

Agenda Item	10b
Report No	SCC/26/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Sutherland County Committee

Date: 15 November 2018

Report Title: **Dornoch Common Good Fund – Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) Application**

Report By: Depute Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Resources
Acting Head of Policy

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline an application from Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) for £20,000 over two years to employ a Community Development Manager.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Agree an award of £20,000 over two years to DACIC for Part funding of Community Development Manager Post

3. Background

- 3.1 DACIC was established in 2007 as a voluntary organisation to enhance and develop the economy and community of Dornoch, with membership available to all within the IV25 postcode. The agreed focus for DACIC since its inception has been to develop the visitor economy of the town and raise Dornoch's profile in the tourism market. This has involved a range of projects to enhance the town centre with due regard to its history and culture; encourage the creation of new businesses and job opportunities; and to enhance the visitor offering and marketing, and the quality of services available to visitors to Dornoch, and the residents of Dornoch and the surrounding IV25 postcode area.
- 3.2 Following an HIE sponsored Strategic Review in Dec 2017, DACIC has identified four opportunities to focus on for the next 3 years:
- Developing cruise tourism and maximising links with NC500.
 - Growing the Business Group to provide sustainable long term funding for all year round opening of the visitor centre in the Courthouse
 - The appointment of a Community Development Manager to deliver the vision of making Dornoch "a better place to live, work, study and visit".
 - The successful implementation of two asset based projects which will ensure the long term financial sustainability of DACIC as a social enterprise.
 - Dornoch Hub – developing former Dornoch Police Station to provide a creative / business hub, meeting space, gym and childcare facility.
 - Project Curlew which would provide an ice curling rink through the winter and a wedding/arts/music/cinema/event/conference venue in the summer. The building will also house an all year round community space.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 DACIC has developed a project to employ a full time Community Development Manager for two years to focus on fund raising and project management with a particular focus on Dornoch Hub and Project Curlew.
- 4.2 DACIC estimates the cost of a Community Development Manager at £73,873 over 2 years (salary & on costs). DACIC has been successful in securing £50,000 from SSE Beatrice Fund and will contribute £3,873 from its own funds. It has applied to Dornoch Common Good Fund for the remaining £20,000, to be paid over two years. Once the funding period is over DACIC believes that its projects will generate sufficient funds to sustain the post.
- 4.3 Dornoch Area Community Council discussed and supported the application at its October 2018 meeting.
- 4.4 East Sutherland and Edderton Ward Highland Council Members have been consulted and support the application. Please note Cllr MacGillivray was not consulted as he is a Director of DACIC.

5. Implications

5.1 Resource

The current budget for Grants and Contributions is £62,000 of which only £4,000 has been spent to date, and of which £50,000 was allocated to Dornoch Sports Hall. The £50,000 funding is no longer required as the Sports Hall project has been removed

from the Council's current Capital programme meaning there are ample funds to support the DACIC project.

In 2019/20 the budget will include provision of £10,000 for this project if approved. The 2019/20 budget is the subject of a separate report to Sutherland County Committee.

5.2 Legal – none

5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The project will address community implications as follows:

- Provision of day care for 0-5 year olds, not currently available in Dornoch to allow those caring for young children to access work / training
- Providing fully disabled accessible sports facilities and social/ business/ creative space in Dornoch,
- Providing sports facilities and social/ business/ creative space in Dornoch to those without transport and unable to travel to the nearest alternatives in Tain and Golspie.

5.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – none

5.5 Risk – The Community Development Manager post will be funded in year 3 and onwards through income generated by Project Curlew and Dornoch Hub, realised in years 1 and 2. The DACIC Board has demonstrated its ability to manage projects to time and budget, and in this case will manage the Community Development Manager to a tight time-bound brief. DACIC is an HIE Account managed Social Enterprise receiving the full benefit of HIE advice, expertise and support.

5.6 Gaelic – none

Designation: Depute Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Resources
Acting Head of Policy

Date: 18 October 2018

Author: Phil Tomalin, Ward Manager, Sutherland

Background Papers: