

Carcant Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (Moorfoot)

**Fund Review
January 2019 - December 2025**

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Highlights

The Fund at a glance:

- Fund has awarded: £55k
- Village Halls received: 77% - £42k
- Grant sizes: £250 - £1,500
- Application success rate: 80%

Executive Summary

This review covers the Carcant Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (Moorfoot) from 2019, when Foundation Scotland resumed administration, to 2025. Over this seven-year period, the Fund received 45 applications, of which 36 (80%) were successful, resulting in £54,870.68 awarded to community groups and projects across the Moorfoot area.

Village halls have been the single largest category of recipient, receiving £42,096.20 (76.7%) of all funding awarded, reflecting their role as the primary hubs for community life in Carrington, Temple and Middleton. Viewed by project area, Carrington received the largest share of funding (31.5%), followed by Temple (29.2%), Middleton (23.4%) and area-wide Moorfoot projects (16.0%).

As part of this review, the Panel reflected on whether the Fund's current criteria and priorities continue to meet Moorfoot's needs, and concluded that the Fund remains needed and continues to make a meaningful difference to the community.

The Panel confirmed its consensus-based operating model is working well, agreed to retain the current grant range (£250–£1,500) and the existing distribution of funding across the three villages, and chose to keep the microgrant programme unchanged for now, with a fuller discussion planned for the September 2027 meeting.

The remainder of this document sets out the data evidencing these findings in full, together with a strategic grantmaking option and the Panel's reflections and discussion, for the Panel's ongoing consideration.

Good practice and the purpose of this review

The Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments, first published in 2014 and refreshed in 2019, set out national guidance for how community benefit funds such as this one should be designed, governed and delivered. The Principles encourage funds to be community-led, transparent in their decision-making, and responsive to local priorities, with arrangements kept under periodic review so that they continue to reflect the needs of the community they serve.

Carrying out a Fund review, as recommended by the Good Practice Principles, allows the Panel and Foundation Scotland to look back over several years of grant-making, reviewing that the Fund's priorities and criteria are still fit for purpose, and identify whether any changes are needed to parameters such as grant size, application arrangements, or the balance of funding across the Area of Benefit.

What this review seeks to achieve

- This review has been carried out to help the Panel and Foundation Scotland assess the Fund's progress since 2019 and to inform its future direction. In particular, the review seeks to:
- Assess whether the Fund's current criteria and priorities still reflect the needs of the Moorfoot community.
- Examine how funding has been distributed across the three villages and other recipients, and whether this distribution remains fair and appropriate.
- Review current Fund parameters, including grant size and the annual application round, to check they remain fit for purpose.
- Capture the Panel's reflections on how well the Fund's operating model and decision-making process are working.
- Identify any changes the Panel may wish to make to the Fund's priorities, parameters or governance going forward.

1. Introduction

The Carcant Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (Moorfoot) supports community projects that benefit those living in the Moorfoot Community Council area in Midlothian. The Fund is provided by Greencoat UK Wind, the owners of the nearby Carcant Wind Farm, and is administered by Foundation Scotland.

The Fund originally opened in 2010. Foundation Scotland began administering it again in 2019, and all data within this review covers the period from 2019 to 2025. An annual amount of £4,200, adjusted for inflation, is paid into the Fund each year for the wind farm's expected operating life of 25 years. Individual grants range from £250 to £1,500, with multi-year awards available for recurring core costs.

1.1 Purpose of the Fund

The Fund provides grants to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance quality of life for local residents.
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities.
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Grants may support a wide range of costs including equipment, staff or sessional workers, consultations, running costs for local groups, and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities.

The Fund originally operated on a rolling basis, accepting applications throughout the year. As the volume and value of awards grew, in 2025, the decision was taken to move to a single annual funding round with a fixed deadline.

1.2 Scope of this Review

This review covers all 45 funding applications received between 2019 and 2025, including both successful and unsuccessful outcomes. Over this seven-year period, £54,870.68 has been awarded across 36 successful grants, an average grant value of £1,524. The Fund has supported a broad range of recipients including village halls, community councils, health and wellbeing initiatives, cultural conservation projects, and community cinema.

Notable themes emerging from the grant history include sustained support for the three village halls serving Carrington, Middleton and Temple; a significant COVID-19 emergency response in 2020, which accounted for £11,500 (21.0% of all funding awarded); and a growing strand of climate and environmental projects in more recent years.

The Moorfoot Community Council's recurring microgrant programme has also been a consistent feature throughout the period, distributing £4,603 in small grants to local individuals and groups.

1.3 Population and Area Demographics

The Moorfoot Community Council area covers a largely rural stretch of Midlothian, extending from the villages of Carrington, North Middleton and Temple southward to the Moorfoot hills. Based on the 2011 Scottish Census, the total population of the Moorfoot Community Council area was approximately 3,382.

A revised figure from the 2022 Census has not yet been published for this community council geography. The table below sets out the available population data for the three main villages served by the Fund. Figures are drawn from civil parish boundaries, which in some cases extend beyond the village settlement itself.

Carrington	Temple	Middleton	Moorfoot CC
316	225	c.500–600	c.3,382
<i>civil parish 2011 census</i>	<i>civil parish 2011 census</i>	<i>estimated (Borthwick parish)</i>	<i>whole area 2011 census</i>

Village / Area	Population (2011)	Notes
Carrington	316	Carrington civil parish. Village population c.105 (2009 estimate). Designated Conservation Area 1972.
Temple	225	Temple civil parish. Small dormitory village for Edinburgh. Home to a Knights Templar heritage site dating to 1128.
North Middleton (Borthwick parish)	Not separately recorded	North Middleton falls within Borthwick civil parish. No standalone village census figure is published; estimated c.500–600 residents including outlying hamlets.
Moorfoot CC area (total)	c.3,382	2011 Census estimate (Midlothian Council). Includes all villages plus surrounding landward area up to the Moorfoot hills. Approx. 8% of Midlothian's population. 2022 Census figure TBC.

The area is characterised by low population density, a rural and agricultural landscape, and a mix of longstanding residents and those who have relocated from Edinburgh and other urban centres. All three village communities are served by a village hall, which act as the primary hub for social, cultural and civic activity.

There are no shops or commercial hospitality facilities in Carrington or Temple; North Middleton has limited local amenities.

1.4 About the Panel

The Carcant (Moorfoot) Wind Farm Community Fund Panel is a community-led decision-making body, made up by local residents, convened by Foundation Scotland to oversee the distribution of grant funding from the Carcant Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. The Panel's principal role is to make recommendations on grant awards, informed by assessments of eligible applications undertaken by Foundation Scotland. It is also invited to advise on Fund priorities, promotion, strategic activities, and periodic Fund reviews.

Panel Composition

The Panel has up to eight voting members and is drawn from a range of backgrounds reflecting the interests, experience and perspectives of the Moorfoot community. The Panel Terms of Reference set out the following membership structure:

- Two representatives from the Moorfoot Community Council.
- Up to three community hall representatives — one from the management committee of each of the three community halls within the Area of Benefit (Carrington, Temple and Middleton).
- At least two and up to three wider community representatives, appointed on an open and transparent basis. These individuals are aged 16 or over and are normally resident, working or volunteering within the Area of Benefit.

Panel members are selected to represent a range of interests, experiences, perspectives and sectors. Community Council and hall representatives are confirmed annually in advance of the first Panel meeting of each year. Wider community representatives are appointed through an open and advertised process, with membership terms of up to three years. The quorum for decision-making is four members.

How the Panel Operates

The Panel meets at least once each year, normally in September, following the annual donation to the Fund, to consider funding applications and make grant decisions. Every three years, the Panel convenes to review the Fund's impact and to contribute to any revision of Fund priorities or parameters. Foundation Scotland attends grant-making meetings and provides assessments of all eligible applications ahead of Panel deliberations.

Decisions are taken collectively and aim to achieve consensus. Where consensus is not possible, a majority vote is taken. Panel members with a direct interest in an application must declare this and withdraw from the relevant decision. Members are volunteers and serve in a personal capacity, with no formal role in Fund matters outside of Panel meetings. Full details of the Panel's governance arrangements are set out in the Panel Terms of Reference.

1.5 The Wider Fund

The Fund sits within a wider framework of support connected to the Carcant Wind Farm itself. The wind farm comprises three Siemens turbines rated at 2.3 MW each, giving a total installed capacity of 6.9 MW, and was originally constructed and connected in 2010. Greencoat UK Wind, a listed renewable energy infrastructure investor, acquired the wind farm in 2013 and has provided the Fund since.

The Fund itself opened alongside the wind farm in 2010, with Foundation Scotland resuming administration in 2019, the point from which this review's data begins. The annual £4,200 contribution, adjusted for inflation each year, is committed for the wind farm's full expected operating life of 25 years, taking the Fund through to around 2035.

2. Application outcomes overview

A total of 45 applications were received under the Fund between 2019 and 2025. Of these, 36 were successful (80%), resulting in £54,870.68 awarded to community groups. The remaining 9 applications (20%) were unsuccessful, 7 were formally rejected and 2 were withdrawn by the applicant.

Outcome	Number of applications	Percentage
Total applications	45	100%
Successful	36	80.0%
Unsuccessful (total)	9	20.0%
Rejected	7	15.6%
Withdrawn	2	4.4%
Total awarded (successful only)	£54,870.68	—

3. Unsuccessful applications

3.1 Rejected — 7 Applications (15.6%)

Nine applications (19.8% of the total) did not proceed to funding. Seven were formally rejected following assessment, and three of these were located in the Midlothian area outside the core Moorfoot geography, which may have been a contributing factor to their unsuccessful outcome.

The remaining four rejected applications were based within the Moorfoot or wider Midlothian area but were unsuccessful for other reasons relating to eligibility or assessment criteria. A further two applications were withdrawn by the applicants themselves prior to a funding decision being made, and so were not assessed against the criteria at all.

3.2 Withdrawn — 2 Applications (4.4%)

Two applications were withdrawn by the applicants prior to a funding decision being made. One was based outside the core Moorfoot area with no project area specified, while the other related to a project sited at a farm location within the wider Pathhead area. In both cases, the applications did not proceed to assessment as the applicants chose not to continue with their submissions.

4. Successful applications by year

The table below shows the number of successful applications and total amount awarded per calendar year. CY2024 was the most active year with 9 successful grants totalling £15,891.74.

Calendar year	Successful applications	Amount awarded
CY2019	5	£5,298.00
CY2020	7	£11,500.00
CY2021	2	£1,219.48
CY2022	5	£12,000.00
CY2023	5	£5,963.03
CY2024	9	£15,891.74
CY2025	3	£2,998.43

Total awarded across all years: £54,870.68

5. Village hall funding breakdown

Village halls are the single largest category of recipient under the Fund. Across all years, 22 of 36 successful grants (61.1%) were made to village halls, totalling £42,096.20, equivalent to 76.7% of all funding awarded. The table below shows the breakdown by hall, with Carrington accounting for the largest share both by number of grants and total amount received.

Village halls total £42,096.20 76.7% of all funding	Village hall grants 22 of 36 61.1% of all grants	Other recipients £12,774.48 23.3% of all funding
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Village hall	Amount awarded	% of total funding	Number of grants
Carrington Village Hall	£17,258.20	31.5%	11
Middleton Village Hall	£12,840.00	23.4%	5
Temple Village Hall	£11,998.00	21.9%	6
All village halls (total)	£42,096.20	76.7%	22
Other recipients	£12,774.48	23.3%	14

6. Strategic grantmaking: A consideration for the fund review

A key consideration for this Fund review is the role of strategic grantmaking, an approach whereby the Panel, as the community-led decision-making body, takes a proactive and planned approach to directing funding, rather than responding solely to individual applications as they arise.

The data presented in this review highlights the sustained role that the three village halls, serving Carrington, Temple and Middleton, play in community life across the Moorfoot area.

Village halls have received 76.7% of all funding awarded since 2019, underscoring their value as the primary hubs for social, cultural and civic activity in communities with limited alternative facilities. The Panel may wish to formally recognise this by adopting a strategic approach to funding that reflects the halls' importance to local residents.

Any such strategic decision would be a Panel-led determination, drawing on the Panel's knowledge of local need and its role as the community voice for the Fund. The Panel discussed this aspect and reflected on the current strategic award made to the halls committees in 2024, which is due to complete its final payment in 2027. Following this Fund Review, the Panel agreed to make a further strategic award for three years, from 2028 to 2030.

Project area	Amount awarded	% of total	Number of grants
Carrington	£17,258.20	31.5%	11
Temple	£15,998.00	29.2%	9
Middleton	£12,840.00	23.4%	5
Moorfoot	£8,774.48	16.0%	11
Total	£54,870.68	100%	36

Carrington	Total Awarded	Grants Made	Fund Share
Population: 316 (2011 census, civil parish) c.£55 per resident	£17,258.20	11	31.5%

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Year	Awarded
Carrington Village Hall Association	COVID emergency support	CY2020	£1,000.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Financial resilience	CY2020	£660.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Replacement lighting	CY2022	£1,500.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Hall running costs	CY2022	£1,500.00
Carrington Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2022	£3,000.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	1-year running costs	CY2023	£1,500.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Environmental improvements	CY2023	£1,500.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Window replacement	CY2024	£1,500.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Insulation improvements	CY2024	£598.20
Carrington Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2024	£3,000.00
Carrington Village Hall Association	Window replacement	CY2025	£1,500.00
Total awarded			£17,258.20

Temple	Total Awarded	Grants Made	Fund Share
Population: 225 (2011 census, civil parish) c.£71 per resident	£15,998.00	9	29.2%

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Year	Awarded
Temple Old Kirk Friends	Interpretation boards	CY2019	£1,500.00
Temple Village Hall Association	Cupboards & kitchenware	CY2019	£1,498.00
Temple Old Kirk Friends	Volunteer training	CY2020	£1,500.00
Temple Village Halls Association	COVID emergency support	CY2020	£1,500.00
Temple Village Halls Association	Financial resilience	CY2020	£1,500.00
Temple Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2022	£3,000.00
Temple Old Kirk Friends SCIO	Conservation project	CY2024	£1,000.00
Temple Village Halls Association	Hall improvements	CY2024	£1,500.00
Temple Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2024	£3,000.00
Total awarded			£15,998.00

Middleton	Total Awarded	Grants Made	Fund Share
Population: c.500–600 estimated (Borthwick parish) c.£21–£26 per resident (est.)	£12,840.00	5	23.4%

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Year	Awarded
Middleton Village Hall Association	COVID emergency support	CY2020	£1,500.00
Middleton Village Hall Association	Financial resilience fund	CY2020	£3,840.00
Middleton Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2022	£3,000.00
North Middleton Village Hall	Kitchen refurbishment	CY2024	£1,500.00
Middleton Village Hall	Core costs — 3-year grant	CY2024	£3,000.00
Total awarded			£12,840.00

Moorfoot — Area-wide	Total Awarded	Grants Made	Fund Share
Population: c.3,382 — whole CC area (2011 census) Area-wide (all residents)	£8,774.48	11	16.0%

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Year	Awarded
Borthwick Scottish Women's Institute	Community activity grant	CY2019	£500.00
Midlothian Sure Start	Early years support	CY2019	£1,500.00
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2019	£300.00
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2021	£599.78
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2021	£619.70
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2023	£692.29
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2023	£770.74
Moorflix Community Cinema	Community cinema season	CY2023	£1,500.00
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2024	£793.54
Moorfoot Community Council	Microgrant programme	CY2025	£827.43
Moorflix Community Cinema	Community cinema season	CY2025	£671.00
Total awarded			£8,774.48

7. Estimated per capita spend by village area

The table below provides an outline of estimated per capita spend for the three principal village areas, Carrington, Temple and Middleton, based on total funding awarded to each area between 2019 and 2025 and available census population data. These figures are indicative only: civil parish populations are used as the best available proxy and, particularly for North Middleton, the true village population is not separately published.

Spend attributed to the Moorfoot-wide category (£8,774.48) is excluded from village-level per capita calculations as it benefits all residents across the community council area.

Village area	Total awarded (2019–2025)	Population used	Est. per capita spend	Source
Carrington	£17,258.20	316	£54.61	2011 Census (civil parish)
Temple	£15,998.00	225	£71.10	2011 Census (civil parish)
Middleton (North Middleton)	£12,840.00	c.500–600 (est.)	c.£21–£26	Estimated (no standalone census figure)

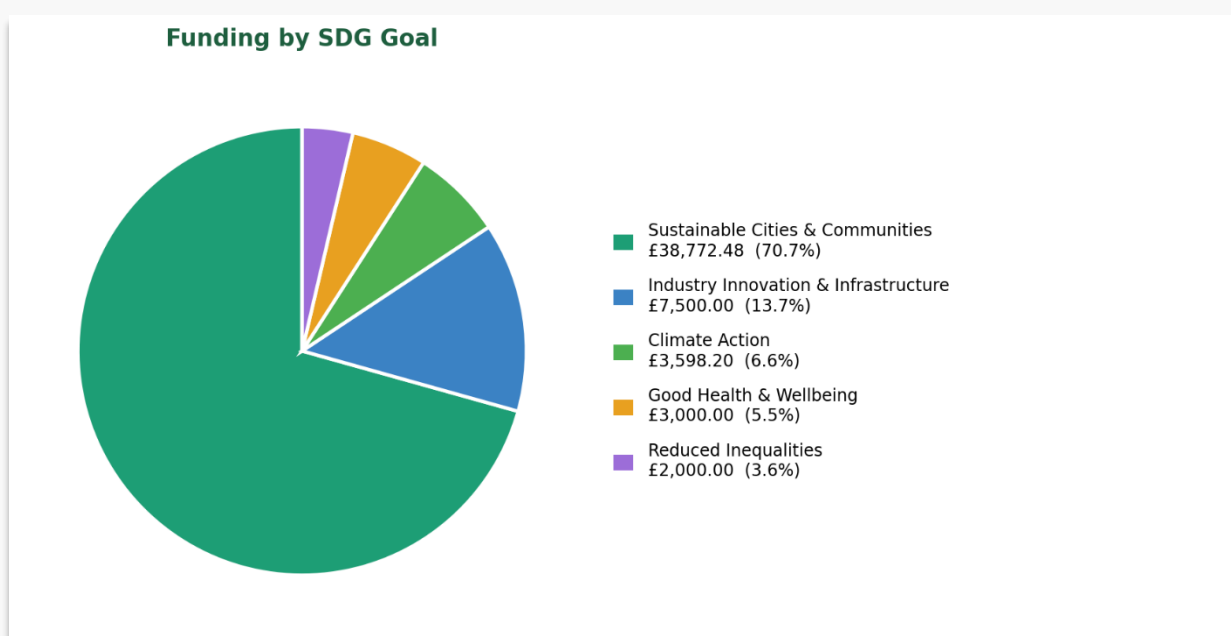
On this basis, Temple has received the highest per capita investment (c.£71 per resident), followed by Carrington (c.£55 per resident). Middleton's per capita figure is substantially lower (c.£21–£26), reflecting both its relatively larger estimated population and the absence of a precise census benchmark.

These figures should be read alongside the total funding share data: Carrington has received the highest absolute funding (31.5%), while Middleton has fewer grants (5) but higher average individual grant values.

8. SDG goal breakdown

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for understanding the social and environmental impact of grants made by the Fund. The chart and table below show how total funding of £54,870.68 is distributed across the five SDG categories recorded in applications.

Sustainable Cities & Communities represents 71% of the Fund grant-making, reflecting the central importance of village hall support, community infrastructure, and local civic activity across all four project areas. The remaining 20% of funding is spread across four further goals — Good Health & Wellbeing (6%), Industry Innovation & Infrastructure (14%), and Climate Action (7%) each receiving £3,000, and Reduced Inequalities receiving £2,000 (45%).



SDG Goal	Amount awarded	% of total	Grants
Sustainable Cities & Communities	£43,870.68	79.9%	29
Good Health & Wellbeing	£3,000.00	5.5%	2
Industry Innovation & Infrastructure	£3,000.00	5.5%	2
Climate Action	£3,000.00	5.5%	2
Reduced Inequalities	£2,000.00	3.6%	2
Total	£54,870.68	100%	36

9. Panel reflection and discussion

Moorfoot's needs, whether Fund priorities align with the community's needs, and whether the Moorfoot Neighbourhood Plan continues to hold relevance as a guiding framework. The Fund was felt to be definitely needed, and continues to make a meaningful difference to the community.

9.1 Fund Operating Model

The Panel's operating model was felt to be working well. Members particularly appreciated the consensus-based approach to decision-making, with everyone listening to one another and incorporating each other's input.

9.2 Microgrants

The microgrants were well received, and the full allocation was spent down in 2025 across a variety of awards. The Panel discussed the possibility of seeking to increase the microgrant amount and agreed to keep the microgrants as is for now. It was agreed this was to be reviewed in 2027.

9.3 Distribution Across Villages

The Panel discussed whether the community is being reached equally, noting that Middleton receives the lowest direct-funding share (23.4%) compared with Carrington (31.5%) and Temple (29.2%). It was felt that the current spread represented a fair distribution model based on individual villages' needs at the time. The Panel were comfortable with the current status quo, and no further action was needed.

9.4 Grant Size Range

The Panel considered whether the current grant range of £250–£1,500 makes it difficult to support some projects or needs. The Panel felt the grant sizes were still appropriate to the Fund and agreed for the amounts to remain the same.

9.5 Equal Split Allocation Model

The Panel discussed whether it would consider a defined equal split, whereby each village hall received a share of the Fund annually and no open application round would be held. The Panel discussed the current administration arrangements and considered the prospect of allocating the full annual donation equally between the three village halls, once the microgrant had been allocated. The Panel reflected that it preferred the Fund to remain open to all local projects, and that if the halls required an award, they could apply in the usual way.

10. Conclusion

The Carcant Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (Moorfoot) has made a meaningful and consistent contribution to community life across the Moorfoot area since Foundation Scotland resumed administration in 2019. Over seven years, £54,870.68 has reached 36 successful projects, with village halls in Carrington, Temple and Middleton emerging as the clear anchor of the Fund's impact.

This Fund Review affirms that the Fund's core structure, its grant range, its open application model, and its distribution across the three villages, remains fit for purpose and remains attentive to local need.

Further information

For further information about the Fund, you can visit:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/carcant-moorfoot>

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