



EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Local Development Plan 2

Community Benefits

Non-statutory Planning Guidance

2024

Non Statutory Planning Guidance Community Benefits



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1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Community benefits present an opportunity for communities to share in the benefits of development in their area. They also represent an opportunity to offset residual impacts of development on local communities, which even with appropriate mitigation, cannot always be completely avoided, such as heavy vehicle movements through communities, dust, noise and impacts on their surrounding landscape. For clarity, this document provides guidance on community benefits from renewable energy and mineral extraction developments only.
- 1.2. Community benefits are a voluntary, non-mandatory contribution given to the community by operators and are **completely separate from the planning process**. Community benefits can be wide ranging and can deliver a variety of projects, such as improved infrastructure, new community facilities, job creation schemes and environmental education projects.
- 1.3. **There is no statutory requirement or obligation for community benefits to be offered**, however, the principle of community benefits has been embedded within East Ayrshire for a number of years, in terms of:
 - coal operators in East Ayrshire have a long record of contributing to the Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust Fund. Significant amounts of money have been gathered and then distributed by the Minerals Trust, supporting a range of community organisations, events and projects.
 - Separate from the Minerals Trust Fund, quarry operators in most cases, agree a community benefit directly with the nearby community, on a site by site basis.
 - The East Ayrshire Renewable Energy Fund was established in 2010 and distributes funds to community groups. Currently, 5 wind farm operators pay into the REF annually, in respect of Whitelee, Galawhistle, Harehill Extension, Afton and Sneddons Law wind farms.
- 1.4 East Ayrshire Council encourages Minerals and Renewables developers to offer community benefits to enable communities to share in the benefits of local energy and mineral resources. Community benefits offer an opportunity for developers and communities to come together to ensure that communities are at the heart of both the transition to a low carbon, green energy system and the use of local land for essential minerals.

There are a range of ways in which community benefits can be managed and distributed. The Council recognises that in many instances developers will work directly with communities to agree and distribute community benefits. This is an entirely reasonable option, which the Council has no objection to, and which often works well.

When working directly with the community, the Scottish Government guidance '*Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments*' is fully endorsed by the Council and all developers are directed to follow this best practice guidance.

Fundamental to the Council's position on community benefits is that the priority is to achieve lasting benefits that make a real difference to our communities. The Council supports all approaches and mechanisms that will best meet this key objective.

2.0 Renewable Energy

- 2.1 As stated above, the Council recognises that there are a range of ways in which community benefits can be managed. This guidance focuses on the East Ayrshire Renewable Energy Fund (REF), established by the Council in 2010 to distribute community benefits from wind energy developments within East Ayrshire. It reflects one option open to developers and communities in terms of managing community benefits. The overall purpose of the REF is to support a wide range of community projects that can deliver clear and tangible benefits to local communities.
- 2.2 Having the Council administer, distribute and manage community benefit funds can be advantageous to communities and developers alike. To date the renewable energy fund has successfully invested in a range of valuable projects benefiting local communities, such as the Irvine Valley paths network, refurbishment of office space for the New Cumnock Community Development Trust, the creation of a dementia friendly memories garden in Cumnock and improvements to the Dunlop community hub. It gives the Council the ability to work in partnership with community groups, offering advice and guidance at different stages in the community benefit process. Where possible the Council can assist communities in identifying and securing match funding from other funding sources helping to maximise the benefits of the renewables funding. For developers, the REF option provides a transparent and fair approach to managing community benefits and ensures there is clear process and audit trail aligned with the funding.

What level of funding should developers contribute to the Renewable Energy Fund?

- 2.3 At a national level, the Scottish Government best practice guidance promotes community benefits of the value equivalent to £5,000 per installed megawatt per annum, index linked for the operational lifetime of the project. Whilst the Council endorses this as a recognised starting point and a level that communities have come to expect based on the willingness of the operators to offer this amount of funding, the actual amount to be contributed is ultimately up to the developer to determine. As is the mechanism they wish to use for managing the benefits. A flexible approach, that is tailored to best meet the needs of communities and satisfy the developer, taking account of the form of renewable energy being developed, is considered the best way forward. Taking account of the significant level of renewable energy development, primarily wind farms, being brought forward in East Ayrshire from multiple developers, the Council supports collaborative approaches to community benefits whereby developers come together to maximise, rather than duplicate, outcomes for communities.

How will the renewable energy fund operate?

- 2.4 The Renewable Energy Fund has now been operational for in excess of 10 years. In that time, the renewables sector and the way in which the renewables sector engage with communities has changed significantly. As a result, there is a need for the REF to evolve to ensure it remains a fit for purpose mechanism for delivering best value for communities. The REF therefore supports communities in 3 ways:

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- Community benefits grants scheme
- Enabling participatory budgeting
- Strategic Legacy projects funding

It remains up to the developer to decide how they wish their contribution to be managed.

1. Community Benefits Grants schemes

- 2.5 Renewables developers may opt for their annual funding, either fully or in part, to be paid into the REF and used to fund community-led projects. Community groups may apply to the REF for funding and it is then up to the Council's Grants Committee to determine which applications receive funding, based on how well they meet the funding criteria (see appendix 1). **Only legacy projects will be supported, defined as projects that will have long-term benefits.** This does not preclude relatively small scale projects; a small scale project such as funding to rejuvenate a community garden could have benefits for years to come in terms of biodiversity and community wellbeing.
- 2.6 For the first 10 years that a renewable energy development contributes to this element of the fund, the funding will be directed exclusively to projects within 10km of the boundary of the wind energy development. This is to ensure that the monies are linked to needs and aspirations of those communities local to the development. Where a settlement is partly within the 10km boundary, the whole of the settlement will be eligible to seek REF funding. **An exception to the 10km requirement can be made should a project have clear benefits both within and beyond the 10km boundary, as agreed with the relevant community and the developer, such as new footpath or woodland planting scheme which may have sites both within and outwith the boundary.** In this respect, the grants committee will have the ability to apply the criteria with some flexibility.
- 2.7 Following the initial 10 year period, a review will be undertaken as to whether part of the fund should be widened out to make it available to a wider spatial area, incorporating a larger number of communities than those within the 10km buffer. This review will take into account;
- (i) ongoing need and demand for the funding within the 10km buffer, taking cognisance of the type and range of projects that have been supported over the initial 10 year period;
 - (ii) the funding landscape beyond the 10km buffer. This will examine what other community benefits funding is available to what communities. The over-riding aim is to ensure community benefits funding is fair and proportionate. The 10km buffer should only be removed or widened if there is a clear case to justify spreading the benefits further i.e. it will allow communities that have not had access or only access to very limited community benefits funding to share in opportunities presented by the monies paid into the REF. The following groups are eligible to apply for REF community benefits grants:
 - Constituted Voluntary and Community Organisations including community councils, community led action plan steering groups, trusts and organisations

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with charitable status where the project can demonstrate wider community benefit.

- Social Economy or Social Enterprise projects where the project may be a Company Limited by Guarantee and/or have charitable status. Any profits made by the project are reinvested in the project.
- Local Authority or other agencies or anchor institutions where the project is led or supported by the community, is new and **does not** represent a substitution of core Council business activities.

Note: The REF will not be used to benefit specific individuals or to promote any political purpose. In all cases the benefits to communities and groups in East Ayrshire must be demonstrated. The REF will not be used for projects that are the statutory responsibility of the Council.

2.8 Communities within East Ayrshire have a strong record of mobilising themselves and initiating and delivering projects. In order to ensure there is a planned and inclusive approach to undertaking community projects, the Council supports the development of community action plans, which are developed by and for the community with a high level of buy in from residents across the community. These include:

- Community-led action plans - contain a number of key priorities for action as well as specific projects that communities would like to see implemented.
- Local Place Plans – introduced and supported through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, Local Place Plans prepared by local communities, and where appropriate, adopted as Supplementary Guidance, take a place and action based approach to identifying and delivering improvements to communities.

As the plans described above are produced with a high degree of community engagement and buy in, applications to the REF for projects that will help deliver the priorities set out in these plans will be particularly encouraged and supported.

2.9 There is no cap on the level of funding that can be sought from the REF. However, applicants to the REF are required to demonstrate that they have also applied for project funding from other sources. The REF will not routinely provide 100% grant funding to any project, although the Council's Grants Committee does have discretion to consider a higher intervention rate for appropriate projects in exceptional circumstances, for example, projects which are of strategic importance and where there is evidence that match funding from other sources has been unsuccessful or there is a valid reason why it has not been sought.

2.10 As the REF seeks to support projects of a scale that can make a lasting difference to communities, the fund will not support applications with a value less than £1,000.

2. Participatory budgeting

2.11 Participatory budgeting offers an alternative approach to the grants committee scheme set out above. It is a process which directly involves local people in the decision making about how funding, which may include public funding, is spent in their community. The basic model is for individuals or groups to present to the community a project idea and the level of funds needed to progress the idea. It is then for members of the local community to vote and decide on what should be supported, bearing in mind that there will likely be more money requested than is available to distribute.

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- 2.12 Participatory budgeting in respect of renewable energy money has been piloted in East Ayrshire, with the use of participatory budgeting to distribute community benefit monies from the Galawhistle wind farm. The annual community benefit from Galawhistle is approximately £45,000 with Muirkirk and Glenbuck being the only communities within the 10km boundary of the wind farm and therefore the only communities eligible to access the funding. In this respect, participatory budgeting has proven a good fit for this particular funding stream, with the community well engaged in the process and keen for it to continue. Whilst there may be opportunities to replicate this approach elsewhere, this will be dependent on the nature of the renewables development and the geography of the settlements surrounding it. Where there are numerous communities within 10km of a wind farm, the potential for participatory budgeting is likely to be limited, due to the complexities in allocating monies fairly and transparently.

3. Strategic legacy projects

- 2.13 The Council is increasingly aware that renewables developers and communities want renewables developments, and the associated community benefits, to result in a significant lasting legacy. Many renewables consents are for 25 years, however, the legacy of these developments for communities should far exceed 25 years. The scale of projects is also important; the REF has in its first 10 years supported a range of valuable projects, of differing scales and securing different benefits. Moving forward, the REF will offer even greater opportunity for large scale projects that have the ability to provide real difference across communities, such as new tourism facilities, job creation or landscape scale environmental enhancements. The REF therefore offers the opportunity for renewables developers to work collaboratively with the Council and communities to explore how funds can be managed to better achieve more strategic outcomes.
- 2.14 Strategic legacy projects can take a range of different formats and deliver a range of different outcomes. The Council is particularly supportive of projects, that link to existing regional scale projects, which the REF could add significant value to. Examples include:

- **Community Renewable Energy (CoRE) project**

With a focus on Cumnock and its surrounding area, the CoRE project aims to put the area at the forefront of the transition to a low carbon future, by piloting and delivering low carbon energy solutions. With significant funding from the Ayrshire Growth Deal, a new Centre of Excellence will be built in Cumnock and a programme of demonstrator projects delivered. There is potential for REF funding to expand the scope and reach of the CoRE project by increasing the number of demonstrator projects that can be undertaken or by funding the roll out in the community of emerging technologies.

- **Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership (CCLP)**

The Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership is a 5 year National Lottery Heritage Fund project, which takes a community-led approach to the delivering a range of the environmental and heritage projects across the former coalfield area.

An important part of the partnership is to ensure it has a lasting legacy and that the achievements over the 5 years are maintained. The REF funding could contribute to CCLP legacy projects such as the expansion of peatland restoration, further consolidation and regeneration of the Doon Valley Railway and ongoing operation and further expansion of the Lugar Heritage Centre.

- **UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere**

The UNESCO biosphere is a cross-boundary regional designation, comprising the southern part of East Ayrshire along with parts of South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. The area has been recognised by UNESCO as a special place to promote conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. The biosphere team works collaboratively with local businesses and communities to promote sustainable development; the REF funding could support this work.

- **9CC Strategic development plan**

The 9 Community Council Group (9CC) is partnership of 9 community Councils across the Southern part of East Ayrshire, comprising Auchinleck, Cumnock, Netherthird, Cronberry, Logan & Lugar, New Cumnock, Dalmellington, Patna, Drongan, Rankinston & Stair and Ochiltree. The group has come together to form a cohesive and democratic approach to community benefits, engaging directly with renewables operators in order to best manage the significant levels of funding that will likely come the community's way. The 9CC group has prepared a Strategic Development Plan, which will be used as the basis for preparing a more focussed action plan for the medium to long term, setting out flagship investment priorities. Whilst the 9CC group intend to work directly with the renewables industry, there may be opportunities where REF money could also be used to help deliver the flagship priorities, providing benefits across communities.

- **Hagshaw development framework**

The development framework, centred on Hagshaw Hill to the west of Muirkirk, has been prepared in collaboration between East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Councils, NatureScot, renewables developers and other interested stakeholders. It aims to achieve a more joined up approach to renewables development in the area, to achieve better outcomes for all. The Framework highlights a number of opportunities, which REF monies could contribute to, such as strategic recreational routes, new active travel hubs and a local heritage trail.

- **Stewarton development framework**

The Stewarton Development framework will be adopted as Supplementary Guidance, sitting alongside Local Development Plan 2. Actions, which could be supported by the REF include streetscape improvements to Avenue Square, the historic heart of Stewarton, improvements to the blue-green network within the town, the delivery of a lighting strategy and the implementation of expanded cycle infrastructure.

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- Kilrnarnock development framework

The Kilrnarnock development framework will be adopted as Supplementary Guidance, sitting alongside Local Development Plan 2. It focuses on two spatial parts of the town; the town centre and the South Central. The development framework includes placemaking plans and associated action plans for the two areas. REF funding could be used to help deliver some of the priorities, such as improving riverside paths and habitats along the Kilrnarnock water, enhancing gateway spaces such as St Marnock's Square and Kilrnarnock Cross and introducing new uses into long term vacant buildings.

- 2.15 Community benefits funding would not replace existing committed funding. Instead, they would add to funding already secured to allow benefits to be expanded and multiplied. In order to ensure transparency, should the community benefits be used for the projects referenced above, or other large schemes, it will be necessary to ring fence the community benefits funding for particular deliverables and these deliverables clearly monitored and the reported on.
- 2.16 In order to deliver strategic legacy projects, the Council is committed to working with renewables operators and local communities to ensure funding meets the aspirations of all. From the Council perspective, this commitment involves expertise from across Council Services, including those delivering the Ayrshire Growth Deal, skills and employability officers and the Vibrant Communities team. By working collaboratively, distinct projects that can be delivered either fully or in part by the REF monies will be identified alongside the stakeholders who are best placed to oversee delivery.
- 2.17 The 10km requirement will not apply to strategic legacy projects as these are intended to have wider, regional benefits. However, judgement will be used to ensure that the use of the monies will benefit those communities in close proximity to the renewables development. For example, a wind farm in New Cumnock could result in a new outdoor recreational facility being built in Dalmellington (or vice-versa), accessible to surrounding communities in line with local community strategies. It would not be appropriate for the funding to be used to fund a similar facility in the Irvine Valley area, for example.
- 2.18 In principle, the Council will support cross-boundary strategic legacy projects which cross into neighbouring local authorities and legacy projects that cross community boundaries. This reflects the reality that things like community life, recreational opportunities and environmental enhancement priorities do not stop at local authority or community boundaries and such boundaries therefore should not present a barrier to achieving the best outcomes for all. Similarly, it is not uncommon for renewable energy development site boundaries to straddle local authority boundaries.

3. Minerals

- 3.1 Similar to renewables, the Council recognises that there are a range of mechanisms (e.g. funds, training schemes etc) available for community benefits from minerals developments, that sit outwith the remit of this guidance. The choice of whether and how to deliver community benefits lies with the developer. The Council also recognises that the aggregates levy is an additional cost, unique to aggregates extraction, which impacts upon aggregates developers. With that said, many operators in East Ayrshire do choose to pay community benefits, and the East Ayrshire Minerals Fund represents one option available to do so. This guidance provides information on this option in this context.
- 3.2 There is currently no coal being extracted within East Ayrshire, with focus now on restoration and rural regeneration. In the context of the climate emergency and the shift to clean green energy, it is not anticipated that this situation will change in the foreseeable future. Should applications for new coal extraction come forward they will be assessed against the appropriate policies of the development plan and developers will be encouraged to contribute to the Minerals Fund at an appropriate rate taking account to the price of coal at that time.
- 3.3 For non-coal extraction, the Council suggests applicants make a community contribution to help offset any impact on local communities. It is recognised that in general, sand and gravel quarries have a lesser impact on local communities than coal extraction generally had, given that they usually require less land and less extensive operations to access the minerals. Community contributions could therefore comprise an annual contribution, based on an appropriate rate per tonne of minerals worked, taking account of the particular site specific circumstances of the development. It is suggested that 0.5% of the purchase price paid for the mineral should be set aside for community benefits. **A developer may choose to provide a higher or lower amount and/ or use a different calculation method and still contribute to the fund.**

The Minerals Fund

Why have a Minerals Fund?

- 3.4 The East Ayrshire Minerals Fund (MF) was established by the Council in 2020 to distribute community benefit funds from minerals extraction developments within East Ayrshire. The purpose of the MF is to support a wide range of community projects that can benefit the local community and, if appropriate, cross boundary projects with a view to providing greater opportunity for communities within East Ayrshire to benefit. The focus of this fund is *entirely* on legacy projects, i.e. projects that have a long term impact; that is the difference between this fund and existing minerals related funds in East Ayrshire. Legacy projects can be of a relatively small scale; the key is that the benefits of them will be maintained in the long term.
- 3.5 The MF has been designed to reflect the set up and functions of the REF and offers similar benefits to communities and developers. The level of contributions to be received into the Minerals fund is expected to be far below the monies contributed to the REF, reflective of the far greater development activity relating to renewables than

minerals extraction within East Ayrshire. For this reason, the Minerals Fund set up will continue to reflect the community benefits grants process that commenced in 2020.

Who can access the Minerals Fund?

- 3.6 Contributions paid into the Minerals Fund will be ring fenced for those communities affected by the particular minerals extraction site. Communities affected will be identified on a site by site basis, based on the nature of the extraction activity, duration, location and topography. Groups eligible to apply for MF funds are the same as those eligible for REF funds as set out in paragraph 2.8 above.
- 3.7 Minerals Fund applications will be determined by the Council's Grants committee.

What will the Minerals Fund monies be spent on?

- 3.8 The money will be available to carry out a wide range of projects that will benefit local communities. It seeks to support projects in relation to environmental enhancement, environmental education, employability and training, community based social enterprises, community led service provision, community led sports and leisure, and community income generating projects. The MF will not be used for projects that are the statutory responsibility of the Council.
- 3.9 Appendix 1 outlines the range of projects that will be supported by both the REF and the MF. As per paragraph 2.9 above, applications will particularly be supported for applications that support projects and priorities identified in community-led action plans and Local Place Plans.
- 3.10 Other projects which would benefit a number of communities and that are of a strategic nature (e.g. community transport initiatives) will also be particularly supported. This would ensure the deliverability of the projects identified but also help focus funding on projects that will benefit communities in the long term.

What level of support will the Minerals Fund offer?

- 3.11 There is no cap on the level of funding that can be sought from the MF, although the amount we are able to award will depend on the amount available within the fund, and within that, sums will be ring fenced for particular areas depending upon which development they are associated with i.e. monies associated with a quarry near Fenwick would not be available to applicants in the Cumnock and Doon Valley areas. Prospective applicants should enquire in advance of preparing any application, as to whether they are eligible for available funds geographically and to clarify the level of funding that is likely to be available.
- 3.12 If applicable in terms of geographical remit, and to avoid duplication of effort for community groups, one application can be made that applies for funding both from the REF and the MF. This may be possible, for example, for a project that is in close proximity to a quarry and within the 10km boundary of a wind farm, which are contributing to the MF and REF respectively. There is, however, no guarantee that an application will be successful for both funds, as for example, one of the funds may be particularly over-subscribed in comparison to the other.

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- 3.13 As the fund seeks to support projects of a scale that can make a lasting difference to communities, the fund will not support projects with a value less than £1,000, although it is open to applications for any proportion of this amount, provided it is less than 100%.

Appendix 1 – Eligibility criteria, assessment process and monitoring for REF and MF community benefits grants

What kind of projects will be supported?

Project eligibility criteria has been developed to ensure there is a fair and transparent approach to distributing REF and MF funding. The following types of projects are eligible to be considered for funding through both funds, in terms of the creation of new projects and extensions or improvements to projects already in existence:

- **Environmental projects:** for example, habitat restoration and management, woodland planting and maintenance, streetscape projects, community allotments and gardens and environmental arts projects.
- **Environmental education projects:** for example, school sensory gardens and habitat creation areas, weather stations and environmental education packs.
- **Employability and training programmes:** employability support and small business up-skilling programmes coordinated by East Ayrshire Employability Forum to enable members of the local community to access jobs in sectors of the economy where there are local job opportunities.
- **Community based social enterprises:** capital and revenue support is available for new or existing social enterprises to develop their project or expand their operation/geographical area of operations to the benefits of communities in East Ayrshire.
- **Community led service provision:** for example, new initiatives that help improve the environment such as rural community transport initiatives where there is demonstrable case that the project will reduce carbon footprint and/or improve the environment.
- **Community led sports and leisure:** for example, capital projects, such as improvements to sports/community land or buildings, pitch improvements, floodlighting, cycle tracks and path networks.
- **Community income-generating projects:** support for projects whose main focus is income generation to support community activity.
- **Health and wellbeing projects** – support for projects will help improve the health and wellbeing of communities, such as outdoor gyms, dementia care programmes and local food production projects.

There are a number of general considerations that apply to all eligible categories of projects that should be taken account of when exploring potential REF and MF projects.

- **Legacy projects:** Projects should be legacy projects that will have lasting benefits. Projects relating to events will only be eligible where they relate to one of the categories above **and** are of a scale that makes them of regional or national importance.

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- **Council Owned Assets:** MF and REF monies cannot be used for improvements to/refurbishment of Council assets unless the asset is leased, managed and maintained by a local community group or social enterprise.
- **Acquisition Costs:** These may be considered as eligible for consideration only in very exceptional circumstances, such as where all other avenues have been explored and where the land/property values have been independently verified. Projects must also fall within the broader eligible REF and MF criteria.
- **Capital and Revenue Costs:** The REF and MF can provide both capital and revenue support if considered appropriate. Revenue funding will be for a maximum period of three years and will only be awarded where the need is clearly demonstrated in a Business Plan or other appropriate justifications accompanying the application. In addition, each project must consider how revenue costs can be met beyond the maximum three year period and be able to demonstrate longer term sustainability measures.
- **Recognition of Grant Support:** Applicants will be required to give appropriate recognition to the fund by all or some of the following methods:
 - Prominent signage during works
 - Permanent plaque on premises
 - Acknowledgement in all press and media releases
 - Acknowledgement in all project documentation
 - Acknowledgement on applicant's website

How will applications for community benefits grants be assessed?

Applications to the renewable energy fund and minerals fund are submitted to and considered by the Council's Grants Committee. Applications are invited in January and considered by the grants committee in June. Depending on the level of funding committed in June, a further meeting to consider applications may be convened later in the year. The Grants Committee comprises of 11 elected members supported by Council officers.

Applicants will be required to have completed the preparatory and investigatory works prior to submitting an application to the fund. This is to ensure that monies awarded are not unduly ring-fenced to the detriment of more project ready applications. Accordingly all awards will be subject to the following conditions:

- All projects must commence within 12 months of the date of funding award;
- A progress report must be provided on all outstanding awards prior to the next scheduled REF Grants Committee meeting following the grant award.

Applicants to the REF and MF are required to demonstrate that they have also applied for project funding from other sources. The funds will not routinely provide 100% grant funding to any project, although the Council's Grants Committee does have discretion to consider a higher intervention rate for appropriate projects in exceptional circumstances, for example, projects which are of strategic importance and where there is evidence that match funding from other sources has been unsuccessful or there is a valid reason why it has not been sought.

How will projects be monitored?

The Council will regularly monitor the distribution of community benefit funds acquired through the REF and MF, to ensure that the projects achieve what they set out to achieve as detailed in the application form. Whilst there will be a focus on more significant projects all approved projects will be liable to be monitored. The specific project monitoring requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis, in response to the scale and scope of the project and reported to the Grants Committee, where appropriate. Typically, monitoring may, depending on the scale and scope of the project, involve:

Useful Contacts

Development Planning

Email: <mailto:localdevelopmentplans@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Development Management

Email: <mailto:submittoplanning@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Democratic Services

Email: <mailto:Admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Vibrant Communities

Email: <mailto:mvibrantcommunities@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Useful Links

Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits for Onshore Renewable Energy Developments: [GoodPracticePrinciples.pdf \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)

Foundation Scotland: www.foundationscotland.org.uk

Participatory Budgeting Information: www.pbnetwork.org.uk