

The Highland Council
Lochaber Area Committee
26 February 2015

Agenda Item	14
Report No	LA 12/15

Landfill Communities Fund

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to approve applications for 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

- 2.1 Members are invited to approve the following application to the Highland Council Landfill Communities Fund. The details of the project are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 **Lochaber Green Gym by TCV (The Conservation Volunteers)**
To reclaim neglected green spaces for Lochaber communities and improve participants' physical, mental health and wellbeing at the same time.

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
Lochaber Green Gym	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL			£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: 28 January 2015

Author: Neil Downie

Background Papers: **Appendix A**

Appendix A

Name of Project: Lochaber Green Gym®

Applicant: TCV Scotland

Background: TCV's purpose is to "Work together with people and communities to transform their health, prospects and outdoors places for the long term." This is our leading goal in the Strategic Business Plan 2013-16, with Green Gym identified as the core activity that will help us achieve our purpose. TCV has been developing and delivering the Green Gym since 1998, and it is an initiative to reclaim neglected green spaces for communities and improve participants' physical, mental health and wellbeing at the same time.

Project Description:

A monthly programme of activity will be produced and widely distributed, as a promotional tool, to ensure any new volunteers are able to join in. Lochaber Green Gym activities will include the following key activities:

- **Himalayan Balsam Clearance, Kinlochmoidart, Lochaber** - A substantial project to clear the Himalayan Balsam along the side of the Kinlochmoidart river.
- **Additional sites to be confirmed** – TCV are currently awaiting confirmation of a number of additional Greenspace activity locations in the Lochaber area through Highland Council Biodiversity Officers.

Key Costs:

£9600: 32 weekly sessions @ £300/session. This cost includes provision of Green Gym trained TCV staff member, instruction, crewbus/transport, tools and comprehensive insurance. Some additional TCV led preparatory and development activity will also take place, at no additional charge, to facilitate a quick and effective commencement of this project.

£400: Publicity allowance to cover the design and production of project publicity leaflets.

Amount Requested: £10,000

Timescales: Project will take place between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016.

Benefits provided:

The proposed outcomes of the Inverness Green Gym programme will include:

- Provision of a range of environmental learning activities across the project area

- Providing opportunities to engage more people in a healthier lifestyle, increasing fitness and confidence as well as reported improvements in mental wellbeing and reduced feelings of isolation
- Increased levels of physical activity amongst participants who are not meeting the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) recommendations for physical activity, who are obese and/or have physical or mental health problems. Enable participants to meet the CMO's guidelines for physical activity, and to sustain their activity at this level.
- Ensure the participating communities feel sufficiently informed and empowered to continue working in a sustainable structure and format
- Strengthen partnerships through making local connections with other local community, environmental, health and educational establishments (statutory and 3rd Sector)
- An improved environment will provide a safer, more attractive and pleasant place to live as well as enhancing accessibility and biodiversity in across key sites in and around Inverness.
- The participating community members will have benefited from the health improvements environmental volunteering can bring and will be inspired to continue growing and improving their community
- Delivery of a range of practical conservation outcomes in line with local Greenspace/Neighbourhood/Biodiversity strategy targets.

Other Funding sources:

TCV Scotland will source the additional 10% third party contributory funding from sources external to Highland Council.