

Agenda Item	11
Report No	SR/8/22

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Skye & Raasay Area Committee

Date: 21st February 2022

Report Title: Islands Infrastructure Fund – Allocation of Funding

Report By: Executive Chief Officer: Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

1. PURPOSE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 (“the 2018 Act”) introduced measures to underpin the Scottish Government’s objective to meet the needs of island communities. Section 3 of the 2018 Act places a duty on Scottish Ministers to prepare a [National Islands Plan](#) (NIP).

The National Islands Plan (NIP) is a Scottish Government plan and sets out sets out actions to improve the quality of life for island communities, across the 93 inhabited islands, through a collective responsibility to deliver 13 Strategic Objectives and associated commitments

The NIP is based on the principles that it is fair, integrated, green and inclusive. These principles run throughout the [Strategic Objectives](#) within the NIP and help guide National and local government and stakeholders in meeting their ultimate objective – to improve outcomes for island communities.

The Islands Programme for 2021/22, which is part of the overall £30 million Islands Programme for 2021 - 2026, focuses on three strands: the Islands Infrastructure Fund; the Island Communities Fund; and the Healthy Islands Fund.

Within the Islands Infrastructure Fund, Highland Council have received an award of £510,000 to be allocated to deliver infrastructure projects across Skye, Raasay and the Small Isles. The deadline for drawdown of the funding is 31st March 2022; however, it is expected that future tranches of funding will be made available with a more achievable timeframe to allow for an open call for projects to be made.

- 1.2 Projects receiving funding should be able:

- To meet the overall objectives of the Islands Programme for 2021/22 (the key objectives in paragraph 9 above and in Condition 2.4 of the Grant Offer).
- To link directly to at least one of the NIP [Strategic Objectives](#).

- To ensure transformational impact against place based priorities to accelerate local growth.
- To align with local critical infrastructure priorities and potential to collaborate with other place based investment opportunities to maximise benefits.
- To demonstrate project readiness, collaborative and partnership delivery models, project viability and long term sustainability.

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The main objectives of the Grant are:

- To sustain, enhance and develop transformational and critical infrastructure projects based on local priorities that align with the National Islands Plan and its [Strategic Objectives](#) which are:
 - To address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile
 - To improve and promote sustainable economic development
 - To improve transport services
 - To improve housing
 - To reduce levels of fuel poverty
 - To improve digital connectivity
 - To improve and promote health, social care and wellbeing
 - To improve and promote environmental wellbeing and deal with biosecurity
 - To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote clean, affordable and secure energy
 - To empower diverse communities and different places
 - To support arts, culture and language
 - To promote and improve education for all throughout life
 - To support effective implementation of the National Islands Plan

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Agree the recommended projects outlined in appendix one to receive an award of funding from The Highland Council through the Islands Infrastructure Fund as per the individual amounts detailed.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 **Resource** – A total of £510,000 of funding is available to Skye & Raasay and the Small Isles through this fund. A separate paper will be presented to the Lochaber Area Committee concerning projects in the Small Isles. There are therefore no resource implications

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)** – Funding is available to all island communities within the highland Council area. Consideration on issues relating to equalities, poverty and rural issues are dealt with on a project by project basis

3.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** – Mitigation of the climate/ecological emergency is a specific aim of the fund. This will be considered on a case by case basis for all projects receiving an award of funding.

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, Environment & Economy

Date: 15th February 2022

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Project Summary Sheet

Appendix 1

Island Infrastructure Fund – Proposed projects

Project	Description	Cost	Confirmed Funds	Request to IIF
Skye & Raasay				
<p>Kilt Rock Car Park Extension, Isle of Skye</p> <p>The Highland Council</p>	<p>Creation of a larger car park with a more robust surface to allow for more cars, motorhomes and coaches, accompanied with a wider bell mouth entrance to ease congestion at the entrance to the site and on the A855.</p>	<p>£244,825</p>	<p>£57,100 Highland Coastal Communities</p> <p>£16,000 Countryside Management Budget</p>	<p>£171,725</p>
<p>Elgol Toilets and Parking, Chemical Waste Unit, Isle of Skye</p> <p>Broadford & Strath Development Trust</p>	<p>New public toilets, realigned parking bays, 480m path linking the village to the parking and one waste disposal facility in a village which is popular with visitors and an increasing number of boat trips.</p> <p>This contractor has been appointed to start in February however there is currently a shortfall of £10,000 due to cost increases since the original application. Funding from IIF would also allow the path linking the toilets and parking to the village to be reinstated.</p>	<p>£329,114</p>	<p>£207,456 RTIF</p> <p>£34,500 HCCF</p> <p>£38,235 Broadford and Strath Development Trust/HIE</p>	<p>£48,923</p>

Sleat Community Motorhome Facilities Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye	Installation of a motorhome service point to include 8 electric hook-ups, a chemical waste disposal point, a grey water waste disposal point, accessible showers / toilets and 8 overnight parking facilities at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat as a joint project between Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Sleat Community Trust.	£424,111	Land Value - £74,119 HIE £80,000 RTIF – £160,000	£109,992
Road Infrastructure – Raasay	Improvements to road network on Raasay that is currently outwith the scope of works that would be taken forward by Highland Council			£49,360
	Total request for projects in Skye & Raasay			£380,000