

Clyde Extension Wind Farm Fund Community Consultation.

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? If so, which organisation?

Delete are appropriate: Organisation: Crawford and Elvanfoot Community Council

1. What differences would you like to see between the new Extension Fund and the existing fund managed by South Lanarkshire Council? How can we ensure that the money reaches the best projects for the communities? To note: there will be less money available annually than in the existing fund, and it cannot replace funding for statutory things like roads, schools, etc.

As Follows:

1. The fund should be split so that communities are allocated a specific sum each year.
2. The Allocated money should be distributed by decisions made by a local panel from the Community Council Area so that **local** prioritisation can be applied.
3. There should be a rationalisation of the communities who can access the fund using normal principles and not the skewed criteria applied by the fund administered by SLC.
4. There must be some recognition within the fund structure for those communities that are '**Host Communities**'.
5. There should be the ability to spread project costs over a number of application periods

2. The fund will be worth around £300,000 annually. Would you prefer the fund to open once, twice or four times per year?

Once per year

**Six-monthly**

Quarterly

- 2a. What are the ranges of awards you would suggest? Choose one lower and one upper.

Lower threshold

Upper threshold

£300

£10,000

£500

£15,000

**£1,000**

£20,000

£5,000

£50,000

£10,000

**No threshold**

3. Who should make decisions on funding awards?

- a) Same Panel as existing fund. Made up of two community councillors per area.
- b) New Panel. Made up of representatives of each community. Not necessarily Community Councillors.
- c) **Other. Please use the space in Q6 to detail.**

4. SSE will generally allow applications of up to 100% of project funding, with the panel making the final decision on the size of award. Should the new fund have a cap on what % of the overall project costs an applicant can ask for? If so, what should that cap be?

**No cap. Allow and trust the panel's decision making**

90%

80%

75%

50%

5. SSE is keen to make sure that as many people as possible participate in the fund in some way - whether this is applying for projects, making people aware of it or sitting on the decision-making panel. What do you think the best way of including people in your community is?

5. This will naturally happen as people start to see benefits and begin to trust the process. By involving local people in the decision making and encouraging engagement from constituted groups at specific times during the year it will allow for project development time and specific times when announcements are made.

Part of the problem with the current system administered by SLC is that applications take too long, they are decided upon by a group where only a small part of it is from the CC area, there is no transparency in decision making and consequently the process is not trusted. People have little confidence in this fund and are therefore reluctant to engage with it, a caveat on this statement is that it is improving but there are still many barriers to overcome.

6. Finally, if there is anything else that you would like to add that has not been covered elsewhere, then please use the space provided below or attach a separate note.

6. In response to Q3(c) the panel should be a group from the Crawford and Elvanfoot area deciding on the applications and applying local priorities. This will enable the local community to make longer term plans and to ensure that projects are delivered in such a way that they contribute to a local action plan and that they mutually support a long term goal.

