

**The Highland Council**  
**Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee**  
**23 September 2014**

Agenda Item	<b>14</b>
Report No	<b>CS/ 33/14</b>

**Landfill Communities Fund**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**Summary**

This report invites Members to approve applications to the Highland Council Landfill Communities Funding.

**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 the Appendix.
- 2.2 **Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership – Development Phase by Scottish Wildlife Trust**  
The restoration project will run over five years and will involve communities, landowners, and community organisations across the area delivering in the region of 35 closely integrated, holistic and cross-cutting projects, which will help to sustainably conserve, restore and enhance the outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage found in Coigach and Assynt.

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

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

<b>APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION</b>
Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership – Development Phase	168,750	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	168,750	10,000	10,000

### 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: 9 September 2014

Author: Neil Downie

Background Papers: Appendix

## **Appendix**

### **Name of Project:**

Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership – *Development Phase*

### **Applicant:**

Scottish Wildlife Trust - on behalf of the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership

### **Background:**

The Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP) is an unprecedented partnership of community organisations, private landowners, individuals and conservation charities. There are currently 12 partners - Assynt Foundation, Assynt Field Club, Coigach Community Development Company, Coigach Salmon Fisheries, Culag Community Woodland Trust, Eisg Brachaidh, Historic Assynt, Isle Martin Trust, John Muir Trust, Kylesku Estate, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Tanera Mor.

In 2010 the partners launched the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Programme Plan; this brought together the views and aspirations of the partners and crucially also those of a wide range of other community-based organisations within the Coigach and Assynt areas. The CALL partners are now working together to deliver one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects in Britain – an aspirational 50-year plan to bring woodland connectivity, species-rich flora and fauna, and economic prosperity to Coigach and Assynt.

The CALL project covers over 60,000 hectares (232 sq miles) and is one of the largest landscape restoration projects in Europe

### **Project Description:**

In 2013 the CALL partners submitted a proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme requesting a grant of £3,000,000 towards an ambitious landscape scale restoration scheme with a total cost of £4,607,892 – the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP). The restoration project will run over five years and will involve communities, landowners, and community organisations across the area delivering in the region of 35 closely integrated, holistic and cross-cutting projects, which will help to sustainably conserve, restore and enhance the outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage found in Coigach and Assynt. As a result of this project at least five new jobs will be created.

We were delighted to be awarded a Stage One approval by HLF late last year (*in practice a Stage 1 pass means that the full grant will be awarded as long as the match funding is secured*).

We have now employed a Development Manager and Development Assistant (job share) to prepare and develop the various elements required to build a Stage 2 submission.

### **Key Costs:**

The Development Phase of the project will cost a total of £192,898.

Project Development Manager (16 months)		£47,520
Assistant Development Manager (14 months)		£30,492
Recruitment costs		£1,000
Scheme Office Costs		£2,400
Office start & personal equipment		£3,600
Vehicle (private vehicle allowance)		£4,800
Broch – development work		£13,000
Update LCAs, Prepare project evaluation, Assess potential for SRDP funding (10 days) , Baseline data collection		£33,00
Licenses		£1,620
Legal costs		£24,000
VAT		£14,556
Contingency		£3,596

In addition to the Development grant from HLF of £100,000 the partners have also secured the funding shown below and are actively fundraising to meet the remaining shortfall. We would like to seek the support of the Highland Council Landfill Communities Fund in helping to meet this shortfall with a grant of £10,000.

#### **Other Funding sources:**

Heritage Lottery Fund	£100,000 confirmed
Partner contribution - John Muir Trust	£ 10,000 confirmed
Partner contribution - Scottish Wildlife Trust	£ 20,000 confirmed
Scottish Natural Heritage	£ 20,000 confirmed
Partner contribution - Historic Assynt	£ 3,750 confirmed
Youngman Charitable Trust	£ 15,000 anticipated
<b>Total</b>	<b>£168,750</b>

**Current shortfall                    £24,148**

#### **Timescales:**

The Development Phase is currently underway and will run until May 2015.

#### **Benefits provided:**

A great variety of the wildlife currently isolated in fragmented habitats stands to benefit from this partnership. By working together to see the bigger picture and breathe new life and connectivity into the ecosystems of Coigach and Assynt, globally rare species will be given a chance to increase in number and thrive once more. Key species set to benefit from this project encompass a wealth of biodiversity, including Scottish wood ants to iconic golden eagles and important habitats such as carbon-storing peatlands and rare Atlantic oak woods.