



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – September 2023

We met on 12th September for a Trustee meeting with a focus on Funding and Fund Strategy

Funding Round - Next closing date

Remember the deadline for application for the next round is **19th September**, with decisions in mid-November.

The annual payment from Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd has now been received and the small grants communications to Community Councils will come out later this week.

Arrangement with Foundation Scotland

We discussed the terms of the proposed contract with Foundation Scotland, noting the key terms and the manner GDT gets assurance that Foundation Scotland are complying with their contractual arrangement and the steps to be put in place to ensure effective management of the contract. The Trustees approved entering into the Agreement.

Grant Making Report and Budget Projections

We reviewed the Grant Making Report prepared by Foundation Scotland noting the uncommitted funds, pending transactions and available balance. We also reviewed the End of Grant final monitoring reports to assure ourselves on how the awards have been utilised. There are unfortunately some parties who have not provided a report despite being chased. Failure to provide this report is noted and will be taken into account when considering future requests from the applicant organisation.

We spent considerable time on the financial projections for both the Main Fund and the Education and Training Fund, looking both at the available balance and the cash flow impacts.

As previously highlighted the impact of increased costs for applicants set against the fact that the Glenkens & District Community Fund is not growing in line with inflation requires the Trustees to consider carefully how we manage the decision making on awards from the Main Fund in a fair and transparent way while maximising the positive impact on the community from these awards. Our current budget assumption is that c£100k will be available for the November decision making round on the Main Fund.

To manage future rounds, we did consider whether we should reduce the level of grant available via multi year awards but decided at this time not to do so. We want to assess the impact of the new process we are introducing as set out in the section on large grants in the revised Fund Strategy before doing so.

The Education and Training Fund has proven very popular and we discussed how much monies we should ring fence for this going forward. We agreed that to enable us to do this robustly we should bring forward the annual review of the fund due in late October in order to provide us with a better evidence base to assess this and a sub group is going to work on this to bring forward proposals in mid-October for consideration by the full Board. We want to ensure that there is a good range of support available for this important area, however, as with the Community Fund we are acutely aware that funds are finite so we need to ensure we balance demand with ensuring benefit can be spread across as many beneficiaries as possible.

In conclusion we agreed a budget and cash flow, recognising that projections are based on forecasts.

Fund Strategy

As highlighted in our last report the final version of the amended Fund Strategy came back for approval and was approved. The new version will be published on 20 September and will form part of the new Glenkens & District Community Fund arrangements. The key changes are:-

- We have published the dates for applications in 2024/25.
- We have introduced a two-stage application process for large (£25,000+) multi year awards as well as made clear that awards at the upper end of the limit will be exceptional. The two-stage process will enable us to provide early feedback to applicants before they spend time working up a detailed application.
- Now that we have set twice yearly fund application deadlines we have tightened up on the eligibility for what we called 'Out of Cycle' awards. They are now only available in an emergency situation.
- As discussed at our AGM we want to ensure we utilise the available funds to leverage longer term benefits. Related to this we have plans to develop an approach to providing proactive support for key anchor organisations which leverage in significant other funding, build capacity and provide stability to smaller grass roots and start up initiatives across our area. We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

Decisions made outwith the Board meeting cycle:

None

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will do a detailed review of the Education and Training Fund in light of experience to date and funding availability.

We will publish the amended Fund Strategy and launch the new Glenkens & District Community Fund identity.

On closing of applications Foundation Scotland will embark on their assessment process to enable Trustees to make decisions in mid-November.

We will review the Biggar Economics Report commissioned by South of Scotland Enterprise we mentioned in our last report when it is finally published.

We will continue our work to ensure we evolve as an organisation to meet the challenges we face.

We will continue to liaise with developers.