

The Highland Council
Lochaber Area Committee
27 February 2014

Agenda Item	9
Report No	LA/6/14

Deprived Area Fund 2014-15

Report by Director of Planning & Development

Summary

The Report invites Members to consider recommendations for the allocation of the Deprived Area Fund for 2014-15 in the Lochaber Area.

The Deprived Area Fund directly supports the Council's Programme by assisting organisations working in defined disadvantaged communities to develop and implement activities aimed at improving quality of life and regenerating communities. Priority will be given to projects which directly deliver employability outcomes for individuals who live within the targeted area and who are furthest removed from the labour market.

1. Background

- 1.1 The scope and criteria of the Deprived Area Fund 2014-15 (DAF) was approved by PED Committee on 14th August 2013 and reported to the Lochaber Area Committee on 25th November 2013.
- 1.2 As noted in the earlier Reports the revised criteria for the Fund includes more targeted areas and a three year funding period to enable development of a strategic approach and encouraging continuity of provision over a more sustained period. However, these applications include some organisations whose current funding expires at the end of March 2014. At the same time the Area Committee will want to consider how they want to develop the use of these funds over the next three years.

2 2014 – 2015 AWARDS

- 2.1 Following the placing of Public Notices, distribution to the Lochaber Employability Partnership and the Council's website at total of 3 applications were received by the closing date for Lochaber Deprived Area Funding – as shown in the table below.

TABLE 1:

Ref. no	Application Organisation	Application
3535	Lochaber Hope	£28,953 (over three years)
3542	Shirlie Project	£4,360 (one year)
3541	West Highland College	29,400 (over three years)

2.2 These applications have been given a robust appraisal (process agreed with Internal audit) including –

- An examination of the Applicant’s proposals by Council Officers along with Officers of Partner organisations (JCP & SDS) to assess the need and appropriateness of the proposals; their “fit” with partner services to avoid duplication; and the capacity of the organisation to deliver using the assessment criteria outlined in **Appendix 1**.
- A separate Technical assessment of the organisation is carried out including its governance, experience, other activities undertaken, how business is managed, including an examination of its Annual Report and Accounts. This undertaken by a Council Officer with assistance from other Services where appropriate;
- Organisations already in receipt of DAF have had to submit Quarterly Reports of the organisation’s performance in meeting the targets set for 2012-13;
- Where necessary further information has been obtained, project meetings and visits undertaken as necessary – and in some cases Council staff are in weekly contact with the organisations undertaking joint activities.

2.3 A summary of the Applications, assessments is given in Appendix 1. The recommendations are made for 12months funding from April 2014 (subject to continued performance and reporting through the year). This recommendation is made to provide stability for the organisations concerned and to allow Members sufficient time to consider how these funds can best be used in the future – alongside other funding streams that target disadvantage, Including other Council Services, NHS and potentially, EU Programmes.

2.4 **TABLE 2:**

Ref no	Application Organisation	Recommend 2014 -15
3535	Lochaber Hope	£9,519
3542	Shirle Project	£4,360
3541	West Highland College	£9,970
	Total	£23,849

3 IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource: The recommendations, if accepted by members, are within the budget of £30,000 and will leave **£6,151** available for allocation in the course of the year.

3.2 Risk: The recommendations are based on a thorough assessment of the organisations’ capacity to deliver efficiently and effectively. The organisations are established and meet current monitoring requirements.

3.3 Equalities: The Deprived Area Fund aims to tackle identified socio-economic inequalities. In particular the measures within the programme particularly target young people; women and people with long term conditions.

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 RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to approve the recommendations shown below.

Ref no	Application Organisation	Recommend 2014 -15
3535	Lochaber Hope	£9,519
3542	Shirlie Project	£4,360
3541	West Highland College	£9,970
	Total	£23,849

Director of Planning and Development

13 February 2014

Author: Nicola MacKenzie and Bob MacKinnon, Employability Team.

APPENDIX 1

LOCHABER AREA COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2014

DEPRIVED AREA FUNDS 2014-17

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Lochaber Hope	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £14724 Amount Applied for: £9519	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £44553 Amount Applied for: £28953
Recommended Year 1: £9519	
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>The aim of the project for 2014-2017 is to provide additional employment opportunities to their customers by utilising current resources and increasing engagement with employers: LH will work with employers to identify employment posts that they find difficult to fill because of a lack of suitably qualified candidates, LH will then identify clients who are interested in these jobs and give them training to enable them to take up a position with a local employer possibly after a short work placement where the employer can satisfy themselves that the applicant is suitable for the position.</p> <p>By equipping their clients with soft, practical and vocational skills they can prepare people for specific employment roles and duties, they can phase this over 3 years to develop a social enterprise employment agency.</p> <p>Over 3 years LH will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the hours of our current part time employment advisor from 21 to 35 hours. • engage with employers, providing online and social media advertising, CV search, short listing candidates and arranging interviews. • provide funding for vocational training where there will be a guaranteed job outcome. • deliver focussed group motivational and confidence building classroom training (3 x 5 days) • provide mentoring support to customers. • provide ongoing classes including mock interviews and client facilitated listening groups. • Daily job search support, online search and online applications, cover letters and CV's 	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p>To help individuals to achieve more through personal development training and volunteering opportunities; with a particular emphasis on attracting participants who have already taken part in confidence building through their interaction with Lochaber Hope i.e. providing progression routes for those who have already been supported by Deprived Area Funding. By getting involved in volunteering activities in the area, participants will be contributing to community development and capacity building.</p> <p>The programme for Years 2014/15 and 2015/16</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pre-volunteering course for 6 candidates. b. Group event c. Award in Volunteering Skills for the 6 candidates. SCQF levels 3,4 and 5 <p>In Year 3 2016/17</p> <p>Evaluation -The detail</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-volunteering course for 6 candidates. <p>The invite for participation to go in the first instance to the clients who have undertaken training and support in previous years through Lochaber Hope.</p> <p>To run over 3 weeks. 3 x 0.5 day sessions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Introducing volunteering + selecting a Taster session + set scene for an end of programme group event. (ii) Taster session (iii) Review of Taster session 	

Assessment Score 15

Criteria 1 Score 4 2 x 2

Lack of full justification. Attempt to provide information on some aspects of the criteria although limited justification for targeted identified areas. Some evidence of identifying community needs through community and client group engagement and consultation but required to be more comprehensive.

Criteria 2 Score 6 2 x 3

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

Criteria 3 Score 2 2 x 1

Lack of full justification. Attempt to provide information on some aspects of the criteria although limited justification for targeted identified areas. Some evidence of identifying community needs through community and client group engagement and consultation but required to be more comprehensive.

Criteria 4 Score 3 3 x 1

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 15 /30

Technical Assessment
PASS

Recommendation:

Amount Recommended: **£9,519**

Approve 1 year funding

Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Shirlie Project	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £4,360 Amount Applied for: £4,360	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £4,360
Recommended Year 1: £4,360	
Project Summary: <p>The Shirley Project propose to deliver employment focused 2 x 2 day workshops to meet the needs of the local residents. The project will target additional support needs, deprivation & equality whilst re-acting to statistics.</p> <p>Aimed at supporting over 25's gain employability skills then assist them in securing and sustaining employment. The programme is designed to be flexible and to meet the needs of each individual who takes part.</p> <p>A Job Coach will work with each client to build an individualised and tailored plan with the aim of gaining employment.</p> <p>Elements of a plan can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Development• Information, Advice & Guidance• Core Skills• Employability• Work Placement• Volunteering Opportunities• Short Courses• Health and Wellbeing• Further Education/Qualifications• Enterprise and Entrepreneurship• Benefits Advice and Financial Inclusion <p>Assistance will also be provided to potential employers looking to recruit a member of staff to access recruitment incentives and subsidised pay schemes. In-work support can also be provided to employers to help clients with the transition into work placement or employment.</p>	
Measurable Outcomes: <p>Expected Outcomes and Outputs for 8 individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A work focussed action plan will be created for each participant• Increase awareness by all participants on the differences between ESA and JSA and a clear understanding of their own requirements• An income maximisation check undertaken for all participants• Increased confidence and readiness for work• Contacts with local employers covering a range of sectors <p>75% to attain accreditation, voluntary work, training or employment.</p>	

Assessment Score 24

Criteria 1 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Criteria 2 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement

Criteria 3 Score 4 4 x 1

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement

Criteria 4 Score 4 4 x 1

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement

Overall Score Against Criteria :24/30

Technical Assessment
PASS

Recommendation: Approve

Amount Recommended: **£4,360**

Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: West Highland College	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £9,970 Amount Applied for: £9,970	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £29,910 Amount Applied for: £29,910
Recommended Year 1: £9,970	
Project Summary: To run weekly workshops in the Plantation Community Hall Fort William and Leven Centre Kinlochleven. The aim of the project is to empower residents by addressing fundamental issues such as <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digitilisation – job search skills, build a C.V, register with Universal Job Match• Personal and group development skills – assertiveness, citizenship & communication• Budgeting skills – opening a bank account, obtaining recognised ID & proof of identity.• Assertiveness – taking control/ownership awareness• Working on reality – how we live and how it affects us in relation to finding and sustaining employment or further education. Apply for individual learning accounts to promote further learning• Health & Well being – Healthy eating, promoting healthier options & the benefits of exercise.	
Measurable Outcomes: Fortwilliam – Register over 60 individuals. Kinlochleven – Register over 25 individuals. In every workshop an individual assessment and employability needs assessment addressed. Clients signposted to short vocational courses (ECDL, PC passport, CSCS, Food &Hygiene and ESOL). Support individuals to apply for individual learning accounts. Where they are not eligible for funding support will be sourced from partner organisations. Those that do not wish to go onto further learning voluntary opportunities or employment opportunities will be explored	

Assessment Score 23

Criteria 1 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Criteria 2 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Criteria 3 Score 3 3 x 1

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

Criteria 4 Score 4 4 x 1

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 23 /30	Technical Assessment PASS
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Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £9,970
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Special Conditions: