

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee - 25 November 2014

Agenda Item	8
Report No	LA 37/14

Landfill Communities Fund

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to approve an application to the Highland Council Landfill Community 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 **Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **Restoring Habitat and Salmon to the Strontian River by Sunart Community Company**

To restore a healthy and ultimately self-sustaining salmon population to the Strontian River. Improving the biodiversity of the area and creating an asset to be enjoyed by the local community and visitors.

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
Sunart Community Company	17,793	6,904	6,904
TOTAL			£6,904

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: 22 October 2014

Author: Neil Downie

Background Papers: **Appendix A**

Appendix A

Landfill Community Fund Project Outline

Name of Project: Restoring Habitat and Salmon to the Strontian River

Name of applicant: Sunart Community Company (Registered Charity No. SC039640)

Aim

To restore a healthy and ultimately self-sustaining salmon population to the Strontian River. Improving the biodiversity of the area and creating an asset to be enjoyed by the local community and visitors. We will involve community volunteers and primary school pupils, promoting environmental education.

Background

The stocks of migratory fish on the Strontian River collapsed in the 1990's and all that remains is a very small salmon population which is threatened with extinction. In 2006 the Sunart Community Company (SCC) bought the river and fishing rights. Since then the river has been managed by the SCC and Strontian Angling Association (SAA), who lease the fishing rights. (Note: Any migratory fish caught by anglers have to be released.) Over the last couple of years the community has run a pilot scheme to catch salmon parr, genetically screen them, rear the fish to maturity, collect the eggs and reintroduce the eggs and young fish to the river. Electro fishing results for 2014 show that the number of young fish in the river has already started to increase. The pilot phase - 2014 costs of £6,730 have been covered by the Sunart Community Company, Strontian Angling Association and Lochaber Fisheries Trust

We are now keen to expand this into a full project to restore salmon to the Strontian, releasing over 15,000 eggs and fish fry into the river each year.

Project Description

The programme will run to 2017, delivered in partnership with Strontian Angling Association and Lochaber Fisheries Trust. Wild juvenile salmon have now been caught in summer 2014 through electrofishing carried out by the LFT. These salmon will become 'broodfish' for the supportive breeding programme. They are being reared on by (volunteer) members of the Association, tended to on a daily basis. They will then be transferred to a commercial hatchery near Glenfinnan in 2015. (This is one of the most significant costs). After spawning in the hatchery, a proportion of the eggs will also be reared and released by pupils at the local primary school. The SAA will also be undertaking river habitat improvement work in consultation with the LFT, Forestry Commission and SEPA to ensure the river is in good condition.

The success of the project will be reviewed annually using the monitoring data collected by LFT

Project Costs

This is a three year project costing £17,793

2015-2017 Funding Shortfall is - £8,462

Amount Requested from Landfill Grant is - £6,904. This will be used to cover the costs of bringing the salmon to maturity and spawning at a commercial hatchery, plus electro fishing labour costs.

Other Funding has been achieved from:-

The Angling Club, Sunary Community Company, Lochaber Fisheries Trust and SNH.

We continue to see further funding from other funders such as Naturesave.