

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 167/16

SCHEDULE 3

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 APRIL 2016

ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Committee of the grants awarded in 2015/16 from the Angus Environmental Trust (AET) and provides an update on the new Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) implemented from 1 April 2015

1. BACKGROUND – ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

- 1.1 The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 and Landfill Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1999 established the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme which was then renamed the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in 2015. Since October 1996 operators have been liable for the payment of landfill tax based on the tonnage of material sent to landfill. At the same time operators have the option of off-setting part of the tax by making payments to environmental bodies.
- 1.2 Angus Environmental Trust, a company limited by guarantee, was incorporated in August 1997 and enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of the scheme under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme in September 1997. Angus Council as landfill operator has since availed itself of this alternative course of action by making payments to Angus Environmental Trust.
- 1.3 The Trust entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Angus Council in 1997 to support the programme and this has continued on an annual basis. In accordance with the requirements of the SLA, a copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts has been submitted annually to members for information. It may be noted that there are no procurement implications arising from the SLA as this grant arrangement has been verified to be outwith the scope of public procurement rules.

2. 2015/16 PROJECTS APPROVED

Project Reference	Project Name
122043.111	Pitnappie Cutting, Newtyle
122043.112	City of Brechin Community Council-Wild Flower Meadow
122043.114	Glamis Primary School Eco Garden
122043.115	Letham Feuars Hall
122403.116	Glamis Community Council-St Fergus Well
122043.117	City of Brechin Community Council- Outdoor Gym

- 2.2 All remaining monies currently held by Angus Environmental Trust under the existing scheme and all projects will require to be completed and funding claimed by no later than 31 March 2017, at which date the current scheme will be closed.
- 2.3 A copy of the 2015/16 annual report and accounts and annual newsletter October 2014 to September 2015 can be found in the Members Information Hub.

3. SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) commenced on 1 April 2015 and builds on the established Landfill Communities Fund.
- 3.2 The AET Website, Application and Guidance, and Administrative documents have been updated to reflect the changes for the new SLCF Scheme.

- 3.3 The new scheme now requires approved bodies to accept applications for projects taking place anywhere across Scotland, not solely in Angus.
- 3.4 There are six types, or objects, of project that qualify for SLCF funding. Under the new scheme approved bodies are required to accept applications pertaining to any object. The six approved objects of the scheme are:

- Object A: The reclamation, remediation, restoration or other operation on land to facilitate economic, social or environmental use.
- Object B: Community based recycling, re-use and waste prevention projects.
- Object C*: To provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity. Must be in the vicinity of a landfill or transfer station.
- Object D*: The conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. Must be in the vicinity of a landfill or transfer station.
- Object E*: The maintenance, repair or restoration of a building, other structure or a site of archaeological interest which is a place of religious worship, or a site of historic or architectural or archaeological interest and is open to the public. Must be in the vicinity of a landfill or transfer station.
- Object F: The provision of financial, administration and other similar services to projects that are enrolled with an Approved Body.

*To qualify for funding, these projects must be located within 10 miles of a landfill site or transfer station.

- 3.5 The Trust is now open for applications under the new scheme and has to date received 6 enquiries as follows:

Project Name	Location
Loch Lomond Shores	Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire
Reay Recreational Regeneration	Thurso, Caithness
Inshes Community Association	Inverness
Eassie Nevay & Kirkinch Community Association	Balkeerie, Angus
Ballumbie Estate - Frogs	Ballumbie Estate, Angus
Cameron House - Enchanted Wood	Loch Lomond, Dunbartonshire

- 3.6 The Directors of the Trust agreed the Service Level Agreement (SLA) ending 30 September 2015 be extended to cover the period from 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016, in anticipation of the new SLA for the start of the SEPA scheme starting on 1 April 2016. The Directors seek permission for the committee to homologate their decision.
- 3.7 The Service Level Agreement with Angus Council, revised 1 April 2016, will continue and the administration of the Trust will be led by economic development officers with support from officers from Corporate Improvement & Finance and the Legal & Democratic Services Divisions. The Trust contributes to these staff costs.