

Agenda Item	13
Report No	SR/18/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee

Date: 30 August 2021

Report Title: Place Based Investment Funds – Proposed Funding Allocations

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following on from the budget agreed by Highland Council in March 2021, a £100,000 Place Based Investment Fund was allocated to each Ward for the 2021/22 financial year. This fund is intended to enable a flexible local response to address the four harms of Covid which are identified as direct health harms; health impacts not directly related to Covid; societal impacts and economic impacts.
- 1.2 Early discussions with Local Members at Ward level have identified a range of opportunities for spend against the Place Based Investment Fund for the Ward. This report asks the Committee to agree the budget allocation outlined in the report and to note the markers for future spend.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

1. Consider and agree the proposed allocation of Place Based Investment Funds as follows:
 - Investment in additional Seasonal Staff Hours for Amenity Services - £14,000
2. Note that the projects related to the following themes are under development and will be brought for consideration to a future meeting of this committee:
 - Commercial Business Opportunities, Skye & Raasay Future, Roads, Social Isolation and Loneliness.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource implications – it is proposed to allocate £14,000 of the £100,000 Place Based Investment Fund for extending the contracts of seasonal amenities staff.
- 3.2 Legal implications – there are no legal implications with the proposed allocations.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) impacts – The proposed allocation will specifically address key priorities identified in relation to local amenities service delivery. Areas for future investment include allocating funding to support the delivery of Skye and Raasay Future which has identified a range of local priorities through engagement with communities.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever implications – There are no specific climate change implications.
- 3.5 Risk implications – there are no identified risks associated with the funding allocation proposed as this will be a continuation of an existing officer work programme and delivered in-house.
- 3.6 Gaelic implications – There are no specific Gaelic implications.

4. Proposed Funding Allocation

- 4.1 Initial discussions with Members have identified an allocation of £14,000 from the Eilean a' Cheo Place Based Investment Fund towards additional seasonal staff hours for amenity services. The aim of this is to provide additional capacity to enable general maintenance around cemeteries, play areas and toilets on Skye and Raasay. This has been identified as a core priority for communities. This will be delivered by increasing seasonal staff hours for an additional two months.

It is proposed to allocate £14,000 to enable additional amenities work.

5. Potential Future Areas for Investment

- 5.1 Ward Members are working with community representatives and officers to consider the development of projects to be considered for future support from the remaining Eilean a' Cheo Place Based Investment Fund. Potential projects include:
 - commercial business opportunities to generate income that can support local priorities;
 - resource to support the development of the Skye & Raasay Future plan;
 - roads signage to promote safer, considerate, and responsible driving; and
 - a project to help address social isolation and loneliness.
- 5.2 A report on future spending allocations will be brought forward to the next Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 17th August 2021

Author: Willie MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Eilean a' Cheo