

Carrick Futures

Fund Factsheet

What is Carrick Futures and who is it for?

Carrick Futures is a community company, funded by ScottishPower Renewables community benefit funds from the Arecleoch and Mark Hill Windfarms in South Ayrshire. The fund primarily supports projects located within or directly benefiting one or more of the six community council areas of Ballantrae, Colmonell & Lendalfoot, Barr, Barrhill, Pinmore & Pinwherry and Girvan & District.

Some funds are also available for projects located within or directly benefiting the wider Carrick area. Priority will be given to applications which also benefit one or more of the main beneficiary communities listed above.

How is Carrick Futures managed, and who makes decisions about it?

Carrick Futures' administration is provided on behalf of the Carrick Futures Board by Foundation Scotland, a national grant-making charity. The Foundation receives and processes applications and works with the Carrick Futures Board, which decides on grant awards from the fund. The Carrick Futures Board is made up of twelve Directors, two from each of the six main community council areas. Directors are elected by the company membership, made up of sixty residents of the main communities, with ten members nominated by each community Council.

What will Carrick Futures support?

Carrick Futures can support charitable activities that support the rural regeneration and sustainability of Ballantrae, Colmonell & Lendalfoot, Barr, Barrhill, Pinmore & Pinwherry, Girvan & District and Carrick.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc.

The Board has agreed three strategic aims, which it will use to prioritise proposed projects. These are:

- Improving access to services (in particular public transport)
- Enabling a diverse and sustainable population mix (services for young people and older people, but also activities that help create opportunities for families and working age people to live in the area).
- Improving equality of opportunity (including tackling poverty and disadvantage).

How much is available?

Carrick Futures receives in the region of £350,000 from ScottishPower Renewables each year. However amounts available for new awards vary, depending on existing funding commitments.

Who can apply for an award?

Applicants must normally fulfil the following conditions to apply to the fund:

- The proposal is for projects or activities consistent with the charitable purposes of Carrick Futures;
- Applicants have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and are set up on a not-for-private-profit basis. However applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply.
- Applicants must provide their latest set of accounts, signed by an independent third party, and a copy of a recent bank statement.

What sizes of awards are available?

Two levels of awards are normally available for activities that benefit the local community. The amount and type of information required from applicants differs depending on the size of application being made.

- **Standard grants: £500 - £10,000.**
- **Large grants: over £10,000.** There is a two-stage application process for large grants. An initial one page outline proposal is required. The Board will review the proposal and agree whether to invite a full application to future rounds.

Awards can be multi-year in nature, normally up to a maximum of 3 years. If the total request exceeds £10,000, an initial enquiry should be made using the large grant process outlined above.

A **small grant** scheme, for awards up to £500, is also available and administered directly by each of the six main Community Councils. Please contact the Community Council directly for further details.

What other criteria apply to the fund?

As well as demonstrating a fit with the aims and priorities outlined above, further priority for awards can be given to projects that address the following additional criteria.

- **Community engagement and consultation:** That the applicant can demonstrate effective involvement of local people and/or people who will benefit from the project in the design and delivery of the project.
- **Leverage or match funding:** That the applicant is seeking to secure match funding for the project (from local fundraising activity or other sources) and/or can demonstrate what other funding may be secured as a result of implementing this particular project.
- **Local procurement:** That local suppliers of goods and services will be used, where appropriate (e.g., in terms of quality of products / services available) and feasible (in terms of availability and cost). The definition of 'local' will vary depending on the goods/services in question. In some cases it could be taken to mean within the Area of Benefit but in others the South of Scotland might be most appropriate.
- **Sustainability:** That organisations can demonstrate their plans for the project to become sustainable in the future without the need to rely on grant funding.
- **Building community capacity:** That the applicant has considered whether the project provides opportunities to build the skills and knowledge of group members or other people connected with the project.
- **Partnership working:** Where appropriate, that the applicant has considered whether delivering their project in partnership with other organisations / groups will add value (financial, capability, or other). This could involve working with voluntary, private or public sector bodies that operate at local, regional or national level.

What cannot be supported?

Awards cannot support the following types of activity:

- The advancement of religion or party politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups)
- Activities understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities, including teaching equipment in schools.

- Projects benefiting primarily residents outwith the Area of Benefit (determined by the Community Council boundaries)
- Activities contrary to the interests of the six main communities or any of the companies or donors contributing to the fund
- Activities likely to bring Carrick Futures, Foundation Scotland, the six main communities or any companies or donors contributing to the fund into disrepute
- Anti-renewable energy or anti-windfarm activities
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the fund for support can be made)
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.

Decisions of the Board are final and there is no right to appeal. Projects that are not awarded a grant cannot be re-considered for the same project for at least one year and new information cannot be considered after a decision has been made. We therefore strongly recommend that applicants contact us before applying, to confirm the project is eligible.

How can I apply?

Application forms and guidance are available to download from www.carrickfutures.org.uk or contact the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland on 01557 814927, office@foundationscotland.org.uk.

Completed and signed applications should be submitted to Carrick Futures at Foundation Scotland, The Kiosk, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway, DG7 2HP

What if I have more questions?

We welcome pre-application enquiries. For further advice or information on Carrick Futures or to discuss your project proposal informally, please contact the Foundation Scotland team on the number above.

Carrick Futures is registered as a Scottish charity (SC043722) and is a company limited by guarantee (SC369380) with its registered office at 16 Hamilton Street, Girvan, South Ayrshire KA26 9EY.