

## **Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited – Company Number: 03527370**

**Overview:** The Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) is an equal partnership between Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Community Futures. Representatives from each of the partner organisations serve on the Fund’s Board and Application Assessment Panel to ensure that the best projects throughout the county, which provide environmental, community and social benefit, are supported.

The Fund was established in 1998 as a not for profit charitable organisation to support community and environmental projects across Lancashire with funding generated from landfill tax through the Landfill Communities Fund. The landfill Communities Fund comes under the jurisdiction of HM Revenue and Customs and is regulated by Entrust.

From 1 April 2022 to 31 December 2022 LEF awarded grants from £1,000 to £30,000 within a framework of national regulations and guidance. The maximum figure was increased to £40,000 on 1 January 2023. Projects supported generally fall into the following categories:

- Community facilities
- General environmental improvements
- Creation and management of natural habitats
- Improvements to parks and gardens and open spaces
- Play areas/ Recreational facilities

The Fund has four funding rounds every calendar year.

Details about the Fund and how to apply can be found at [www.lancsenvfund.org.uk](http://www.lancsenvfund.org.uk)

### **Activity in 2022/23**

The Fund in 2022/23 has allocated £1.425m to 71 projects. The breakdown is as follows:

- Play and Recreation 12 projects £286,005
- Parks, Gardens & Open Spaces 5 projects £137,445
- General Environmental Improvements 12 projects £278,215
- Community Facility Improvements 31 projects £622,185
- Habitat Creation and Management 4 projects £95,000
- Green Grants 7 projects £6,463

The Fund received Landfill Tax credits income for 2022/23 of £1.246m from landfill operator Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd.

It is anticipated that in 2023/24 the income will be an estimated £1.1m.

The Fund aims to distribute all of the income it receives annually and drawdown additional funds from reserves to cover any shortfall in grants requested.

At the end of March 2023, the Fund has 77 active projects where funding has previously been agreed with a value of £1.776m to be drawn down by applicant groups in 2023/24.

**Lancashire County Council Ownership:** Lancashire County Council is one of four Company Members so therefore owns 25% of this company.

**Conclusions relating to going concern status:** No status issues raised by the company auditors.

**Lancashire County Council Directors on the Board:** One County Councillor – Shaun Turner (Chairman)

**Company Contact Details:** Andy Rowett, Lancashire Environmental Fund Manager