

**The Highland Council**  
**City of Inverness Area Committee**  
**2 September 2014**

Agenda Item	16
Report No	CIA/44/14

**Landfill Communities Fund**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**Summary**

This report invites Members to approve applications to the Highland Council Landfill Community Fund.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Landfill Operators, including The Highland Council, pay a tax to the Government on every ton of waste that they dispose of in a landfill site. The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) allows the landfill operator to offset 5.1% of their landfill tax liability and gives a 90% tax credit against their donations to organisations who deliver Environmental Objectives, and are registered with ENTRUST, the Government regulator for the LCF.
- 1.2 The Highland Council removes the need to register with ENTRUST by employing E B Scotland, a 'Distributive Environmental Body'. This means that E B Scotland register the projects in the Council's name and undertake all regulatory and administrative responsibilities.
- 1.3 The Highland Council, as a Landfill Operator, distributes its Landfill Communities Fund to local biodiversity conservation projects with a maximum contribution of £10,000 to any one project annually, subject to approval by the appropriate Area Committee as agreed by Members when they considered report COM /03/14 to the Community Services Committee on 15 May 2014.

**2. Applications for Consideration**

- 2.1 Members are invited to consider the following application to the Highland Council Landfill Communities Fund. The details of the project are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 **Coastal Conservation Action Days by Wild Things!**  
Wild things! Is applying for funding for a new project which will engage children, young people and vulnerable adults from the Inverness region in practical conservation action relating to the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and other native species on the Moray Firth coastline which are listed in the UK Biodiversity Action plan and the Scottish Biodiversity List. The project will raise awareness amongst local communities about the biodiversity

of their coastline and its need for protection, whilst carrying out practical work to conserve it.

### 3. Project Costs and Recommendations for Allocation of Funding

The table below details the total project cost, the amount requested, and the proposed allocation

APPLICATIONS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION
Coastal Conservation Action Days	11,500	9,000	9,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£9,000</b>

### 4. Implications

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 There are no equality implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 There are no climate/Carbon Clever implications arising from this report.
- 4.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.
- 4.6 There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report
- 4.7 There are no Rural implications arising from this report.

#### Recommendation

Members are invited to approve the application.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 13 August 2014

Author: Neil Downie

Background Papers: **Appendix A**

## Appendix A

**Name of Project:** Coastal Conservation Action Days

**Applicant:** Wild things!

**Background:** Founded in 2003, Wild things! is a Scottish Charity which uses contact with the natural world to overcome educational, social or economic disadvantages. It is the largest provider of outdoor environmental education in North East Scotland and has worked with more than 10,000 children, young people and vulnerable adults from across the Highlands and Grampian regions over the past decade, achieving measurable improvements in their confidence and educational attainment.

### **Project Description:**

The project will consist of 20 Conservation Action Days which will take place at coastal sites close to the city of Inverness on the north and south sides of the Inner Moray Firth shoreline. This area is a part of the Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Ramsar site. Various locations will be used, including the Merkinch Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Sites along this shoreline support a great variety of wildlife habitats once characteristic of the region but which are now scarce – mudflats, shingle heath, tidal flats and sand dunes. The shallow sandy sediments within the SAC provide important nursery, feeding or migration areas for fish and these in turn provide important prey species for the dolphins such as salmon, sea trout, cod, herring, mullet, eels and squid. Primary school children, young people and vulnerable adults will gain a detailed understanding of biodiversity and acquire new skills in: Monitoring biodiversity; interpreting the coastal environment; understanding conservation issues; species identification; biodiversity survey techniques; and understanding climate change. Conservation tasks will include biodiversity monitoring of bottlenose dolphin and other rare species, habitat restoration, the removal of non-native invasive species, and litter clearing.

### **Key Costs:**

	£
Activity Leaders x 2 (20 days)	4,000
Preparation of activities, site visits etc. (5 days)	1,000
Project Management and Co-ordination (10 days)	2,000
Conservation tools, materials and educational resources	2,000
Transport (emergency vehicle plus minibus transport for participants)	1,000
Project Administration and office costs	1,500
<b>Total costs</b>	<b><u>11,500</u></b>

**Amount Requested:** £9,000

**Timescales:** September 2014 – September 2015

**Benefits provided:** The practical conservation activities carried out through this project, as outlined above, will help to protect, preserve and enhance the habitats along the coastline in the Inverness region to directly improve the habitat of all of these species. At the same time, project participants will learn new skills, gain valuable insights into conservation action in their local area, and learn why it is so vitally important to protect the unique habitat on their doorsteps.

### **Other Funding sources:**

The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation - £2,500