

The Highland Council

Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee – 10 February 2015

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CS/04/15

DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2015-17

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

SUMMARY

The Report sets out the applications received for the Deprived Area Funds for 2015-16. It sets out the background to the Fund, together with a summary of applications, the assessments and recommendations.

The Deprived Area Fund supports the Council's Working Together for the Highland's Programme, the Single Outcome Agreement and complements the Preventative Spend measures by assisting people to obtain employment and improve individual and community wellbeing.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Deprived Area Funding (DAF) and criteria were approved by the Planning, Environment, and Development Committee in August 2013 giving an allocation of £130,000 for the Area. Authority for approval was delegated to the Area Committee. The details of the Funds are available on the Council website.

The Committee agreed the recommendations for the Deprived Area Fund for 2014-15 at its meeting on 11 February 2014:

- Pulteneytown People's Project - £ 87,000
- Ormlie Community Association - £ 13,000

2. 2015 – 16 Applications

- 2.1 Invitations have been invited for the 2015 -16 funding through Public Notices in local newspapers, on the Council website, by e-mail to Council Members and previous applicants. A total 3 applications have been received for the Caithness and Sutherland Area – as shown in the Table 1 below and totalling £151,467.

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AREA COMMITTEE – Deprived Area Fund 2015-16		
Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Application 2015-16
10838	Pulteney Town Peoples Project Ltd	£ 90,587
10845	Ormlie Community Association	£ 45,080
10872	Wick Youth Club	£ 15,800
	(Budget £100,000)	£ 151,467

2.2 The Applications received have been given an assessment against the criteria for the Fund using a process agreed with Internal Audit. The assessment process includes:

- an examination of the Applicant’s proposals by Council Officers 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;
- a separate technical assessment of the organisation is carried out including its governance, experience, and 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 Council Services where appropriate; and
- Organisations already in receipt of Deprived Area Fund have had to submit Quarterly Reports of the organisation’s performance in meeting the targets set for 2014-15.

Where necessary further information has been obtained, project meetings and visits undertaken as required – and in some cases Council staff are in regular, day to day contact with the organisations and undertake joint activities.

A summary of the Applications and the current Assessments is attached in Appendix 2.

2.3 Based on these assessments it is recommended that the 2015-16 funding be awarded as shown in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AREA COMMITTEE		
Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Recommend 2015-16 £
10838	Pulteney Town Peoples Project Ltd	87,000
10845	Ormlie Community Association	13,000
10872	Wick Youth Club	NIL

3. Implications

3.1 Resource: The recommendations will fully commit the budget available for 2015-16. The unsuccessful applicants will be assisted to consider other funding sources.

3.2 Risk: Some of the community based activity carries some risk in terms of the capacity of community organisations to manage staff and resources. The Fund is managed through the Council’s Single Grants Programme Terms and Conditions. Advice and assistance is also given to community organisations receiving funds to manage these risks.

3.3 Equalities: The Deprived Area Fund seeks to assist community capacity building and remove the barriers that stop individuals from preparing for and entering the world of sustained employment.

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.

3.6 Rural Impact The revised geographic targeting of the Deprived Area Fund has identified a wider range of communities as eligible including rural areas.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to agree the recommendations for the Deprived Area Fund for 2015-16 of

- Pulteneytown People's Project - £87,000
- Ormlie Community Association - £13,000

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 27 January 2015

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CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND

MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2015

DEPRIVED AREA FUND APPLICATIONS 2015-16

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: Pulteneytown People's Project (DAF Activities)	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £90,587 Amount Applied for: £90,587	Application Finance 2015 – 17 2 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £87,000	
<p>Project Summary: The aims of the DAF project are to assist local people from throughout Caithness to engage in activities that will make them more job ready and able to slip into the employability pipeline with the right skills so they can progress. The funding being requested is specifically for the costs associated with running the DAF sessions and does not include running costs for the centre apart from for the DAF sessions. We expect between the sessions to have 60 plus people attending per week, and between them over 100 places filled per week.</p> <p>Arts and Crafts Activities – these sessions have been very popular over the last year, and include 3 people from Thurso, a disabled girl and local people. On average we have 18 plus people attend each week.</p> <p>Job Club – we have over 35 people attend every week our job club. They can get assistance to make up a CV, job searches, interview skills and use our newspapers. This is very popular as a lot of people do not have access to a computer neither do they have the confidence to use one. They can get assistance and on the interactive smart board we run presentations delivering step by step process to sign on, job search etc. We have built up a rapport with service users, Job Centre Staff, and employers, and our 'footfall' continues to increase. Operating 9 am to 4.30pm</p> <p>Computer Class – we started due to the high demand and want to continue with our computer class, where people can get one to one support to set up an email, go through the Universal Job Match, and build up their confidence on computers. We have around 5 – 7 people attend each week and most come for 3 or 4 weeks to gain an understanding and confidence working a computer.</p> <p>SVQ Social Care & Childcare – we have run two very successful years of delivering SVQ in Child Development and Social Care. Due to SSSC regulations it is essential that people who want a career in care have an SVQ. We have provided an opportunity for 20 people to work towards and gain their qualification which will secure them work in the future..</p> <p>Health, Well-being and targeted employability services for Young men: tackling issues of drug misuse, health, smoking cessation, group work, employability skills.</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes: as above We will also recruit 2 admin candidates who will obtain their SVQ Level 2 or 3 in Admin. These training opportunities have had huge additional value, in coming years you need an SVQ to work in the care sector. Providing this flexible training opportunity to deliver the qualifications has allowed people achieve a career and long term job prospects, which they could never have achieved anywhere else. Job Club: 20 different people attending every week. SVQ: 14 students complete SVQ's and move into employment over an 18 month period. Personal Development Plan: 30 people (not incl job club) complete a personal development plan and CV</p>	

Assessment Score**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 (4 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will complement 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 3 (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant 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. Application would have benefitted by providing some additional information on how this would actually work in practice through the delivery of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 20 /30

Recommend £87,000

As discussed in relation to the 2014-15 funding the Council has begun to discuss establishing a Service Level Agreement with Pulteneytown People's Project. This process has started looking at the organisations management and financial systems. Further work will be undertaken this and next year to implement any changes that are recommended and to look at the organisations programmes and partnership working arrangements. .

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: 10845 Ormlie Community Association	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £99,773 Amount Applied for: £45,080	Application Finance 2015 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £207,528 Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1: £13,000	
<p>Project Summary: Application includes Young Mum's Group and Net Axs – an Adult Learning Programme</p> <p>Young Mum's Project – works in partnership with health visitors and NHS staff and social work to make sure that the most vulnerable and disengaged families will be supported through the service. Aims to build the confidence of young mothers to channel them into community involvement such as parental involvement at nursery / schools and towards paid employment. Contribution to costs of staffing, premises and activity costs in Thurso and Wick.</p> <p>Net AXS – Identified need to improve digital access through provision of enhanced IT support and on-line access in conjunction with CAB and Work Club. Contribution sought for staffing, start – up equipment costs, premises adaptation and other associated costs.</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p>Young Mum's Project – 47 families over past year – outcomes include progression to employment and further education. Project provided 4 days per week aim is 65 families.</p> <p>Net – AXS – Number of learners registered – 30 p.a. ; No of people assisted with Advice and on-line job seeking skills and access. 86 IT access provided for job seekers 5 days per week: 100 attendees Adults undertaking employment training related activities: 75 Adults attending further education or gaining employment: 30%</p>	

Assessment Score 10**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 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 (4 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will complement 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 3 (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant 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. Application would have benefitted by providing some additional information on how this would actually work in practice through the delivery of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 22 /30

Recommend £13,000

Project would fit better with services supporting children and families and pre-school services. However, it is considered important to maintain activity meantime. Members are asked to note that the Employability Services also provides financial support to the organisation in respect of the Digital Access and Job Club activities they undertake.

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: Wick Youth Club (10872)	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £35,300 Amount Applied for: £15,800	Application Finance 2015 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £115,900 Amount Applied for: £47,400
Recommended Year 1: NIL	
Project Summary: Junior and Youth Activities Club – Application for assistance with staffing costs for after school and holiday club based on an Activities Club run over the summer of 2014. Aim would be to assist working parents and low income families to access affordable childcare. Aim is to provide work experience and training for 4 16 – 24 year olds – posts additional to current 1f/t staff member.	
Measurable Outcomes: After school club - 4 staff x 5 days x 40 weeks – 15 children Holiday Club – 4 staff x 5 days x 10 weeks – 15 children 4 young people assisted into FT employment. 15 young people attend each day for Youth activities 2 volunteers at after school/holiday club	

Assessment Score 10

Criteria 1 Score 4 (2x2)

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 4 (2x2)

Lack of full justification: Attempt to demonstrate employability aims (either soft or hard outcomes) however lacking level of information or justification which demonstrated the effectiveness of intervention in addressing employability aims. Weak level of justification on how participants will move towards the outcome of employment.

Criteria 3: Score 2

Lack of full justification: Attempts to demonstrate that the project will actually address the needs identified. Modest attempt to provide evidence provided that the provision will complement and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity.

Criteria 4: Score 2

Attempt to demonstrate how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity however with little justification of how this would work in practice.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 12/30

NIL

Project does not meet key criteria.