

Agenda Item	6
Report No	CIA/04/14

Deprived Area Fund 2014-15

Report by Director of Planning & Development

Summary

The Report describes the 5 applications received for the Deprived Area Fund for 2014-15 and invites Members to approve recommendations for the allocations. The recommendations have been approved by the City of Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee. It is also recommended that decisions regarding the balance of the Funds in 2014-15 be delegated to the Common Good Sub-Committee for consideration.

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. The City of Inverness Area Committee agreed the process and timetable for evaluating applications at its meeting on 21st October 2013 and agreed that the applications should be considered initially by the City of Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.
- 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 Sub-Committee and Area Committee will want to consider how they want to develop the use of these funds over the next three years.

2 2013 – 14 Awards

- 2.1 Following the placing of Public Notices and placement on the Council's website a total of 5 applications were received by the closing date for the City of Inverness Area Funding – as shown in the Table 1 below.

TABLE 1:

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation
3517	Merkinch Partnership
3518	Merkinch Enterprise
3536	Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)
3537	Arts in Merkinch
3560	The Conservation Volunteers Scotland

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 that were presented to the Sub-Committee is attached as **Appendix 1**. These recommendations, with the exception of Inverness Blitz were considered and agreed by the City of Inverness Common Good Sub-Committee at their meeting on 10th February 2014. The assessment of the Inverness Blitz application had not been completed at that stage but is now included with a recommendation for funding as described in the assessment.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Based on these assessments the Awards recommended are shown below –

TABLE 2:

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Recommend 2014-15
3517	Merkinch Partnership	£ 59,000
3518	Merkinch Enterprise	£ 18,750
3536	Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)	£ 9,500
3537	Arts in Merkinch	£ 30,000
3560	The Conservation Volunteers Scotland	£ 18,480
	Total	£ 137,730

3.2 The recommendations are made for 12 months 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.

3.3 While the projects recommended do provide benefit to other areas – the main benefit from these recommendations is to the Merkinch area, reflecting both the continuing needs of the area and the sustained intervention in the area. However, the new criteria include other parts of the City and Area where no applications have been made to date – notably Hilton, Raigmore, Dalneigh and Ardersier. Members will note that the Employability Service does provide direct services in other parts of the City Area and will discuss with partners how we might engage with these areas and encourage and support community initiatives directed at relieving

unemployment utilising the balance of funds available.

4. **Implications**

- 4.1 Resource: The recommendations, if accepted by Members, are within the budget available and will leave £24,270 available for allocation in the course of the year.
- 4.2 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. The Grant Funding is managed and monitored using the Council's Grant Standard Terms and Conditions.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Climate Change: There are no significant Climate Change implications arising from the Report.
- 4.5 Legal: There are no Legal implications arising from the Report.

5. **Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members are invited to approve the recommendations for the Deprived Area Fund 2014-15 as shown below –

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Recommend 2014-15
3517	Merkinch Partnership	£ 59,000
3518	Merkinch Enterprise	£ 18,750
3536	Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)	£ 9,500
3537	Arts in Merkinch	£ 30,000
3560	The Conservation Volunteers Scotland	£ 18,480
	Total	£ 137,730

- 5.2 Members are asked to agree that decisions on the use of the balance of funds for 2014-15 should be delegated to the City of Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 18th February 2014

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CITY OF INVERNESS AREA COMMITTEE

Summary Applications, Assessments and Recommendations

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Application 2014 - 15	Recommend 2014-15
3517	Merkinch Partnership	£ 59,000	£ 59,000
3518	Merkinch Enterprise	£ 25,000	£ 18,750
3536	Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)	£ 9,500	£ 9,500
3537	Arts in Merkinch	£ 30,000	£ 30,000
3560	The Conservation Volunteers Scotland	£ 18,480	£ 18,480
	Total	£ 141,980	£ 135,730
	Budget 2014 - 15		£ 160,000
	Still to allocate		£ 24,270

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Ref 3517 Merkinch Partnership	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £184,460 Amount Applied for: £59,000	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £538,297 Amount Applied for: £172,000
Recommended Year 1: £59,000	
<p>Project Summary: Merkinch Community Building Blocks Project</p> <p>A range of projects working with unemployed people to move them into the labour market, training and developing local volunteers and working with local people to build capacity and skill and encourage community leadership, including:</p> <p>Get Merkinch Working – support and advice including creating CVs, using a computer, internet access, e-mail accounts, job search, online applications, accessing Universal Jobmatch, Welfare Reform, online benefit claims and job search will be available via:</p> <p>Merkinch Community Work Club – 3 days/wk for over 16 hours on a drop-in basis Pre-Employability Skills Programme – 4 courses, ½ day/wk over 12 weeks, 6 people One to One Training Sessions for people needing more intensive support Drop-in facility at Merkinch Partnership office</p> <p>Supported Work Experience Placements for 6 Work Club members struggling with addictions to take up 6 month placements with For the Right Reasons.</p> <p>Support into Employment for Young People (16-24 years) – one to one support to build skills, increase confidence, job search activities, interview skills, mentoring and referral on to training courses, volunteering & work experience placements provided via: Employment Skills Programme : Young Volunteers Mentoring Project : Employability Through Football Outreach Project : Employer Liaison</p> <p>Volunteering Merkinch – develop & recruit volunteers, create new volunteer projects, provide skills & personal development opportunities; improve organisational capacity.</p> <p>Community Skills Training Programme – work with local community volunteers to give local people the skills and resources required to deliver successful community projects.</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p>Get Merkinch Working:</p> <p>Community Work Club – 350 people register ; 45 people moving into sustained employment 35 people moving into training, education or volunteering</p> <p>Pre-Employability Skills Programme – 24 long term unemployed people register; 10 people participate in the labour market ; people take part in additional training activities ;One to one Employment Skills sessions with Work Club members – 120 participate ; Drop-in Advice Service at Merkinch Partnership Office Premises – 20 people per week ; Referrals to Supported Work Experience Placement – 6 Work Club members ; Support into Employment for Young People Employment Skills Programme – 30 young people register ; 20 participants enter employment, training or volunteering ; Employability Through Football Outreach Project – 10 young people register.</p> <p>4 young people participate in Activity Agreements ; 2 young people move into employment Employer Liaison – 10 employers register ; Volunteer Merkinch – 40 volunteers participate ; 15 new volunteers will be recruited onto the programme ; 30 volunteers achieve accredited qualifications 3 new volunteering opportunities will be created and developed ; 6 volunteers are recruited and trained for the Work Club ; Community Skills Training Programme – 24 community volunteers supported/ trained ; capacity building activities with 6 local groups</p>	

Assessment Score 24**Criteria 1 Score 8 – (2 x 4)**

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 – (2 x 4)

Strong justification. Good response which demonstrates clear employability aims and how these will be delivered. Good and credible evidence to demonstrate that participants will at least begin to move towards the outcome of employment.

Criteria 3 Score 4 – (1 x 4)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers.

Criteria 4 Score 4- (1x 4)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : **24 /30**

Technical Assessment
PASS

Past Performance: Established project that continues to meet and exceed targets –
Twice Weekly work club sessions with 60 attenders each week – 200 + individuals over year;
Providing additional basic IT literacy (142); volunteering (29) and training opportunities (29).
Work with 30 young people with 20 moving on to employment or training;
Volunteer programme working with 35 volunteers /20 achieving accreditation
Assistance / mentoring to 40 volunteers engaged with other community groups
Over 300 people engaged in community sports programme.

Recommendation:

Approve 1 year funding

Amount Recommended:

£59,000

Special Conditions:

No special conditions required

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: Ref 3518 Merkinch Enterprise	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £96,825 Amount Applied for: £25,000	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £18,750	
Project Summary: Community Training for the Unemployed The primary constitutional aim of the organisation is the “Promotion of Training Skills” which is achieved through the provision of a dedicated Information Technology Training Programme for the Merkinch area however also for the wider Inverness Area. The Project also provides the same level of provision in the Dalneigh Community Centre. The programme Community Training for the Unemployed remains classroom based and tutor led. Four 10 week training periods will be delivered with an average 18 clients/session. It is anticipated that approximately 80 clients will therefore use the service during the period of the application. Assessment and accreditation is provided through Inverness College. Training is delivered to HNC level and each client can achieve up to 2 credits at SVQ level 4. European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) SVQ level 2 will also be offered. This is the third year of a three year European Social Fund Project and the funding requested is 25% of the overall project costs. The European funding element will run through to December 2014 and this funding request will enable the project to continue through to March 2015. The main costs relate to staffing, venue hire, childcare and general administration costs.	
Measurable Outcomes: IT training for the Unemployed in Merkinch 6 into Employment 4 into Further Education/Training 22 Achieving Accreditation IT Training for the Unemployed in Dalneigh 5 into Employment 2 into Further Education/Training 18 Achieving Accreditation IT Training for the Unemployed in Inverness 5 into Employment 2 into Further Education/Training 20 Achieving Accreditation	

Assessment Score - 21**Criteria 1 - Score 6 – (3 x 2)**

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 2 - Score 8 – (4 x 2)

Strong justification. Good response which demonstrates clear employability aims and how these will be delivered. Good and credible evidence to demonstrate that participants will at least begin to move towards the outcome of employment.

Criteria 3 - Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 - Score 4- (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria :21 /30	Technical Assessment PASS
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Past Performance: Project continues to meet ESF targets and reporting – recruiting across Inverness not just Merkinch. 60 participants have achieved accreditation (22 Merkinch; 18 Dalneigh; 20 wider Inverness areas). 16 participants known to have obtained employment. Project in final year (to Dec. 14) of 3 year ESF Project and has been successful in obtaining ESF over a period of years. New EU Programme due to start in 2014 and Council contracted services also likely to impact on project for 2015.

Recommendation: Approve 9 month funding to cover ESF programme commitment.	Amount Recommended: £18,750
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Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: 3536 Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £42,980 Amount Applied for: £9,500	Application Finance 2014 – 17 2 Year Project Cost: £85,960 Amount Applied for: £19,000 (2 years)
Recommended Year 1: £9,500	
Project Summary: Positive Life Pathways <p>This project uses American Football as a tool to engage young people in a positive activity. A Youth Development Officer (working in partnership with schools and other organisations) will identify young people aged between 14 – 18 years living in deprived areas of Inverness and experiencing social isolation and attempt to use the “lifestyle” developed within the organisation to help them work to change their lives in a positive way.</p> <p>The Development Officer will organise/deliver training opportunities for playing the game; provide pathways into performance level team competition. The project will heavily emphasise facilitating volunteering opportunities for these young people to lead and coach younger participants; support training opportunities for these young people to develop leadership skills and general life skills.</p> <p>Training and competing in American Football will aim to increase the young people’s confidence by giving them the opportunity to work as part of a team, develop leadership skills, take pride in their achievements, build character and learn fair play and learn about nutrition and healthy eating.</p>	
Measurable Outcomes: <p>Young people become more focussed, engaged and driven. This includes a good attitude towards their training, school work, gaining employment and working through difficult life conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">15 training at least 3 times per week15 working off a weekly training and school work schedule10 actively planning and working towards employment and career planning <p>Young people gain life skills and have improved confidence including organisational skills, goal setting, self-evaluation and leadership ability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">20 participating in monthly goal setting and evaluation20 working as part of a team in the Youth or Junior Highland Wildcats2 events run by the targeted group for younger children to participate in <p>Young people gain experience, qualifications and training including volunteering with younger children, training experience, travelling, earning certificates and coaching awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">15 gain Positive Coaching Scotland certificates; Saltire Awards; first aid qualifications; NGB coaching awards; and/or recognition awards10 regularly leading sessions in a local school10 gain employment	

Assessment – Score : 19**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 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 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 : 19 /30

Technical Assessment
Pass

Past Performance: New application for DAF but is receiving support from Common Good and external sources. Strong application focused clearly on lifestyle issues and achieving personal growth and development through sport. Evidence that participants are unemployed or not achieving full potential. Application is for a project of £42,980

Recommendation:

Approve

Amount Recommended:

£9,500

Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: 3537 Arts in Merkinch	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £89,162 Amount Applied for: £30,000	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £272,872 Amount Applied for: £75,000
Recommended Year 1: £30,000	
Project Summary: Arts in Merkinch aim to promote the social, physical, emotional and economic health of the local community by developing skills and providing access to the arts and cultural activities. Delivered through key projects funding support is requested towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The salary and related costs for the Development Manager and Studio Co-ordinator.• The programme of tutored arts provision delivered at The Bike Shed – the projects Community Arts Venue.• The delivery of a varied programme of clay based activity specifically working with marginalised and/or disadvantaged groups at the Clay Studio.• The ongoing development of the education, training and volunteering opportunities being delivered at both the Clay Studio and Bike Shed.• The development of a clay based design, manufacturing and retail enterprise. The main costs associated with the Project relate to the salaries of the Development Manager, the Studio Co-ordinator and a number of sessional workers.	
Measurable Outcomes: The Clay Studio: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer over 150 places across clay activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 75% of participants gain accreditation The Bike Shed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer over 90 places on the Bike Shed workshop and class programme Community Steering Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70% of the Steering Group Volunteers will increase their knowledge of board and management structures and responsibilities Clay Enterprise Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitution, legal framework and business plan will have been produced	

Assessment Score 19

Criteria 1 Score 6 –(3 x 2)

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 2 Score 6 – (3 x 2)

Satisfactory Justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address employability aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of employment however would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory Justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 Score 4 – (4 x 1)

Strong Justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 19/30

Technical Assessment:
PASS

Past Performance: Organisation has received funding over a period of years and is reducing amounts applied for (£40,000 in 2013-14) as they are successful in obtaining funds from other sources. They are currently on course to exceed the attendance targets for the year – number of participants / attendances as well as extending the programme of activities to 14 Events in addition to weekly programmes, including arts, crafts and drama events. Strong involvement with young people and increasing involvement of adults as volunteers assisting activity. Increasing proportion of attenders achieving accreditation. Governance and organisational reporting is satisfactory.

Recommendation:
Approve 1 year funding

Amount Recommended:
£30,000

Special Conditions:

No special conditions required.

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2014-15

Name of Applicant: 3560 The Conservation Volunteers Scotland	
Application Finance 2014 – 15 Year Project Cost: £18,480 Amount Applied for: £18,480	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £54,835 Amount Applied for: £54,835
Recommended Year 1: £18,480	
<p>Project Summary: Inverness Green Gym</p> <p>The Green Gym is based at Merkinch Local Nature Reserve and aims to support long term unemployed people and those with physical and mental health issues with a sympathetic and supportive environment in order to progress towards a full engagement in society.</p> <p>Aims include:</p> <p>A Better Environment – matching expertise with locally determined priorities to enable people to take action and find the best solutions to tackle environmental issues that matter to them;</p> <p>Environmentally Active Citizens – support and encourage people to think and act differently, working collectively through practical action to understand and improve their environment;</p> <p>Improved Health & Wellbeing – promote the concept of a “natural health service”, by creating and maintaining good quality greenspace to provide opportunities for physical exercise and mental wellbeing;</p> <p>Employment and Skills for the Future – supporting people to develop new skills that help them into sustained employment, improving their opportunities to become active, contributing members of society.</p> <p>This application seeks funding for staffing, transport and activities for:</p> <p>Weekly Green Gym Sessions on Wednesdays from 10am to 3.30pm. Sessions will be led by a qualified Green Gym Officer and trained TCV Conservation Volunteer Officers. Transport, outdoor clothing, tools and snacks will be provided. Venues will include the Merkinch Local Nature Reserve, Merkinch Primary School and Nursery Gardens, Corbett Centre, Dunain Woodland, REAL Project and Highland Wildflower Nursery (if up and running) at Inverness High School and Hawthorn Project.</p> <p>Referrals come mainly from health professionals. The Mental Health Green Gym at new Craigs Psychiatric Hospital will continue throughout the period.</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p><u>Inverness Green Gym</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 65 volunteers attend Green Gym• 8 greenspaces enhanced• 8 invasive species control days delivered	

Assessment – Score 19**Criteria 1 Score 6 (3 x 2)**

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 2 Score 6 (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification- Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address employability aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of employment however would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 3 (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification- Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 Score 4 (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria :19 / 30

Technical Assessment :

PASS

Past Performance: Steady attendance from around 30 participants over a quarter with over 60 different individuals over the year to date. Has particularly worked with Employability agencies to ensure engagement and progression for participants to other learning. Project has worked at environmental improvements to 10 sites including work at New Craigs and Merkinch Local Nature Reserve.

Recommendation:

Approve 1 year funding

Amount Recommended:

£18,480

Special Conditions: