

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Community Challenge Fund Applications Panel** held in Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on Wednesday, 7 October, 2015, at 2.30 p.m.

### **Present**

Mrs M Davidson

Mr A Rhind

Mrs I McCallum

### Committee Chairs

Mr D Millar (ECAS)

Mr A Henderson (COMS)

### **Officials in attendance:**

Mr P Mascarenhas, Community and Democratic Engagement Manager

Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

### **Mrs M Davidson in the Chair**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs M Smith and Ms M Morris.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Minutes of Meeting of 17 June, 2015**

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of 17 June, 2015, which had been approved by the Council at its meeting held on 25 June, 2015.

#### **4. Assessment Criteria**

The Panel **NOTED** the Assessment Criteria, copies of which had been circulated.

#### **5. Community Challenge Fund**

There had been circulated Report No. CCF3/15 by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development which updated the Panel on progress with applications for the Community Challenge Fund. Members were invited to consider the recommendations of the Officer Working Group.

In terms of the expression of interest from Caithness Music, there was a need to explore different types of service for music tuition in schools, and if this application was successful, it would be considered if this service could be expanded to other areas. Further discussion with the applicants was required in terms of governance and detail for the proposed service and whether the service

could be delivered at a lower cost. Members were supportive of the application proceeding to the next stage.

In relation to the expression of interest from Invergordon Community Council to take on a range of community services, there was a need to have further internal discussions on the impact of potential devolved budgets to areas and budget savings on this type of application. Further discussion with the applicant in terms of the governance of the service was required.

In terms of the application from the Viewfield Garden Collective, this was a group doing good work with vulnerable people which could save the Council and NHS money in the long term. There was a need to nurture groups such as this, to see if these were potentially viable social enterprises. There was a need to ascertain where their income streams would come from to make such groups sustainable.

In relation to progress on applications approved, the Chair requested information on the funding approved for Alness Community Council, and Councillor D Millar requested information on progress on the Alness Community Council; Fort William Shinty Club, and Kinlochleven Community Trust applications.

Having considered the recommendations of the Officers' Working Group and discussed the Expressions of Interest and the Application in detail, the Panel **AGREED** that:

- i. the Expression of Interest from Caithness Music be **approved** to the next stage and a full application sought;
- ii. the Expression of Interest from Invergordon Community Council be **deferred** for further consideration;
- iii. the Application from Viewfield Garden Collective be **approved** as it would develop the Council's understanding of preventative services and nurture a potentially viable social enterprise.

The Panel **NOTED**:-

- i. the information provided on progress with expressions of interest relating to Sutherland Partnership and Seaboard Memorial Hall;
- ii. the information provided on progress on applications approved by Alness Community Council, Fort William Shinty Club and Kinlochleven Community Trust; and
- iii. that Council Officers were continuing to work with a number of Groups that have previously been invited to bring forward applications including Ross-shire Voluntary Action, Nethy Bridge Community Council, Nairn River Community Council and Lochalsh Sports Association.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.