

Agenda Item	5 (i)
Report No	PLA 02/17

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Places Committee

**Date:** 15 June 2017

**Report Title:** European Maritime & Fisheries Fund – Highland Moray Fisheries Local Action Group

**Report By:** Director of Development and Infrastructure

### **1 Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 This paper reports the progress of the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF), Highland Moray Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) programme. An allocation of £1,006,000 has been awarded to the Highland Moray FLAG to support projects that will deliver economic development and social benefits to fisheries areas. The programme will run to 31 December 2020. The FLAG is made up of representatives from the fishing industry, coastal communities and public, private and voluntary sector organisations that are responsible for project selection and general animation of the programme. The Committee is asked to confirm two nominations (one acting as substitute) to represent Highland Council on the FLAG panel.

### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- note progress of the Highland Moray FLAG to date; and
- agree to nominate two Highland Council representatives to sit on the FLAG panel.

### **3 European Maritime & Fisheries Fund - Update**

- 3.1 The EMFF is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. EMFF will provide support to projects which deliver sustainable economic growth in the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and for communities to deliver economic benefits during the transition phase of the Common Fisheries Policy reform.
- 3.2 Similar to the European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme (2008-2014), funding has been made available to Fisheries Local Action Groups through the EU Structural Funding Community-Led Local Development initiative. Highland and Moray previously operated as two separate FLAGs under Axis 4 however following an EU recommendation to reduce the number FLAGs in Scotland Highland and Moray Council agreed to amalgamate and administer the fund in partnership. The Highland Moray FLAG was formed in March 2016. A total of 8 FLAGs are now active in Scotland.
- 3.3 There are several notable changes to how the funding will be administered under EMFF:
- the Local Authority is no longer required to act as the Accountable Body for the fund;
  - all financial responsibility will now lie with Marine Scotland (Scottish Government) as the designated Intermediate Body for Scotland; and
  - the Local Authority is no longer required to provide the public co-funding element, this is now be provided for by Marine Scotland.
- 3.4 To access funding the FLAG was required to develop a Fisheries Local Development Strategy (LDS) to outline the funding priorities for the area. For projects to be eligible for funding they must demonstrate how they meet at least one of the FLAG funding priorities **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5 The FLAG has been awarded an allocation of £1,006,000 towards projects that will contribute towards the aims of the Fisheries LDS. All projects must be completed by September 2020.
- 3.6 The FLAG will be responsible for the day to day operations, including the animation and promotion, capacity building and co-operation between fisheries actors and other local private and public stakeholders. The FLAG will consider project applications and make recommendation of award to Marine Scotland who will undertake the final project approval and issue of grant award letter.
- 3.7 The FLAG opened for applications in August 2016. To date a total of 32 Expressions of Interest and 5 full applications have been received, two of which have been formally approved by Marine Scotland:
- Scrabster Harbour Trust – Access ramp and pontoons creating additional berthing space at Scrabster Harbour Total project costs: £130,460. FLAG funding awarded £97,845.00
  - Lossiemouth & Elgin Marina – Innovative dredging equipment and pontoon upgrade to create additional berthing at Lossiemouth Marina Total project costs £355,000 FLAG funding awarded £100,000

### **4 Highland Moray FLAG membership**

- 4.1 The FLAG is made up of representatives from the fishing industry, coastal communities

and public, private and voluntary sector organisations that are responsible for project selection and general animation of the programme. The Committee is asked to confirm two nominations (one acting as substitute) to represent Highland Council on the FLAG panel. The HC representative will be expected to attend quarterly meetings and promote the work of the FLAG around Highland. The programme will run to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A background in fisheries/coastal community development would be advantageous. Current FLAG membership is detailed in **Appendix 2**.

## **5 Implications**

- 5.1 Resource - There are no additional resource implications arising from this report
- 5.2 Legal - There are no additional legal implications.
- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – the fund is targeted at coastal communities/fisheries sector, projects which address equality, poverty or rural issues are welcomed.
- 5.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever - There are no climate change or carbon clever implications attached to this report.
- 5.5 Risk – The Development and Infrastructure Service, together with the Highland EFF team will continue to work closely with Internal Audit and Marine Scotland to ensure the Programme is delivered in accordance with the governing European and Scottish Regulations and that there is no disallowance of grant.
- 5.6 Gaelic - There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

Designation: Director of Development & Infrastructure

Date: 31/5/2017

Author: Sarah Lamb

# FLAG Funding Priorities

For your project to be eligible you must show how it fits with the Highland & Moray FLAG Priorities

## Key Highland & Moray FLAG Priorities

### **Stronger and more resilient fishing communities**

To build fisheries community capacity by supporting local development initiatives and co-operation between partners. To protect fishing communities from further decline by investing in infrastructure that will allow communities to respond positively to challenges and opportunities

- *Support for infrastructure improvements to benefit the fisheries sector (particularly projects which address the landing obligation) including community ownership of fisheries related assets/businesses*
- *Support to enhance co-operation and innovative ideas from within the fisheries sector*

### **A sustained, growing and diversified marine, coastal and aquaculture economy**

To strengthen local economies by providing support for new and existing businesses to target profitable and growing markets and stimulate job creation. To add value to local fisheries and aquaculture products throughout the consumer supply chain. To give communities the opportunity to diversify out with fisheries and explore other marine related incomes.

- *Support for adding value to produce, marketing and promotion*
- *Support for developing new skills and employment opportunities*
- *Support for marine tourism*
- *Support for local business initiatives tied to marine environment*

### **Improved understanding of marine environment and management of resources**

To promote initiatives that may conserve or enhance the marine environment with a view of long term sustainability. To reduce the environmental impact of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through individual and co-operative action. To assist communities in reducing their carbon output through renewable energy schemes

- *Support for marine environmental improvements and projects addressing climate change*
- *Support for local research/management/education – (IFG plans/projects)*

## Appendix 2

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Duncan Pocket (Chair)	Cullen Sailing School	Private
John Cox	Moray Firth Inshore Fishermans Association	Private
Nick Lake	Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers	Private
Willie Calder Snr	Scrabster Seafoods	Private
TBC	Moray Firth Partnership	Private
Prof. Ashley Mowat	Three Harbours Association	Third Sector
Pearl Hamilton	Federation of Small Businesses, Moray	Private
Alistair Farquahar	Buckie Business Association	Private
Anne Moseley	FOA 27	Private
Mike Park	Scottish White Fish Producers Association	Private
Tamara Lawton	Scottish Natural Heritage	Public
Jacqueline McDonell	Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Public
TBC	Visit Scotland	Public
TBC	The Highland Council	Public