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| Agenda Item | <b>3.</b>        |
| Report No   | <b>SCC/05/21</b> |

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Sutherland County Committee

**Date:** 1 April 2021

**Report Title:** Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer: Infrastructure and Environment

### 1. PURPOSE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Highland Coastal Communities Fund is a new fund designed to support economic regeneration and sustainable development around coastal areas in Highland. The fund is derived from revenue generated by Scottish Government Crown Estate marine assets. Each year, local authorities are allocated a proportion of the profits.

Within an overall allocation to Highland of £3,034,703, the Sutherland Area Committee has been awarded £700,407 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Sutherland Area. Funding will be distributed as the Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Sutherland (HCCF).

- 1.2 Broad eligibility criteria for the scheme is as follows:

All projects are expected to be able to meet at least one of the following priorities:

- Economic recovery
- Community resilience
- Mitigating the impact of the climate/ecological emergency
- Addressing the challenges of rural depopulation.

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:

- Sustainable/viable
- Providing value for money
- Providing additionality
- Able to evidence local support/local benefit
- Able to evidence positive impacts for coastal communities and/or the coastal economy

- 1.3 An open call for expressions of interest was held during December 2020. Following this, a number of projects were invited to proceed to full application stage.
- 1.4 In summary the position in Sutherland at Area Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> April is as follows:

Available HCCF Funding – £700,407  
Number of applications for consideration – 21  
Total value of grant requests - £1,198,032.15

To aid Members in their decision making, the following appendices are provided to this report:

- Summary spreadsheet of applications for consideration including RAG status from technical assessment
- Project summary and technical assessment outcome for each project

Technical assessments and the RAG status are based on the application form and supplementary information provided during the application process.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Consider all applications presented for funding and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application
- ii. Agree which applications should receive a funding award from HCCF up to the value of the available area allocation

## 3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 **Resource** – Sutherland has available funding of £700,407. Applications under consideration total £1,198,032.15 therefore if applications approved exceed the funds available the committee will need to undertake a prioritisation process to agree the funding awards.

3.2 **Legal/Risk** – When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back to back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.

3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** – Coastal communities funding is available to all Area Committees within Highland with a coastline. The focus of the funding is economic recovery and community resilience. Consideration on issues relating to equalities, poverty and rural issues are dealt with on an individual basis for applications and covered in the technical assessments of project

3.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** – Mitigation of the climate/ecological emergency is a specific aim of the HCCF funding. All applicants are required to evidence environmental sustainability as referenced in the technical assessments

3.6 **Risk** – As per 3.2 above.

3.6 **Gaelic** – Consideration given within individual project applications in line with HC policy

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Author: Fiona Cameron, Programme Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – RAG status summary Sheet

Appendix 2 – Project summary and technical assessment outcome



## Appendix 2

### HCCF Sutherland Projects Summary

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Project reference:</b> 01   |                                 |
| <b>Applicant:-</b> Assynt Leisure  |                                 |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Cludgie project phase 2  |                                 |
| <b>Total Project Cost:</b> £170,575  | <b>Grant requested:</b> £68,230 |
| <b>Project description:</b> <p>This project is to improve and sustain the recent Assynt motorhome waste disposal facilities project into the future. The first phase of the project has been able to go ahead creating foul waste storage facility and freshwater top-up in Lochinver, Assynt on the NC500 route. This follow-up phase 2 proposal would carry out the elements which were unable to go ahead along with phase 1 due to funding issues. These elements would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tarmac and porous paving resurfacing of the Assynt Leisure Centre car park, with SUDS surface water drainage into the public surface water sewer.</li><li>• Installing a motorhome greywater disposal facility connected to the public foul sewer.</li><li>• Additional work to split the existing combined sewer from Assynt Leisure Centre into surface water sewer and foul sewer connections, which will divert roof rainwater from the Leisure Centre into the surface water sewer, thus easing capacity on the foul sewer. This work requires adding a further sewer pipeline under the public road beside the Leisure Centre.</li></ul> <p>This complex work is a requirement for resurfacing the carpark to sustain it into the future with higher use, as it is required to enable carpark SUDS drainage into the surface-water sewer system, and is a requirement for installing a sewer-connected greywater disposal facility, as Scottish Water require eased capacity for the foul sewer to allow greywater connection to that sewer.</p> |                                 |
| <b>Outcome:</b> <p>Technical assessment outcome for Assynt Leisure: <b><u>passed</u></b>.<br/>Project is eligible for HCCF funding</p>   |                                 |
| <b>Project reference:</b> 06   |                                 |
| <b>Applicant:-</b> Scourie Community Development Company   |                                 |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Scourie Rocks  |                                 |
| <b>Total Project Cost:</b> £118,383  | <b>Grant requested:</b> £95,383 |
| <b>Project description:</b>  |                                 |

Scourie Rocks visitor attraction will bring about the transformational regeneration of the north west corner of Sutherland. It will also enable the preservation, interpretation and management of a unique and internationally acclaimed Scottish Highland geo heritage collection of rocks, minerals and fossils. It will deliver an educational and visitor attraction based on Shelley Collection and geology on the UNESCO accredited North West Highlands Geopark.

Work on Scourie Rocks halted last year due to funding streams being closed to new applicants, this now delays the project at least one year. Heritage funding streams will re-open in February 2021 when funding applications will start to be considered again. This application is to allow the design phase and tender production to follow the same timeline as the funding package development. Thus, reducing the loss of time by at least nine months and will also not jeopardize the application to the Regeneration Capital Fund for £800,000. Scourie has seen little capital investment in decades, and this has been a contributing factor to the downward spiral of the economy and the unsustainability of the village,

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Scourie Community Development Company: **passed.**  
Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 07

**Applicant:-** Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

**Project Title:** Kyle of Sutherland Tourism Infrastructure

**Total Project Cost:** £ 266,678

**Grant requested:** £ 71,678

**Project description:**

This project aims to develop sustainable tourism in the area around the Kyle of Sutherland by providing facilities for visitors who come to the area in campervans, motorhomes and electric vehicles including e-cyclists and cyclists. It is hoped that this provision can help to ease tourism pressure points across the north Highlands. Two sites will be developed:

- The site at Bonar Bridge is currently owned by The Highland Council but in the process of being transferred to the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (KoSDT). The site will have 4 electric hook-up points for motor homes and campervans and a new service block that will incorporate a WC, shower, a covered eating area, washing up area and e-bike charging points. Waste disposal facilities (including black and grey waste) will also be available. This would be developed adjacent to the existing public toilet facilities which will be upgraded and improved. The site will be controlled by an entry system so the toilet block will be available free of charge to visitors and the public, but the new facility block will require access through a coded entry system. This will secure the public toilet in community hands whilst also developing income streams for repairs and maintenance.
- The project will enhance the infrastructure at the Falls of Shin site (owned by KoSDT), by installing 4 additional electric hook-up points for campervans and motorhomes where waste disposal facilities (including black and grey waste), a water supply, and e-bike charging points will also be installed.

After the successful completion of this project, it is intended that the infrastructure will expand to incorporate a site at Rosehall, including an electric vehicle charging point (KoSDT have already installed charging points in Ardgay and at Falls of Shin). This will enable a spine of serviced overnight parking and electric charging points for tourists and the local community.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 10**

**Applicant:-** Brora Primary Parent Council

**Project Title:** Community Play Park

**Total Project Cost:** £ 48,596

**Grant Requested:** £ 37,455

**Project description:**

Project to install a play park at on the south side of Brora village. This will be a large public park with a range of activities enclosed in it. There will be climbing frames, a shelter, balance beams, hand eye co-ordination activities, monkey bars and wheelchair accessible equipment. The landscaping will be covered in bark and the play area will have easy access which will be available anytime of the day.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Brora Primary Parent Council: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 15**

**Applicant:-** East & Central Sutherland CAB

**Project Title:** Rural Recovery

**Total Project Cost:** £19,743

**Grant Requested:** £ 18,080

**Project description:**

To employ a Rural Recovery Generalist Adviser based in Golspie. The post will be 28 hours per week for 12 months

This project will enable CAB to reach more people affected by the impact of the pandemic and address the pre-existing issues faced by coastal communities in Sutherland. This project will service all residents living Helmsdale, Portgower, Brora, Golspie, Embo, Dornoch, Spinningdale, Bonar Bridge and Ardgay and surrounding area.

The main role of the post will be to inform and support people to access the advice they need as a result of the pandemic. The project aims to reduce people's anxiety, increase income and ensure that the most vulnerable in communities are not left behind. There will be a particular focus on;

- People who face the threat of redundancy, or have concerns about unfair employment practices
- Job seekers who have found themselves out of work as a result of Covid restrictions and require help in accessing benefits, creating a CV, or applying for work
- Young people in search of work and facing a challenging and competitive labour market
- People who want to build their work experience through volunteering who will be actively encouraged to volunteer with the burau
- People who face the threat of eviction, are living in temporary accommodation, or need help to manage rental arrears on account of change in circumstances due to Covid.
- People who face food insecurity as a result of changes to their circumstances, who may be unaware of the help and support available locally, or financial support available to allow them to ensure food is readily available within the home
- People who are struggling to keep their home warm due to the cost of energy bills
- People who do not have access to digital services, or unreliable access to local services due to rural location and a lack of public transport

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for East & Central Sutherland CAB: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 22**

**Applicant:-** Skerray Harbour

**Project Title:** Skerray Harbour Renovation

**Total Project Cost:** £ 17,094

**Grant Requested:** £10,000

**Project description:**

Skerray Ltd now have responsibility for the harbour and would like to restore it.

The pier and harbour have been used for many years by both commercial fishermen and for leisure activities. These leisure activities have the potential to increase with the influx of visitors due to NC500. The increase in marine leisure activities would also have an obvious benefit to traders in the Tongue/Bettyhill area. The renovation work will include -

- repairs of cementing internally to the main retaining wall that keeps the sea at bay. There is water ingress and this work needs to be done urgently and at low tide
- treating the harbour wall surfacing where there are many cracks and potholes which water has been eroding over the years;
- the "ironwork" round the edge of the pier and harbour mostly used for safety and access, such as ladders and rails, needs work such as welding and repair or replacement;



- the harbour access needs new drains and the turning point for access to the slip for putting boats in and out of the water needs extending;
- new signage is needed to inform the public who has responsibility for the harbour, costs of using it and other important info; as it is not manned a strong honesty box for donations is required, alternatively a credit card reader should be installed;
- Walls repaired at the burn running into the sea near the harbour with a bridge over it to allow access.
- the picnic table needs refurbished and a new bench added;
- the block where the old winch stood needs refurbished and perhaps a telescope or piece of art work on top.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Skerray Harbour: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 47

**Applicant:-** KLB Playing Field Association

**Project Title:** Kinlochbervie Community Playing Field

**Total Project Cost:** £ 57,370

**Grant Requested:** £ 37,724.55

**Project description:**

There is currently no suitable outdoor green playing field in Kinlochbervie. The existing playing field is unsafe and has been derelict for some time. The drainage underneath the former football pitch collapsed many years ago causing severe waterlog ground and the area was unable to be maintained. Any team sports played by members of the community and local schools must be played at least 15 miles away. High transport costs often preventing people from participating in such events.

This project aims to refurbish an area of community owned land which was a former football pitch into a functional, sustainable, natural grass playing field where it can be used by the community for many purposes. This includes team and individual sports, community fund raising days, family leisure time and as an outdoor green space for all north-west Sutherland schools and Kinlochbervie pre-school.

The playing field is adjacent to the Village Hall.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for KLB Playing Field Association: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 57**

**Applicant:-** Skerray Village Hall

**Project Title:** Refurbishment Project

**Total Project Cost:** £ 20,000

**Grant Requested:** £15,000

**Project description:**

Main objective for the Hall Committee is to make the village hall as sustainable in all ways as possible. One of the key 'corner-stone' objectives is to create a hall which is energy efficient. The Trustees have/are embarking on a programme of works which sets about this objective. With the measures being taken to make the hall as airtight as possible, its next step is to have a sustainable heat source. Currently the hall utilises old fashioned electric wall heaters (the heated bar variety). These are an incredibly inefficient way to heat such a large space and therefore a new method has been researched. The preferred option is to install a 'Air-Source Heat Pump; which will afford the hall the most cost effective and energy efficient way of heating the building.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Skerray Village Hall: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 63**

**Applicant:-** Dornoch Free Church of Scotland

**Project Title:** Dornoch Free Church Renovation - Phase 3

**Total Project Cost:** £ 270,000

**Grant Requested:** £50,000

**Project description:**

This project will deliver a flexible, multi-purpose auditorium space with up to date audio visual capability. The auditorium will be able to be used for a wide range of events such as weddings, blood donation sessions, a vaccination centre, conferences, exhibitions and lectures. This is phase 3 of several renovation works the Church has carried out in order to create spaces for the community to use.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Dornoch Free Church of Scotland: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 65**

**Applicant:-** Assynt Foundation

**Project Title:** Upgrading and Resurfacing of Single Track Road to Improve Public Access

**Total Project Cost:** £ 77,334

**Grant Requested:** £ 64,334

**Project description:**

The current road from Lochinver to Glencanisp Lodge has been a major obstacle to attracting tourists and local people to drive up the scenic road connecting the two. This has been a serious handicap for the Foundation and has real economic consequences for attempts to develop a range of facilities and activities for local people and visitors to Glencanisp.

The proposed project is to transform a 1.8km stretch of road from Lochinver to Glencanisp which will have many benefits, both for tourism as well as the local economy. It will also bring the synergy of the fishing industry and the food it provides, together with a tourist provider, planning on expanding restaurant capacity and promoting local ingredients.

The road is critical to the success of the Lodge functioning as a hospitality venue that generates at least 50 jobs and provides an additional attraction for the local community. For many years the Foundation has tried to run the Lodge as a hospitality venue by employing managers.

Unfortunately, this was never successful, with the road in such a poor state it precluded higher spending tourists from being attracted to the lodge. This also had the consequence of not being attractive for managers or Operating companies to run the lodge and invest in it to be successful.

This application is only for funding to stage 1 – the much-needed strengthening of the road sub structure and provision of additional passing places. Stage 2 to be undertaken when funding can be achieved, is to complete the project with a tarmac surface.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Assynt Foundation: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 66**

**Applicant:-** Golspie Golf Club

**Project Title:** Clubhouse Refurbishment

**Total Project Cost:** £ 28,240

**Grant Requested:** £ 22,240

**Project description:**

The clubhouse needs upgrading to attract visitors and local members to socialise before and after playing and thus generate income to sustain the organisation. The club needs to attract more visitors to help fund the income loss caused by the Covid 19 restrictions.

Works will include renovating the lounge, dining area and a give partial make over to the locker room. The clubhouse has not been upgraded since 1995.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Golspie Golf Club: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Project reference: 82</b>  |                                   |
| <b>Applicant:-</b> Plastic@bay  |                                   |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Tracking Plastic Pollution with Circular Economy  |                                   |
| <b>Total Project Cost:</b> £ 178,750  | <b>Grant Requested:</b> £ 178,750 |
| <p><b>Project description:</b><br/> For the last three years Plastic@Bay have been cleaning ocean plastic from the shores of North West Scotland and researching innovative ways to recycle it. The recycling workshop, Plastic Lab in Durness, cleans and sorts ocean plastics and successfully recycle it into beams, tiles, coasters, clocks and jewellery. But there is too much ocean plastic to process in the workshop, so the plan is to scale-up operations.</p> <p>The project proposes to build an ocean plastic recycling facility on-site at Kinlochbervie Harbour to recycle local ocean plastic collected from beach cleans and end of life fishing gear (ELFG) into ocean plastic pellets. Profits from sales go back into beach cleaning and other local ocean clean up initiatives. The project offers many economic benefits to the local community and economy;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recycling ELFG offers economic security by tapping a local source of raw material.</li> <li>2. The project offers sustainable employment opportunities. Initially with funding our start-up will employ four people locally, we hope that this number will increase in the future with the growth of the company.</li> <li>3. On-site processing of ocean plastic and ELFG reduces council waste disposal costs such as transportation to landfill.</li> <li>4. This project offers a free alternative to disposal of ELFG and other damaged plastic goods, thus benefiting the local fishermen.</li> </ol> <p>The project will employ 5 members of staff</p> |                                   |
| <p><b>Outcome:</b><br/> Technical assessment outcome for Plastic@bay: <b>application request over the £100,000 threshold for maximum grant</b></p>  |                                   |
| <b>Project reference: 85</b>  |                                   |
| <b>Applicant:-</b> Dornoch Area Community Interest Company  |                                   |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Dornoch South Car, Coach and Motorhome Park   |                                   |
| <b>Total Project Cost:</b> £ 720,048  | <b>Grant Requested:</b> £100,000  |
| <p><b>Project description:</b><br/> Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) was awarded funding in 2020 from The Scottish Land Fund to purchase the ex-abattoir brown field site known as Dornoch South Site, which is just off the main square. DACIC plans to regenerate the site in phases as funding is secured.</p> <p>Phase 1 (this application) is the <b>Dornoch South Car, Coach and Motorhome Park project</b> which will see approximately 4,500 sqm of land which previously housed an abattoir brought back into productive use. The MUGA (phase 2) will provide access to new sports for our growing</p>  |                                   |

community. The curling rink (phase 3) will benefit Sutherland & Ross-shire coastal communities, help to develop all year tourism and create jobs.

This project directly addresses identified visitor and community pressure points by:

- *Providing* dedicated town centre vehicle parking spaces which will nearly double current parking capacity in Dornoch including the first dedicated coach and motorhome parking provision.
- *Developing* long-term parking infrastructure which will relieve serious parking congestion in the town as a whole and address parking and pedestrian safety issues within the Square in particular.
- *Removing* coaches and motorhomes from the Square making it safer both for traffic and pedestrians, which will improve the visual aspect of this vibrant town centre and enhance visitor perceptions. Positive impressions and experiences increase the likelihood of visitors returning in the future.
- *Enhance the Visitor Experience* by transforming the brownfield site into a welcoming vehicle hub providing dedicated town centre parking and directional information for exploration on foot.

A part time seasonal parking attendant post will be created as a result of this project.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Dornoch Area Community Interest Company: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 97

**Applicant:-** Go Golspie - Youth Centre

**Project Title:** Golspie Youth Centre Restoration

**Total Project Cost:** £ 230,538

**Grant Requested:** £61,000

**Project description:**

The YMCA building in Golspie is in a state of disrepair having suffered from neglect for a number of years.

The main hall is currently unusable due to work to repair the floor being started some years ago with the floor covering removed and holes made in the floor to establish the need for repair but then never restored – the area was simply closed down. The Youth Club area (which is still in operation) is in a very poor state with many faults including leaks in the roof and a lack of adequate sanitation due to all of the toilets other than the disabled toilet being faulty. This was highlighted in the structural condition report carried out with SLF 1 funding.

No other building in the community offers the potential opportunities that are available in the YMCA and it is the fervent wish of the Go Golspie Development Trust and the local community that this building become the centre of village life once again.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Go Golspie - Youth Centre: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 109

**Applicant:-** Brora & District Action Group

**Project Title:** Vision for Brora - Phase 2 (Fascally Park element)

**Total Project Cost:** £100,000

**Grant Requested:** £100,000

**Project description:**

This part of Vision for Brora, Phase 2, for which funding is being sought here, is a three-strand project, designed to benefit the resilience of the coastal community of Brora and its visitors in several ways. The strands are:

1. Service Overnight Parking Site (Motorhome strand)
  2. Children's Play Area upgrade
  3. Community Orchard/Woodland/Picnic Area
- The motorhome facilities provision strand supports the economic recovery and development of the community in attracting more tourists to make overnight stops in the village, thus supporting the local economy through hospitality and retail businesses. It also encourages tourists to act responsibly in parking in an official, low cost, facilitated area, where they can dispose of chemical waste appropriately and recharge electricity and fresh water supplies, supporting a clean environment. This project will provide 0.5 FTE jobs.
  - The children's play area upgrade benefits both local families and visiting tourist families alike in providing safe, modern facilities. This modest play area project fulfils part of a need first identified a number of years ago. Ambitious plans were drawn up at that time, but the significant sums of money required to complete that project were unrealistic, and the project failed. The current project addresses the need in a much less ambitious way but provides the first step of a staged approach to improving children's facilities in the area.
  - The Community Orchard/Woodland/Picnic Area strand provides broad-ranging benefits to the local community in terms of intergenerational community groups working together, addressing the climate change issue, growing food locally (supporting the Sutherland-wide "Grow Our Future" project), as well as addressing mental health and social isolation issues during and post Covid.
  - Appointing professional contract project management will ensure that the programme of projects is delivered efficiently, on time and on budget.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Brora & District Action Group: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 112

**Applicant:-** Go Golspie

**Project Title:** Breakwater Restoration

**Total Project Cost:** £280,800

**Grant Requested:** £100,000

**Project description:**

This project will replace the breakwater off the Golspie town coast and as such it will remove or greatly reduce the impact of storm damage on the Main Street area of the town. Golspie is recognised as being at great risk from flooding both from increasing tide heights and from overtopping during storms. In the past this has meant that all residential properties and businesses along the Main Street have been badly affected from encroachment by the sea. This project will replace the breakwater sea defence in sections of 75 metres at a time.

This project is stage 1 of 2 with a phased approach over the next 2 years. For this initial first phase, 4 sections will be put in place which will greatly reduce the risk of flooding and an additional 2 sections will be constructed once additional funding is secured.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Go Golspie: passed.

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 117

**Applicant:-** Clyne Heritage Society

**Project Title:** Old Clyne School Redevelopment to Museum & Community Heritage Centre

**Total Project Cost:** £ 2,968,980

**Grant Requested:** £100,000

**Project description:**

The C-listed, derelict Old Clyne School (OCS) Redevelopment will enable Clyne Heritage Society (CHS) to create a new and exciting accessible Museum and Community Heritage Centre, by restoring the oldest school building in Brora (built 1863) and adding two new extensions to house exhibition spaces, a café and shop.

CHS aims to create a Community Heritage Centre and Museum drawing all strands of its community heritage activities together and anticipates opening the OCS Community Heritage Centre from November 2022:

**Phase 0 (to date):** Development stage: Surveys, architect and other consultant fees.

**Phase 1 (October 2021 - August 2022):** Delivery of sympathetic conservation-standard restoration, repairs and alterations, to provide a museum, archive and storage spaces, project and education rooms and spaces for community heritage functions. Two new extensions will accommodate services, exhibition and community spaces, with retail area and cafe to generate income.

**Phase 2 (August 2022 - November 2022):** Fitting out the restored OCS and two extensions including museum: collaborating with Museums and Heritage Highland and MGS to gain museum accreditation.

**Main Activities**

- Repairing and restoring the derelict OCS building sympathetically and to conservation standards
- Building two accessible extensions complementing the OCS to house services, exhibition spaces and the revenue-generating café and shop
- Fitting out, furnishing and equipping the existing areas and new spaces
- Opening a welcoming accessible museum to showcase Brora's unique Highland industrial history
- Operating a community heritage centre from which to expand CHS heritage activities
- Providing a new community and visitor facility open all year round
- Delivering community priorities to create employment and provide training and volunteering opportunities

This application is for costs towards the lift and heat source pump during phase 1

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Clyne Heritage Society: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 121

**Applicant:-** Helmsdale & District Development Trust

**Project Title:** Old Bank Building Renovation

**Total Project Cost:** £51,150

**Grant Requested:** £35,000

**Project description:**

Helmsdale & District Development Trust (HDDT) aims to maximise the use of existing assets within the community to encourage sustainable development. There is an opportunity to purchase and redevelop the old Bank of Scotland building in the Helmsdale village. Currently HDDT rent an office space in the community centre in Helmsdale. However, to keep running costs low and make the Trust more sustainable purchasing this building will be a great opportunity for the trust to expand and develop new projects.

Currently the Trust sells produce from the kitchen garden project direct from the garden and from a stall once a week during the summer months. There is space in the building to have an outlet for this produce in the centre of the village. As well as produce from the kitchen garden, the Trust also looking to expand this outlet to include a zero-waste shop which will provide plastic free and eco-friendly essentials for our community.

In addition, the Trust are currently working on an E-bike scheme in the village. Both visitors and locals to the area will have access to these bikes. They can usually travel on average about



30mph, getting people to their destination quickly and in good shape. The bikes will offer energy efficient, emission free transportation at a low cost and will provide both physical and psychological benefits for their users. A base to pick up and drop off bikes and to charge the batteries overnight is required. The central location of the Old Bank Building will be of benefit for the success of this project

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Helmsdale & District Development Trust: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference: 131**

**Applicant:-** Helmsdale & District Development Trust

**Project Title:** Helmsdale Multi Use Games Area

**Total Project Cost:** £ 415,076

**Grant Requested:** £ 19,298

**Project description:**

The project will convert the site of the existing tennis courts in Helmsdale to enable a range of other sports to utilise the facility. HDDT own the facility and have worked tirelessly over the last couple of years to gather 95% of the funding for this development. The plan is to convert the site into a two court multi-use facility, including floodlighting, covered area, and disability access. It will consist of a 3G Astro Turf Pitch for football/hockey/shinty etc and a porous Macadam surface facilitating tennis/basketball/netball etc.

The addition of floodlights and a covered area will provide much greater opportunity to use the courts all year round. At present there is no such facility in the area and therefore very limited opportunity to participate in many sports over the winter months. This facility will enable many sports to prosper in the area and will promote and increase numbers participating in sport and exercise significantly. The roof will be made from flame retardant, PVC-coated polyester fabric and will span the width of the astro turf pitch.

The development will help strengthen current sporting pathways (e.g. football, athletics) and create new ones (e.g. hockey and shinty). An improved and more pleasant facility will inspire existing clubs and school groups to improve technically. Participation in sport will be more frequent due to less cancellations because of bad weather and dark nights, which is so often the case in this area. A promotional programme of events and festivals for a variety of sports and fitness activities will raise the profile of sport for all and these things will make the area more attractive as a destination.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Helmsdale & District Development Trust: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 150

**Applicant:-** Helmsdale & District Development Trust

**Project Title:** Helmsdale Kitchen Garden/E-bikes

**Total Project Cost:** £ 8,139.60

**Grant Requested:** £7,639.60

**Project description:**

Helmsdale & District Development Trust would like to encourage more people to cycle, whether this be locals or visitors, for fun or to carry out daily chores by bike rather than by car. HDDT intend to make 6 e-bikes available for public hire initially and potentially add to this number later.

An E-Cargo bike for the Kitchen Garden project to deliver veg crates and to collect compost from members of the community is also required. The garden currently employs 2 people, and they will operate the E-cargo bike from the garden with the assistance of the Local Development Officer.

This application for funding is for 2 leisure e-bikes along with one cargo bike for the community garden. HDDT have already received funding for another 4 e-bikes and these are on order at present. It would be their intention to add further to the fleet in the future, but they would like to start out with a small number and monitor usage. The application also covers funding for 7 helmets.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for Helmsdale & District Development Trust: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding

**Project reference:** 153

**Applicant:-** KLB Community Company

**Project Title:** Slow tourism for KLB (promotion)

**Total Project Cost:** £12,890

**Grant Requested:** £6,220

**Project description:**

The project will support the new Kinlochbervie Tourism Sub-Committee of the Locality Group to develop:

- a new community website (providing visitor information),
- a printed visitor information brochure and;
- a guided walks leaflet containing mapping and natural and cultural heritage interpretation.

These project outputs will help to connect visitors with the information they need to plan a responsible visit to Kinlochbervie and raise awareness of the facilities and services available in the Kinlochbervie Community Council area.

The development of these outputs will provide a focus for the new Kinlochbervie Tourism Sub-Committee and our aspiration is that they will be a catalyst for future collaboration on proactive visitor management solutions.

**Outcome:**

Technical assessment outcome for KLB Community Company: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding