 months.

Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision in relation to each bid.

What Happens to Surplus Funds?

Any surplus funds not allocated at the completion of site operations (25 years) will be applied by The Banks Community Fund to provide benefit to the local community in the eligible area.

Lewis Stokes
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