

**The Highland Council**  
**Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee**

**18 March 2015**

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	NBS 03/15

**DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2015-16**

**Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Summary**

The report invites Members to consider recommendations for the allocation of the Deprived Area Fund for 2015-16 in the Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Area.

The Deprived Area Fund directly supports the Council's programme by assisting organisations working in defined disadvantaged communities to develop and implement activities aimed at improving quality of life and regenerating communities. Priority will be given to projects which directly deliver employability outcomes for individuals who live within the targeted area and who are furthest removed from the labour market.

**1. Background**

1.1 The scope and criteria of the Deprived Area Fund 2014-15 (DAF) was approved by PED Committee on 14 August 2013. A note of the criteria and areas of benefit are attached at **Appendix 1**.

**2 2015 – 2016 AWARDS**

2.1 Notice of the 2015 – 16 Funds was placed in press and public notices, on the Council's website and an e-mail sent to all Council Members in November 2014. A total of 2 applications were received by the closing date of 9 January 2015 for the Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Area Funding – as shown in the table below. The allocated Budget is £20,000.

**TABLE 1:**

<b>Ref no</b>	<b>Application Organisation</b>	<b>Application 2015-16 £</b>
<b>10856</b>	Nairn River Community Council	20,000
<b>10801</b>	Nairn CAB	9,318
		<b>29,318</b>

2.2 These applications have been given an appraisal including:

- 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 using the assessment criteria outlined in **Appendix 1**;
- a separate technical assessment of the organisation is carried out, including its governance, experience, other activities undertaken, and how business is managed, including an examination of its Annual Report and Accounts. This undertaken by a Council Officer with assistance from other Services where appropriate;
- organisations already in receipt of DAF have had to submit quarterly reports of the organisation's performance in meeting the targets set for 2012-13; and
- where necessary further information has been obtained, project meetings and visits undertaken as necessary – and in some cases Council staff are in weekly contact with the organisations undertaking joint activities.

2.3 Details of the applications and assessments are attached at **Appendix 2** to this Report. Members will note that the application from Nairn River Community Council is recommended for deferral at this time for the reasons stated. Some aspects of these proposals will be investigated further, and it is recommended that delegated powers be given to the Director of Development & Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee and Ward Members, over the use of the balance of the Fund in 2015-16.

### **3 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Resource**

The recommendations, if accepted by members, are within the budget and will leave £10,682 available for allocation in the course of the year.

#### **3.2 Risk**

The recommendations are based on a thorough assessment of the organisations' capacity to deliver efficiently and effectively. The organisations are established and meet current monitoring requirements.

#### **3.3 Equalities**

The Deprived Area Fund aims to tackle identified socio-economic inequalities. In particular the measures within the programme particularly target young people, women and people with long term conditions.

#### **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 CONCLUSION

Members are invited to approve the recommendations shown.

<b>Ref no</b>	<b>Application Organisation</b>	<b>Application 2015-16 £</b>
<b>10856</b>	Nairn River Community Council	DEFER
<b>10801</b>	Nairn CAB	9,318
		<b>9,318</b>

Members are asked to agree to delegate decisions on the balance of the Funds in 2015-16 to the Director of Development and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee and Ward Members.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 4 March 2015

Author: Bob MacKinnon, Employability Team

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES GRANT FUNDING**  
**Closing Date 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Purpose:**

Applications are invited from community and third sector organisations to assist in the key outcome of widening participation in the labour market in targeted Highland communities. Allied to this and a secondary outcome sought, is to increase the skills and confidence of these targeted communities to take action themselves to widen participation in the labour market.

Funding will be available to March 2017 and applications for projects over that period will be considered as well as shorter term proposals.

**Key Criterion for Applications to the Deprived Area Fund**

**Criterion 1:** Effective targeting - proposals must respond to identified community needs (primarily within the identified datazones) including published statistics and evidenced community and client group engagement and consultation.

**Criterion 2:** Identified employability aims – proposals must have identified and evidenced employability outputs and outcomes.

**Criterion 3:** Proposals must complement and add value to other related services and programmes tackling poverty and inequality.

**Criterion 4:** Proposals must engage with local communities and build community capacity and leadership.

**Application and Assessment Process**

Deprived Area funding applications must be received by the closing date of **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015**. Appraisals of the proposals will be undertaken by officers of the Council in liaison with partner organisations with recommendations with funding decisions being made at appropriate Area Committees.

- DAF – application form
- DAF – application guidance

**Work Programme**

Applicants should ensure they are not using Deprived Area Funds to duplicate local Work Programme activity or to significantly benefit Work Programme Contractors.

**Completed Applications** should be sent by e-mail to: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

Or by mail to:

The Highland Council Grant and Discretionary Funding Applications  
Chief Executive's Office  
Highland Council Headquarters  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX

### **Deprived Area Target Area**

Please see the target areas for the fund by following the link below.

- Deprived Area Fund Target Areas list of datazones
- Deprived Area Fund Target Areas Map

The total available funds on an Area Committee basis are listed below.

<b>Area Committee</b>	<b>No. of Datazones</b>	<b>£</b>
City of Inverness Area	16	£160,000
Caithness & Sutherland Area	10	£100,000
Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area	13	£130,000
Lochaber Area	3	£ 30,000
Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Area	2	£ 20,000
Total	44	£440,000

**NAIRN and BADENOCH and STRATHSPEY AREA COMMITTEE**

**18 MARCH 2015**

**DEPRIVED AREA FUNDS 2015-17**

## Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

<b>Name of Applicant: Nairn River Community Council</b>	
<b>Application Finance 2015 – 16</b> Year Project Cost: £20,000 Amount Applied for: £20,000	<b>Application Finance 2015 – 17</b> 2 Year Project Cost: £40,000 Amount Applied for: £40,000
<b>Recommended Year 1: £ DEFER</b>	
<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Funding applied for is for half of a Co-ordinator's salary, for a Social Enterprise to be set up by the NRE project by April 2015. Further funding for the remainder of the Co-ordinator's salary will be sought through applicable grant applications and match funding.</p> <p>The Co-ordinator will run the first projects proposed for the Social Enterprise, of grounds' maintenance work and riverside regeneration, and also develop further projects that will benefit the local community.</p> <p>The local community will benefit with the establishment of a Social Enterprise. Community leadership and capacity, engagement and capacity will all be encouraged; along with tackling social inclusion, poverty and inequality. The Social Enterprise will work with related services and partnerships, in particular, Employability, to help people back into employment, and identify community needs and projects of benefit to the community.</p> <p>The grounds' maintenance project will help the local community by assisting more local people into sustained employment; providing work experience and offering training and practical skills (in the maintenance of equipment and learning about horticulture); and qualifications (gaining certificates in the management of invasive weeds and Health &amp; Safety).</p> <p>The riverside regeneration enhancements will benefit the local community by providing jobs, training, and work experience to improve employability.</p>	
<p><b>Measurable Outcomes:</b> 17 individuals helped;; 1 person into sustained employment; 6 people trained 5 gaining qualifications; 5 gaining work experience 2 public bodies / community groups worked with – For Community engagement 10 people participating directly in Social Enterprise &amp; working with people in the community in Developing community leadership &amp; capacity 3 surveys to Identify community needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2% increase in local relevant statistics for Social inclusion</li> <li>• 2% decrease in local relevant statistics for Tackling poverty and inequality</li> <li>• 2 organisations – Work with related services and partnerships</li> <li>• Combine results from all of the above to determine Community development</li> </ul> <p>5% increase in Employability targets (using strategic skills pipeline criteria) 10% increase in people walking in area / attending organised walks for Social health &amp; wellbeing 5% increase from previous year of no. of people saying they are satisfied with area re A sense of pride 5 people participating directly in the project &amp; working with people in the community in Developing community capacity 5% increase in visitor statistics in Encouraging visitors to the area</p>	

**Assessment Score:**

More detailed information required on detail of proposals and assistance from other funding sources.

Overall Score Against Criteria

Technical Assessment :

Recommendation: **DEFER**Amount  
Recommended:  
**£**

Special Conditions:

## Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

<b>Name of Applicant: Nairn CAB</b>	
<b>Application Finance 2015 – 16</b> <b>Year Project Cost: £11,046.75</b> <b>Amount Applied for: £9,318</b>	<b>Application Finance 2015 – 17</b> <b>2 Year Project Cost: £</b> <b>Amount Applied for: £</b>
Recommended Year 1: £9,318	
<b>Project Summary:</b> <p>The project is seeking funding to continue to provide a part time, experienced generalist adviser/volunteer support worker (VSW) who will support the provision of holistic advice and information at each Work Club session/Food bank session in Nairn and make referrals into the bureau's specialist advisers when necessary. This person will also help the bureau to identify suitable candidates for volunteering with us from within the most deprived areas of Nairn -targeting particularly under 25 yr olds, long term unemployed, underemployed, those with medical conditions, lone parents and those moving onto JSA from Income Support/Employment and Support Allowance (including those who attend the Work Club/Foodbank), as well as those who have been sanctioned. The VSW will provide training, support and assistance to them to complete their training and competence assessments successfully and to begin volunteering with the bureau -eventually supporting the work brought to the bureau from these outreaches.</p> <p>The funding requested covers worker salary, national insurance, pension, recruitment, training, travel and subsistence and also project running and management and admin costs</p> <p>Our office on the High Street is already working at capacity and whilst we are seeking to expand our premises, being able to have an advice session at the Community Centre and/or Food bank will also mean that more people can be seen more quickly.</p>	
<b>Measurable Outcomes:</b> <p>A minimum of 10 people will benefit from being offered training and volunteering opportunities</p> <p>200 people will benefit from the bureau's increased capacity to deliver advice services in the longer term.</p>	

**Assessment Score 22**

**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 6 3 x 2**

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address employability aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of employment however would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence..

**Criteria 3 Score 4 4 x 1**

Strong justification: Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers

**Criteria 4 Score 4 4 x 1**

Strong justification: Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 22/30	Technical Assessment
Recommendation: APPROVE	Amount Recommended: <b>£9,318</b>
Special Conditions:	