

## The Highland Council

Community Service  
4 June 2015

Agenda Item	7
Report No	COM/20/15

### Scottish Landfill Communities Fund

#### Report by Director of Community Services

#### Summary

This report advises Members of the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 This report is linked to the Programme for The Highland Council, "Working together to empower our communities"

#### 2. Devolution of landfill tax to Scotland from 1 April 2015

- 2.1 The Scotland Act 2012 provided for landfill tax to be devolved to Scotland. From 1 April 2015, operators of landfill sites in Scotland are no longer liable to pay UK landfill tax for waste disposed of at their Scottish sites. Instead, they are liable to register and account for Scottish Landfill Tax (SLfT).

Revenue Scotland, the new tax authority for Scotland's devolved taxes, is responsible for SLfT. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) will support Revenue Scotland in the administration of the SLfT. Operators of landfill sites in Scotland are required to be registered with Revenue Scotland.

The Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced a similar LCF type scheme to ensure communities in Scotland are still compensated for living close to landfill sites after the introduction of SLfT. SEPA will also regulate the new scheme in Scotland for projects funded by SLfT after 31 March 2015.

- 2.2 Previously, those bodies which were eligible for the UK Landfill Communities Fund (UK LCF) were invited to submit applications to Highland Council for LCF. Applications were summarised and presented to Area Committees for approval. Subsequently applicants were invited to complete a full application to E B Scotland, a Distributive Environmental Body (DEB). E B Scotland managed Highland Council's Landfill Communities Fund accepting all administrative and financial liabilities for a 10% fee.
- 2.3 Under the UK LCF, Members agreed projects should meet the following criteria:
- Be restricted to Objective DA (biodiversity conservation).
  - Be restricted to a maximum of £10,000 to any one project annually.

These criteria did not conflict with ENTRUST criteria for approval of either the organisation or their project(s).

### **3. Distribution of Scottish LCF**

3.1 The Scottish Landfill Tax (Administration) Regulations 2015 prohibit the Landfill Operator (The Highland Council) from instructing which projects to fund but can make recommendations as to which type of projects they would like to see funded, provided the final decision on funding is taken by the Approved Body (E B Scotland).

3.2 The Scheme of Delegation to Area Committees will be changed at the next available opportunity to reflect this.

3.3 The Scottish LCF can continue to fund Biodiversity Projects throughout the Highlands by signposting applicants to E B Scotland. Members may wish to raise the maximum amount available to each project from £10,000 to £15,000, reflecting the gradual increase in landfill tax and inflation.

### **4. Implications**

4.1 There are no: Legal; Equalities; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; gaelic or rural implications arising from this report.

#### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the devolution of landfill tax in 2015 and to approve the distribution of Scottish LCF as set out in Section 3.3 of this report.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 19 May 2015

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