

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CS/6/14

DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2014-17

Report by Director of Planning & Development

SUMMARY:

The Report informs Members of the Applications made for the Deprived Area Funds for 2014-15 and recommends continuing funding to those organisations being supported in 2013-14. Further assessment of the other applications will be made to advise on possible alternative funding sources.

The work of the Employability team within the Planning and Development Service directly supports the Council's Programme of support for the Highland economy and specifically helps with the creation of jobs and efforts to assist people to access training, education and work.

1. Background

1.1 The existing Deprived Area Fund (DAF) was instituted by the Council in the 2011/12 financial year. The operation of the Fund was reviewed by Planning and Development Committee at its meeting in August 2013 and a revised approach was approved. The revised scheme was described in the November Report setting out the strategic purpose and criteria for the funding to achieve –

- Better alignment to the **Working Together for Highland** Programme, the Single Outcome Agreement and other anti-poverty measures;
- a revised distribution mechanism using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 to identifying a larger number of areas of disadvantage within Highland;
- provision of funds for and devolved decision-making to all Highland Council Area Committees;
- a three year funding commitment to encourage development of strategic and pro-active approaches by Area Committees to tackling poverty and disadvantage along with other service provision.

2. Application in Caithness and Sutherland

2.1 5 applications have been received for the Area Fund – totalling £177,549 (Budget available of £100,000) A summary of the applications is attached as **Appendix 1** to this Report.

- 2.2 Ormlie Community Association (OCA) and Pulteneytown People's Project (PPP) are being assisted from the Fund in 2013-14 (£13,000 and £90,000 respectively). OCA have applied for increased support for the Young Mothers Project and a new Digital Access project. However, clearly it will not be possible to increase funding or to assist any other organisations without reducing funds to these organisations. OCA and PPP have a continuing need for funds to maintain current activity. As indicated at the Area Committee meeting on 18 November 2013 this is a significant constraint on the operation of the Fund in the area in that new activity cannot be supported unless there is change to existing support.
- 2.3 Accordingly it is therefore recommended that funding be allocated on the same basis as the current year - as shown below -

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Application 2014 - 15	Recommend 2014-15
3539	Caithness CAB Volunteer Training Project	£ 29,358	£ -
3540	Wick'ed	£ 7,729	£ -
3543	Shirlie Project	£ 9,613	£ -
3545	Ormlie Community Association	£ 43,332	£ 13,000
3553	Pulteneytown People's Project	£ 87,518	£ 87,000
	Total	£ 177,549	£ 100,000
	Budget 2014 - 15		£ 100,000

- 2.4 These recommendations are made for 2014-15 only at this time. This will enable Members to consider further how these funds can best be used along with other resources to best support community development activity in the area. In particular the Pulteney Centre now provides a substantial range of services and has grown considerably in size and scale over a relatively short period. While it has been enormously successful in attracting external funding there is a need now, following the Council's Financial Regulations, to establish a Service Level Agreement with the organisation. This will require further discussion with the organisation on its business plan, management and governance. In particular there needs to be further discussion about developing its relationship with the Council now that it is such a significant part of the public service provision to the area. The Terms of a Service Level Agreement will be brought back to Committee, who may also want to consider how Members and other Council Services should be involved in the process.
- 2.5 The unsuccessful applications will be assessed further with a view to assisting the organisations to access other funding sources.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource: The recommendations will fully commit the budget available for 2014-15. The unsuccessful applicants will be assisted to consider other funding sources.
- 3.2 Risk: Some of the community based activity carries some risk in terms of the capacity of community organisations to manage staff and resources. The Fund is managed through the Council's Single Grants Programme Terms and Conditions. Advice and assistance is also given to community organisations receiving funds to manage these risks.

- 3.3 Equalities: The Deprived Area Fund seeks to assist community capacity building and remove the barriers that stop individuals from preparing for and entering the world of sustained employment.
- 3.4 Climate Change: There are no significant Climate Change implications arising from the Report.
- 3.5 Legal: There are no Legal implications arising from the Report.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to agree the recommendations for the Deprived Area Fund for 2014-15 of:-

- Ormlie Community Association - £13,000
- Pulteneytown People's Project - £87,000

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 29th January 2014

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CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND DEPRIVED AREA FUND APPLICATIONS 2014-15

REF	ORGANISATION	2014-15 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS £	2014 – 15 DAF APPLICATION £
3539	Caithness Cab Volunteer Training Project	29,358	29,358
3540	Wick'ed	13,193	7,866
3543	Shirlie Projec	10,162	9,612
3545	Ormlie Community Association	126,697	43,331
3553	Pulteneytown People's Project	107,018	87,518

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Caithness Citizens Advice Bureau – Volunteer Training	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £29,358 Amount Applied for: £29,358	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £88,844 Amount Applied for: £88,844
Recommended Year 1: £Nil	
Project Summary: <p>The aim of the project is to employ one full time training officer for the Caithness CAB, who will be based in Wick but who will cover the whole of Caithness with a particular focus on the deprived areas of Wick and Thurso, as well as Lybster and Dunbeath. The training officer will be responsible for assisting the bureau manager and other staff to recruit new volunteers from these areas and for delivering training and support to them in order to develop their skills and improve their employability, skills, knowledge and confidence. The provision of volunteering opportunities will give trainees the opportunity to gain 'work' experience in a supportive environment with mentoring support provided and intensive support being available if required.</p> <p>We are seeking funding to cover the salary and employer costs of the training officer, as well as the travel, training, marketing and promotion, running and overhead costs of the project. The bureau will make contributions in kind covering access to IT equipment and software; provision of information items, training materials and in-house training facilities; and access to tutor support and other training materials developed by our umbrella organisation, Citizens Advice Scotland. For the first year of the project, they are seeking £21,958 to cover salary and employer costs + running and delivery costs of £7,400 = £29,358.</p>	
Measurable Outcomes: <p>We anticipate that a minimum of 12 people per year will receive in-depth training in a wide range of highly transferrable skills, including IT, communication skills, interviewing techniques, telephone techniques, customer care, researching and reporting information, equal opportunities and also in particular topic areas such as welfare benefits, housing, employment and financial issues. Many of those who leave volunteering with us go on to higher and further education or employment, indeed 8 people did exactly that in Caithness last year alone, having gained skills with us. Many also report improvements in their confidence, self-esteem, health and well being and in their general ability to cope. Many also contribute their new skills within their local communities through further volunteering and also through providing access to information and advice. The provision of volunteering opportunities provides support work experience that many people find of significant benefit to their CVs and employment prospects.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the training officer will also be available to assist clients who are seeking to make welfare benefit claims on line. The bureau will provide stand alone computers for the use of clients requiring digital access for benefits claims and job seeking. At present, however, we do not have a staff resource that could be made available to clients to help them to do this, both in terms of IT skills and knowledge and in terms of the provision of associated advice. This post will enable us to meet the digital access and advice needs for the growing number of people who will require access to this as welfare reforms are rolled out over the next few years. Research carried out by Citizens Advice Scotland indicates that significant numbers of people in Caithness do not currently have the IT skills that they will need to participate digitally and claim the benefits or make use of the resources to which they are entitled. Many also do not have access to the IT equipment that they will need. This project will therefore help to ensure that the needs of many people will be met where this would not otherwise be possible.</p> <p>Over the life of the project, at least 36 people will be trained by us, which will significantly increase our ability to deliver information, advice and support services to the citizens of Caithness.</p>	

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Wick'Ed Market Stall	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £13,194 Amount Applied for: £7,866	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £Nil	
Project Summary: Wick Ed' is a not for profit organisation which acts as an umbrella for a range of young people's social enterprises. It was set up for the purpose of benefiting all pupils within the Wick High School catchment area. The aims of Wick Ed' are to:- A. Support all pupils attending Wick High School to participate in enhancing activities, which are vitally important in improving their health and wellbeing and which promote social inclusion and social justice within our catchment area B. To provide extra – curricular opportunities which are directed at further developing the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of all of our young people, including our most vulnerable and disadvantaged, to their fullest potential, so enabling them to become more effective contributors within their community. C. To increase the chances of the young people within the Wick Learning Community of becoming self-sufficient and independent, thereby improving their opportunities to progress into positive destinations beyond the High School. Taking part in a wide range of skill enhancing and enterprising activities in turn gives our young people further opportunities to take part in recognised awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to volunteer abroad or to take part in competitions such as Rock Challenge; through enterprise our young people learn about becoming financially self-sufficient and independent whilst developing their resilient and sense of self- worth.	
Measurable Outcomes: At the moment we have a range of Social enterprises such as a 'Start your Day off Right' Club, Wicker's Café which is a drop in café run by pupils using the pupil support base, WEco Wonders who make ecological gifts and jewellery from recycled objects, as well as Vegemight who are in the process of setting up an allotment culminating in their first Tattiefest in October 2014. Currently these social enterprises are dependent on the school building and its limited ability to open to the public. The purchase of a market stall would increase opportunities for young people to display their work and trade thus furthering their creative skills and imagination as well as improving their interface with the public. Although this would be a first locally there are other initiatives in Highland where the opportunity to trade more regularly has proven to be hugely successful. For instance DIGIT, a project organised for the benefit of pupils based at Dornoch, Invergordon, Golspie and St Duthus now trades as Made in Tain from it's own premises.	

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: SHIRLIE – HELP (Employer Engagement)	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £10,162 Amount Applied for: £9,162	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £Nil	
Project Summary: The Project proposes to run a number of employment based training activities in various sectors throughout the Caithness area. The purpose the training will be to assist participants to gain both generic employability skills and basic sector specific skills which will improve their employment opportunities. The aim of this is to secure positive work experience placements for our clients which ultimately could lead to sustained employment.	
Measurable Outcomes: They will prepare people through pre-employment preparation activity and work with a number of different employers to deliver a positive work experience. Work will focus on specific sectors (Hospitality & Tourism; Childcare; Motor Trade; Retail; Health) so that pre-employment training is targeted at these sectors.	

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Ormlie Community Association	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £126,697 Amount Applied for: £43,331	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £13,000	
Project Summary: Young Mum's Project – works in partnership with health visitors and NHS staff and social work to make sure that the most vulnerable and disengaged families will be supported through the service. Aims to build the confidence of young mothers to channel them into community involvement such as parental involvement at nursery / schools and towards paid employment. Contribution to costs of staffing, premises and activity costs. Net AXS – Identified need to improve digital access through provision of enhanced IT support and on-line access in conjunction with CAB and Work Club. Contribution sought for staffing, start – up equipment costs, premises adaptation and other associated costs.	
Measurable Outcomes: Young Mum's Project – 40 registered users with around 30 regular attenders. Net – AXS – Number of learners registered – 40 p.a. ; No of people assisted with Advice	

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Pulteneytown People's Project (DAF Activities)	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £107,018 Amount Applied for: £87,518	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £87,000	
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>The aims of the DAF project are to assist local people from throughout Caithness to engage in activities that will make them more job ready and able to slip into the employability pipeline with the right skills so they can progress. The funding being requested is specifically for the costs associated with running the DAF sessions and does not include running costs for the centre apart from for the DAF sessions. We expect between the sessions to have 60 plus people attending per week, and between them over 100 places filled per week.</p> <p>Arts and Crafts Activities – these sessions have been very popular over the last year, and include 3 people from Thurso, a disabled girl and local people. On average we have 15 plus people attend each week. During these sessions they learn soft skills, including working in a team, making low cost items, enterprise activities (selling their crafts at a stall), participants that are able work towards their core SVQ units do so. The interaction is particularly valuable for participants with mild mental health issues, learning difficulties, and older people who have never worked, but are on JSA. We also have some young people attend who are seeking work and filling their week, they come to this session as well as Activity Agreement sessions.</p> <p>The sessions are semi informal, but work to a 10 week planner devised by the group, and has aims for that 10 weeks.</p> <p>Job Club – we have over 35 people attend every week our job club. They can get assistance to make up a CV, job searches, interview skills and use our newspapers. This is very popular as a lot of people do not have access to a computer neither do they have the confidence to use one. They can get assistance and on the interactive smart board we run presentations delivering step by step process to sign on, job search etc. We have built up a rapport with service users, Job Centre Staff, and employers, and our 'footfall' continues to increase.</p> <p>Computer Class – we started due to the high demand and want to continue with our computer class, where people can get one to one support to set up an email, go through the Universal Job Match, and build up their confidence on computers. We have around 5 – 7 people attend each week and most come for 3 or 4 weeks to gain an understanding and confidence working a computer. This was set up due to the demand and the job club was too busy for staff to spend time helping them set up emails etc during the job club. These two sessions work together, and we have young people from the Activity Agreement and Employability Project come along and assist people to use computers, so this builds up their confidence.</p> <p>SVQ Social Care & Childcare – we have run two very successful years of delivering SVQ in Child Development and Social Care. Due to SSSC regulations it is essential that people who want a career in care have an SVQ. We have provided an opportunity for 20 people to work towards and gain their qualification which will secure them work in the future. Our first group will be finished their qualification by the end of January and our second intake will be finished next Christmas. The candidates need to attend one day a week within the project in a work experience placement – these include the job club, DAF arts & crafts group, computer class, housing support, drop in sessions, and our crèche. The social care students rotate to give them variety, the crèche staff have rota blocks which allows them experience with pre school, after school and youth groups. They also have to attend 5 full day sessions per annum to complete their first aid, food hygiene, manual</p>	

handling, report writing and SVQ induction. Out with this they are given work and a two hour slot every fortnight with an assessor and they work through the qualification at home. We have had students from Reay, Dunnett, (landward) throughout Wick and Thurso area. We also have had one student who has worked for another organisation and we have completed the assessing through her placement. This has given people – single dad, single mum, very young mum now returning to work, people in a 'dead end job' looking for a career, and unemployed the opportunity to gain a qualification. Some had tried the college but due to their location, and childcare issues they had not completed the course.

These students integrate into other parts of DAF projects by providing extra support. The extra support in the childcare allows us to provide much needed one to one support with some children, more adults per ratio to ensure children get time spent on them and better supervision with the older children, this allows us to take some difficult children into mainstream sessions because we have the extra support from the students.

We expect all of our students to get a job in their chosen profession – 4 already have and have not yet completed their qualifications.

We will also recruit 4 admin candidates who will obtain their SVQ Level 2 or 3 in Admin. These training opportunities have had huge additional value, in coming years you need an SVQ to work in the care sector. Providing this flexible training opportunity to deliver the qualifications has allowed people achieve a career and long term job prospects, which they could never have achieved anywhere else.

The DAF sessions have included childcare when required which has been fundamental to the success of the project. We have at least 6 mums from the art group and almost all of the SVQ students would not have managed without the possibility of childcare when required. This is monitored and only applicable for the duration of the course to maximise the use of the childcare allowance.

Measurable Outcomes: as above