

Agenda Item	4
Report No	SRC/047/15

Deprived Area Funds 2016-17

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

The Report sets out proposals for allocation of the Deprived Area Funds for 2016-17. It sets out the background to the Fund, together with a summary of proposals, the assessments and recommendations. A statement is also included summarising the outturn of the 2015-16 funding.

The Deprived Area Fund supports the Council's Highland First 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 Planning 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.
- 1.2 The Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee approved the allocation of the 2015-16 DAF funds at its meeting on 4 February 2015. Not all of the funds were committed at that stage and authority for further approvals was delegated to the Director of Development and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee and relevant Ward Members. A note of the 2015-16 approvals, including those delegated is attached at Appendix 1.

2. 2016 -17 Deprived Area Funding

- 2.1 Since the February 2015 meeting there has been continued evaluation and review of these services by Council Officers and the organisations themselves. Where necessary further detailed information has been obtained, project meetings and visits undertaken and in some cases Council staff are in regular day to day contact with the organisations and undertake joint activity reviews.
- 2.2 The outcome of this review and assessment is that some of the activity supported –
 - continues to meet the criteria of the Fund;
 - continues to be regarded as valuable to the area; and
 - has a need for sustained funding.

A summary of these assessments are attached at Appendix 2 to this Report. There are two applications that were funded in 2015-16 that are not proposed for funding in 2016-17 – the Highlife Highland Community Support post and the Tain Royal Academy Youth Work post. It is considered that these projects do not fit well with the criteria for the Fund and should not continue to be funded from this source.

- 2.3 In considering how best to progress matters in 2016-17 (the last year for confirmed DAF resources) there are options for opening up the Fund to new applicants or to continue with the existing participants where they continue to meet local priorities. Given the assessment above it is proposed not to invite new applications for 2016 - 17.
- 2.4 It is therefore proposed that Members consider funding the organisations for the services provided as shown in Table 1 below. This would fully commit the budget for 2016-17.

Table 1

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee		
Ref no	Organisation	Funding 2016-17
10823	West Highland College UHI Skye	£10,000.00
10848	Made in Tain SCIO	£15,000.00
	Highlife Highland "Learning for Life"	£98,579.00
10903	TAG: Primrose Café, Community Café and Social Enterprise	£6,421.00
	TOTAL	£130,000.00

- 2.5 If Members accept these proposals the Organisations' would continue to be funded subject to the Terms and Conditions of Grant and continued reporting and monitoring 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;
 - 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;
 - Quarterly Reports of the organisation's performance in meeting the targets set for 2016-17.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource:** The proposals would fully commit the £130,000 budget.
- 3.2 **Equality:** The Deprived Area Fund supports the Council's Highland First Programme, the Single Outcome Agreement and complements the Preventative Spend measures by assisting people to obtain employment and improve individual and community wellbeing.
- 3.3 **Rural Impact** The revised geographic targeting of the Deprived Area Fund has identified a wider range of communities as eligible including rural areas.
- 3.4 **Risk:** The Fund uses the Council Single Grants Application processes to evaluate proposals and there are regular monitoring reports provided as well as advisory support provided to project sponsors to manage risk.

3.5 There are no direct Legal, Climate Change/Carbon Clever Implications directly arising from this Report.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to note

- the use of the Deprived Area Fund in 2015-16 as shown in Appendix 1; and
- to approve the 2016-17 grant awards noted below -

Ref no	Application Organisation	Recommend 2015-16
10823	West Highland College UHI Skye	£ 10,000
10848	Made in Tain SCIO	£ 15,000
10850	Highlife Highland "Learning for Life"	£98,579
10851	TAG, Primrose Café: Community Café and Social Enterprise	£ 6,421
		£ 130,000

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 29 October 2015

Author: Bob Mackinnon 01463 702044

References:

Deprived Area Fund Notice

[1http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/196471/deprived_area_fund/category/155/grants_for_community_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/196471/deprived_area_fund/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

Report to Planning and Development Committee – 14th August 2013

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/20076/item10ped4913pdf>

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee

Deprived Area Fund 2015 – 16

The Applications approved at Committee and subsequent approvals of the 2015-16 Funds are summarised below.

- 1.1 West Highland College Skye.
Delivering a programme of drop in employability sessions including: Job Search; CV building; personal presentation; employability skills; JCP procedures and on-line access; IT training; numeracy and literacy. These are delivered across Skye in varying locations.
- 1.2 HLH Ainess Youth Work.
Youth work team working with young people aged 11 to 25 with a target age range of 11 to 19, aiming to improve life and employment chances. These are achieved by building relationships with youngsters over sustained periods of time in different settings. The main site for this to occur is The Place, Ainess where young people receive support, advice, information and guidance in a warm and safe environment from the youth team and its key partners.
The aim is also to ensure that young people are more employable i.e. by improving their personal, social and educational skills as well as encouraging them to have more of a say in decisions that affect them and their peers. The youth work team offers and/or develops accredited achievement awards favouring Youth Achievement as it best meets the need for the local young people although other awards are also used.
- 1.3 Made in Tain.
Providing post school supported work opportunities for those who are most marginalised from the workplace. Providing continued learning opportunities for people who, due to learning difficulties, need a longer transition time from school during which they can continue to develop social and life skills, personal confidence and independence. Providing a real life context in which to meet skills gaps, to consolidate skills for work and to begin to experience the workplace. Providing an achievable step on the path to employment for those who are made vulnerable by social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and so find the prospect of mainstream employment too challenging to consider. Promoting social inclusion, for those who may never enter the mainstream workplace.
- 1.4 Highlife Highland Community Support Worker
Supporting community development activity in Seaboard and Invergordon. Working with deprived communities to support community based activity that contributes to the employability, health, well-being, learning and community cohesion agenda and the aims are to work through the various small and large projects identified over the first year.

- 1.5 **HLH TIA Project**
 Youth Employability Support Worker is continuing the development of the East Ross initiative and establishing similar provision as appropriate in the Dingwall Academy catchment area. The aims are to engage with harder to reach 16 to 24 year olds, focusing on ages 15 to 18, to make them more employable and thereby improve their prospects for moving into sustained positive destinations.
- 1.6 **TAG: Primrose Café**
 Adults with learning disabilities engaging with TAG and KEY Community Supports are leading on the project, supported by a dedicated Community Development Worker, volunteers and Key support staff. The aim is to encourage the involvement of a community wide cohort. This includes individuals out of work seeking employability or vocational work opportunities, including young adults in transition, and out of work members of the community looking to build their confidence, skills and employability profile. There has been engagement with older adults seeking friendship and isolation by providing activities that appeal to this target group (such as Bingo and Book Swap), and individuals supported by mental health services locally to promote their well-being through engagement with the project. There has been a lot of fund raising activities including Film Nights for the community and bag packing at Morrisons.
- 1.7 **HLH: Tain Royal Academy.**
 Youth Support Worker has been targeting young people who are non or periodic attenders at school. There has been successful engagement with young people and their families. Beneficiaries are predominantly young people in the few years before school leaving age who are identified as heading towards negative destinations. Positive outcomes have increased the attendance record of the school.
- 1.8 The final position for the 2015-2016 Financial Year therefore is that the budget has been fully utilised as shown below -

Ref no	Application Organisation	Recommend 2015 -16
10823	West Highland College (Skye)	£9,350
10850	Highlife Highland Alness Youth Work	£60,000
10848	Made In Tain	£15,000
10851	High Life Highland - Community Support	£18,100
10852	High Life Highland TIA	£19,709
10903	TAG, Primrose café, Community Café and Social Enterprise	£3,691
	HLH Tain Royal Academy (part year)	£4,150
10816	Abriachan Forest Trust	Nil
	Total	£130,000

**Highland Council
Deprived Area Fund 2015–16**

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee

18 November 2015

Assessments and Recommendations

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2016-17

Name of Applicant: West Highland College (Skye)	
Application Finance 2016 – 17	
Recommended £10,000	
<p>Project Summary: The aim of the project is to create employment opportunities, increase confidence and improve the level of skills and qualifications to people living in the identified areas of Skye. The College will respond to the demands of the local job market and trends. WHC will hold programme awareness meetings in rural areas to highlight the programme and will deliver in the North and South of Skye either at its College Centres in Portree and Broadford or in community halls which ever suits clients best. The programme will be flexible and can be delivered over a period of consecutive days or weekly depending on the needs of clients. The programme will deliver Job Search; CV building; personal presentation; employability skills; JCP procedures and on-line access; IT training; numeracy and literacy.</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of attenders and assistance with CVs; Employability Skills; personal learning activity; interview skills • Respond to the needs of the local job market and match clients to opportunities. • Look at self-employment opportunities on Skye • Activity is open to all in community with target groups: 16-24yr olds on or eligible for JSA, those on IS, JSA and those with particular health challenges. • Clients actively engage in job search, personal presentation, Employability skills, confidence Building JCP procedures (Client Digitalisation and Universal credit), basic IT skills Number of workshop sessions and activities; • Engagement and joint working with partner programmes 	
Recommendation: 12 months	Amount Recommended: Approve 12 months=£10,000
<p>Overall Assessment / Special Conditions: Take up of service has been successful in 2015 to 2016, with regular delivery in Portree College, Broadford College, Staffin and Portree Jobcentre. Staff delivering the employability sessions have a much higher profile and are recognised in communities, engaging with people and actively promoting the drop in sessions. There is an issue of childcare as a barrier for some people to attend. Quarterly reports have been received showing regular delivery of services in the above locations with case studies of individual success.</p>	

Name of Applicant: Made In Tain	
Application Finance 2016 – 17	
Recommended £15,000	
<p>Project Summary: Aims of Made In Tain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To provide post school supported work opportunities for those who are most marginalised from the workplace. 2) To provide continued learning opportunities for people who, due to learning difficulties, need a longer transition time from school during which they can continue to develop social and life skills, personal confidence and independence. 3) To provide a real life context in which to meet skills gaps, to consolidate skills for work and to begin to experience the workplace. 4) To provide an achievable step on the path to employment for those who are made vulnerable by social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and so find the prospect of mainstream employment too challenging to consider. 5) To promote social inclusion, for those who may never enter the mainstream workplace. <p>How we provide this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We offer student placements to post school pupils with support needs. 2) We offer work experience opportunities to school pupils and continue this to bridge the gap between school and the mainstream workplace. 3) We run a thriving local business which affords provide the real life context for learning a wide range of personal, social and vocational skills. This includes a Shop, Workshop and Social Area. 4) We carefully plan and deliver individualised programmes within a small scale environment, with a safe, supportive and friendly ethos, where people can make a new start after being disengaged from school. 5) We can function as a welcoming Drop-In Centre for those who are unable to attend for a whole day, thus offering an experience of meaningful work, and crucial opportunities for social interaction and personal development. Also our central location means our students can build up confidence in accessing other community activities such as shopping, buying lunch, using post office, bank, recycling centre which enables them to become steadily more independent in their personal life. 	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p>Student placements – 25 places filled (5 per day)</p> <p>6 of the above places reserved for school pupils to have long term quality experience of the workplace during senior phase of school</p> <p>To provide a quality experience of volunteering for 8 volunteers</p> <p>Support students to feel more optimistic about their opportunities</p> <p>Support students to have a positive and sustained destination as they plan their transition from school</p> <p>Provide placements for Activity Agreements</p> <p>Train people with support needs and volunteers to safely produce soaps, candles and gifts to a high quality standard</p> <p>Offer SQA and ASDAN qualifications</p> <p>Prepare students a seamless transition for mainstream employment and increase their opportunities for meaningful work</p>	

Recommendation: 12 months	Amount Recommended: Approve 12 MONTH = £15,000
<p>Overall Assessment / Special Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The organisation is moving to new premises on Tain High Street, with reasonable rent. It is hoped this will increase sales due to the favourable location and increased footfall. Opportunities for Post School Students have been delivered through: work experience, Activity Agreements, volunteering• Example destinations include Inverness College, (Workwise/Skillsbuilder Course, and hoping to train to be an electrician). Continuation at MIT under SLA with NHS, full time volunteering as a Tutor while a 6 month contract on an Employability scheme is being established, completing an AA and moving onto the Shirlie project, employment and Burghfield College.• There has been Long Term Work Experience for 11 school pupils, who are potential post school students of the future.• The organisation is working with young people from 5 Secondary schools• There is little provision for young people with additional support needs and continued support is recommended at this time to allow the project to develop further	

Name of Applicant: Highlife Highland “Learning for Life”	
Application Finance 2016 – 17	Year project cost: £102,579
Recommended £98,579	
<p>Project Summary: High Life Highland is a charity that exists to develop and promote opportunities in culture, learning, sport, leisure, health and well-being. The purpose of “Learning for Life” is to tackle deprivation and inequalities by providing learning opportunities in the community for young people and adults that increase their skills and confidence and result in their being, and feeling, more able to enter and sustain employment. Particular focus will be on young people who are at risk of not securing a positive and sustainable destination after leaving school and younger adults who are not in education training or employment. We will target those furthest away from the labour market and therefore success may be to employment but is more likely to be into volunteering, training or employability fund programmes.</p> <p>HLH will run accessible and learner centred employability learning programmes for people in each of the 15% most deprived data zones in Highland that are in East and Mid Ross including Tain, Invergordon, Alness and Dingwall.</p> <p>Options for accredited learning will be promoted through SQA and other employer recognised awards.</p> <p>The Learning for Life Employability team will service the whole project area from an Alness HLH base. Existing resources will be developed to maximise impact and also minimise any changes to existing provision. No community will see a decline in provision and most will experience an increase due to providing a robust outreach programme to all relevant data zones from the Alness based team. This is a designed continuation of recent development in programmes such as the TIA project.</p> <p>The proposed learning for life (employability) programme is essentially the next development of the already well established work that previously DAF funding has partly supported.</p> <p>Funding provides additional</p> <p>1 fte Youth Worker (Qualified HCand) £35,337 2 fte Youth Worker (Unqualified HC4) £47,242 Travel £8,000 Sessional Staff Budget £5,000 per year Learning Resources budget £2,000 Marketing and Communication costs £1,000 per year</p> <p>In kind from HLH project management costs: £4,000</p>	

Measurable Outcomes:

work with 150 young people and adults in the project area (Tain, Invergordon, Alness, Dingwall) per year

The learning offer will be a guideline of 40 hours of engagement for a learner to complete an accredited programme is given. We know that accredited learning brings confidence to progress to other learning and training opportunities.

Aim to move people at least one stage of the SDS pipeline within 12 months of engagement and the following performance indicators will support that aim.

60% or more learners will report an increase in skills each year

60% or more learners will report an increase confidence each year

60% or more learners will report an increase in self-esteem each year.

40% or more learners will gain at least one employer recognised accredited learning award each yea

The performance indicators reflect the targeted nature of the work and are appropriate smart targets for this work.

Recommendation: 12 months	Amount Recommended: Approve 12 months= £98,579
Overall Assessment / Special Conditions: A review of HLH provision funded by DAF in S, RandC has taken place. HLH have assessed the need for provision in consultation with HC Employability Officers and identified the need which has been developed into the proposed "Learning for Life" provision. There will be delivery of services in all areas previously covered by HLH DAF funded projects.	

Name of Applicant: TAG Primrose Cafe , Community Café and Social Enterprise	
Application Finance 2016 – 17	
Recommended £6,000	
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>The aim of the project is to provide a range of health improvement and learning opportunities for a community wide cohort. This will be achieved by promoting activities that serve to broaden and develop new social networks and friendships, and that promote new life skill acquisition, for members of our community, who wish to engage in the project. Individual outcomes will be identified by consulting all the participants engaged in the project. Local NHS services have already committed to providing training for participants, through a tailored programme based on the existing “Well Now” initiative. This provides learning modules covering ‘Healthy at Any Weight’, ‘Nutrition and Healthy Eating’, ‘Health and Safety’, ‘Healthy Eating - Practical Cooking Skills’, ‘Realistic Activities’. This will be tailored for adults with learning disabilities, but appropriate for a wider audience.</p> <p>Although adults with learning disabilities through TAG and in collaboration with KEY Community Supports will be leading on the project, supported by a dedicated Community Development Worker, volunteers and Key support staff, the aim is to encourage the involvement of a community wide cohort. This will include individuals out of work seeking employability or vocational work opportunities, including young adults in transition, and out of work members of the community looking to build their confidence, skills and employability profile. There is also hope to engage older adults seeking friendship and isolation reducing activities that appeal to this target group (such as Bingo and Book Swap for the last hour), and individuals supported by mental health services locally to promote their well-being through engagement with the project.</p> <p>The Community Development Worker has attended NHS funded “Train The Trainer” training. This has enabled the delivery of cookery skills classes to participants who wish to engage in this opportunity, both enhancing people’s life skills, and their mental health, new social networks, as well as promoting their independence, through skills acquisition.</p> <p>Service Users continue to develop, and gain knowledge, inter-personal and practical employability skills. Peer mentoring is being encouraged where service users are working with their peers to help them progress</p> <p>Funding from the Highland Council will be used to cover the rent of The Arts Centre, for one year. 12 months x approx. £500 per month</p>	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A total of 9 TAG members have participated in this as employees from the outset, with another 2 joining up since, and one leaving. There is scope to have more attendees. - There is a range of customers including people from the community and friends and relatives of staff and service users. 	

- The beneficiaries include the participants engaging in the project, which include adults with learning disabilities, volunteers and staff who benefit from the training and mentoring opportunities, participants from across the community who come and engage in the variety of activities co-ordinated with other community group leaders that encourage their engagement.
- These activities include craft making, bingo and book swaps, work based activities and other activities that promote skill sharing opportunities.
- Otago classes run every Tuesday
- The customers also benefit from being able to enjoy a unique dining and social experience in a truly dynamic and eclectic community cafe environment.
- Training days will be run for the community cafe team, which include work on developing house rules, menus, exploring the different roles, and there has been a collaborative 4-week “Healthy Brains” programme, working alongside Karrie Marshall from Creativity in Care, both demonstrating our community networking acumen and our commitment to ensuring our new community cafe provides new, health oriented learning opportunities for everyone in our community
- Knowledge is being built around allergens and food safety, making sure peoples understanding of these important elements of food preparation is enhanced as well as improving customer service skills.
- Catering has been provided for 3 out of 4 Highland TAG meetings and 2 managers meetings. This will continue.

Recommendation: 12 months	Amount Recommended: Approve 12 MONTH = £6,421
<p>Overall Assessment / Special Conditions:</p> <p>TAG primrose café has submitted very detailed reports on the activities at the café, training and development of “staff participants” and outcomes for participants, including case studies and evidence of a person moving into paid, independent employment in the local community, as a result of the experience and training gained at the café. The Co-ordinator has maintained close contact with HC Officers supplying regular updates and news.</p>	