



## **9CCG Local Community Fund (LCF) and Small Grants Scheme (SGS) GRANT FUND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**The 9CC Group currently receive annual community benefit payments currently from the following Wind Farm Developments: - North Kyle, Pencloe and Lethans.**

Applications are invited from projects or initiatives that will be delivered or located within the Project Applicant's community council area.

### **Eligible Applicants**

The following groups are eligible to apply for LCF funds:

- **Properly constituted Voluntary and Community Organisations** including Community Councils, School Parent Councils, Community Led Action Plan steering groups, Development Trusts and formal constituted organisations 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.

**Note: The LCF Fund will not be used to benefit specific individuals or businesses or to promote any political purpose.**

### **Available Levels of Support**

- Applications requesting 100% LCF funding for projects are eligible, however, preference will be given to applications that have received or demonstrated that they have applied for match funding
- Applications requesting multi annual funding, **up to a maximum of 3 years**, are eligible
- For larger projects seeking funding of £30,000 or more, applicants **MUST** demonstrate that they have pursued all other avenues of potential match funding which may contribute to the total Project Costs.

**Minimum Level of Grant Award: £1,001 (the LCF has a separate Small Grants Scheme Application Form for grants up to the value £1,000)**

**Maximum Level of Grant Award:** There is NO current maximum grant level

### **Project Timescales**

All projects must commence within 12 months from the date of the Approval Award Letter.

## **Eligible Projects**

The following types of project which meet the 9CC Group's charitable objectives are eligible to be considered for funding through the LCF Fund. **However it should be noted that projects should provide a lasting community legacy.**

**SGS NOTE:** Football strips, Christmas lights, hanging baskets, trips and outings, and events that are not of regional or national importance such as gala days, firework displays will not be eligible for LCF funding under this heading, **HOWEVER**, grant funding for these items is currently available from the **9CCG Small Grant Scheme**, East Ayrshire Council Community Grants, and/or a variety of external funders

- **Community Renewable Energy Projects:** For example, community recycling centres, insulation projects, installation of wind turbines/solar panels/bio fuels for community owned facilities.

Please note that due to legislation introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change the 9CC Group is unable to award a grant for capital equipment for projects also anticipating income from government funded feed-in tariffs.

- **Environmental Projects:** For example, medium or large scale woodland planting and maintenance, town/village streetscape projects, community allotments, community gardens, environmental art projects, environmental education projects, landscape schemes, cycle tracks, and path networks.
- **Environmental Education Projects for Schools:** For example, school sensory gardens, weather stations, woodland planting, environmental education packs for local nature reserves (such as River Ayr Way and Weavers Tales and Trails) and only when this is additional to the outdoor learning curriculum.
- **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 the carbon footprint and/or improve the environment.
- **Feasibility Studies and Business Plans:** For example, Feasibility Studies to identify renewable energy options or to undertake the detailed planning for eligible projects and/or support for the preparation of associated Business Plans.
- **Community Based Development Trusts and Social Enterprises:** Capital and revenue (including Staff salary costs) support is available for new or existing development trusts and social enterprises to develop projects or expand their operation/geographical area of operations. The project must demonstrate the delivery of clear grassroots local community benefits.  
Priority will be given to applications that are income generating.
- **Employability and Training Programmes:** Employability support to enable members of the local community to access jobs either in renewables, engineering or other sectors of the economy where there are local job opportunities.  
Applications for funds will only be considered where applicant has demonstrated that their project does not duplicate or substitute exiting service provision.

- **Community led sports and leisure:** For example, capital projects such as improvements to sports/community land or buildings, pitch improvements, floodlighting, new sports related initiatives.  
Revenue costs for staff salaries and other associated costs are eligible.

Support will generally be for projects supporting the development of community led sports and leisure facilities and programmes on condition that they are located within the eligible areas and are accessible by all members of the local community. Large capital projects must clearly demonstrate a justification of need and an evidence of demand articulated within an independent feasibility report.

- **Income Generating Projects:** Support for community projects whose main focus is income generation to support community activity.

Applications must be accompanied by a business plan covering a 3 year projection and detail how any income received will be used to benefit the community.

- **Community run events that are advertised:** Events within the eligible settlement areas which attract visitors from out with East Ayrshire and deliver a quantifiable economic benefit to the local area.  
All anticipated income for ticketed events should be detailed as part of the funding package and complimentary ticket allocation practises detailed in the application.

- **Heritage and Street Art Projects:** For example heritage sculptures and gable end murals etc.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES

**Council Owned Assets:** Please note that LCF Fund monies will generally not be used for improvements /refurbishment of Council assets *unless* the asset is leased, managed and maintained by a local community group or social enterprise; **OR** can demonstrate clear benefits to the community.

**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 LCF criteria.

**Capital and Revenue Costs:** The LCF Fund can provide both capital and revenue support if considered appropriate. Projects should demonstrate longer term sustainability measures.

**Community Led Action Plans:** Funding is available to support projects within Community Led Action Plans that meet the abovementioned eligibility criteria.

**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.

**The following should also be considered prior to the submission of your application:**

- Failure to submit properly completed applications along with all relevant core documentation may result in the application being returned to you and delay the consideration of your application.
- Applications for larger capital projects, where the activity is new, require to be accompanied by a business plan and cash flow statement. Applications of this nature should be submitted as soon as possible to allow the completion of the assessment process.
- All projects must be commence within 12 months of the date of funding award. Accordingly any preparatory and investigatory works to inform the viability of the project should be undertaken prior to submission of application. This includes consideration of the need for planning permissions, landowner or leaseholder permissions, the submission of applications to other funders to support the project, community engagement, fundraising, etc.
- Groups are encouraged to consider a variety of funding providers to support their application.

**For further information please contact: -**

stephen.mccarron@live.co.uk

Stephen McCarron  
Chief Operating Officer  
C/O The Boswell Centre  
18 Well Road  
Auchinleck  
KA18 2LA

07427654230

[www.9ccg.co.uk](http://www.9ccg.co.uk)