

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Community Challenge Fund Applications Panel** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on Wednesday, 13 February 2013, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Dr D Alston
Mr D Hendry

Mr J Gray
Ms F Robertson

Committee Chairs:

Mr A Christie
Mr D Fallows

Mrs B McAllister
Mr T Prag

Officials in attendance:

Ms M Morris, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr A Gould, Head of Procurement
Ms L Lee, Committee Administrator

Dr D Alston in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs C Wilson and Mr G Phillips.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Assessment Criteria

There had been circulated the Assessment Criteria agreed by Highland Council at its meeting on 25 October 2012, against which applications for funding would be assessed. The Chair having provided clarification in response to a number of questions, the Panel **NOTED** the Assessment Criteria.

4. Expressions of Interest

35 Expressions of Interest had been received prior to 1 February deadline, and were circulated. Copies of the recommendations of the Officers' Working Group meeting held on 8 February 2013 were tabled. The Officers' meeting had been attended by representatives from the relevant Services, Procurement, Finance, Human Resources and Legal. This had allowed for each application to be assessed in detail against the Criteria, and consideration to be given to any potential consequences (e.g. impact on staff, terms of leases, procurement, etc.) should a project be taken forward.

Members welcomed that the Challenge Fund had generated considerable interest and brought a number of good ideas to the Council's attention. Each application was considered in turn, with additional information provided in response to Member questions. The principle of communities taking over assets such as piers, where the Council could in the long term be faced with maintenance costs and potential liabilities, was discussed in detail.

The Panel **AGREED** the following Expressions of Interest:

Approved to the next stage:

- 4.21 Lochaber Sports Association
- 4.23 Nairn County Cricket Club
- 4.24 Kinlochleven Community Trust
- 4.30 Lochalsh Sports Association
- 4.33 Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust
- 4.34 Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Not Approved to the Next Stage:

- 4.1 DS and MA Miller
- 4.2 NICE
- 4.3 Fèisean nan Gàidheal
- 4.4 The Touring Network
- 4.5 Strathglass and Glenaffric Community Company
- 4.6 The Libertie Project Ltd
- 4.7 For the Right Reasons
- 4.8 Open Secret / In Care Survivor Service Scotland
- 4.9 I Calderwood
- 4.10 Merkinch Development Ventures / Ness Soap
- 4.11 Made in Ullapool
- 4.12 Made in Tain
- 4.13 Lochaber Action on Disability
- 4.14 Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Company (BSCTC)
- 4.15 Glachbeg Croft Education Centre
- 4.16 Dalchreichart Area Residents Association (DARA)
- 4.17 Coigach Community Development Company (1)
- 4.18 Ullapool Harbour Trust
- 4.19 Coigach Community Development Company (2)
- 4.20 Stoer Peninsular Community and Toilet Group
- 4.22 An Aird Users Group
- 4.25 Kyleakin Environmental Group
- 4.26 Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service
- 4.27 Strathdearn Community Council
- 4.28 Kinlochbervie Community Company
- 4.29 Lairg and District Community Initiatives
- 4.31 Feis Rois
- 4.32 Abriachan Forest Trust – Roots to Resilience
- 4.35 The Glendale Trust

The Panel **NOTED** that:

- i. 20 projects which had been found not to meet the Assessment Criteria would be directed to other sources of funding and it was hoped they would ultimately go ahead;

- ii. response letters to unsuccessful applicants would explain the reasons the application had been rejected;
- iii. the Assessment Criteria and guidance provided for Challenge Fund applications would be clarified, and Ward Managers be apprised of this;
- iv. the Fisheries and Harbours Board would be asked to explore the benefits, particularly in the longer term, of communities taking over piers and jetties; and
- v. the next meeting of the Panel would consider the full applications as agreed above.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.