

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Lochaber Committee** held remotely on **Monday, 7 March, 2022 at 9.00 a.m.**

Present:

Mr B Allan
Ms S Fanet

Mr A Henderson
Mr D Rixson

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager (Ross, Skye and Lochaber), Communities and Place

Mr M Culbertson, LEADER Development Officer, Infrastructure & Environment Service

Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure & Environment Service

Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance Service

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council.
All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

BUSINESS

1. Interim Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr A Henderson was unanimously appointed as Chairman for this meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Baxter and Mr N MacLean.

3. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

Transparency Statement:-

Item 5 – Mr D Rixson

4. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Choimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

There was circulated Report No. LA/10/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy. Members were asked to consider the application from the Caol Regeneration Company for final start up costs for the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina. This was one of three local applications deferred from round 1 of the fund in 2021. Members were only considering deferred applications at this meeting. All three projects had been contacted and

asked if they were in a position to re-submit their applications. Only Caol Regeneration Company had done so.

Members were invited to agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application. The Committee had £450,818.12 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Lochaber area.

Officers provided details of the application and in particular it was highlighted that the applicant had raised £1.2m in match funding. The applicant had requested £100,000 from Coastal Communities Funding for finishing works for the Marina. If funding was approved then it was intended that the Marina would open in July, 2022 in order to capture the peak season which was critical for their business plan. In terms of the Lochaber Highland Coastal Communities Fund priorities set for round 1 in 2021, the project was not technically in a remote rural area and its main purpose was not to alleviate current pressures caused by visitor numbers. However, it was noted that this grant, if awarded, would come out of the recent round 2 allocation, for which specific priorities had not yet been set.

Members supported the application and the Committee **AGREED** to award Highland Coastal Communities Fund funding as follows:-

Caol Regeneration Company – Thomas Telford Corpach Marina – Final Start Up Costs - £100,000

5. Islands Infrastructure Fund – Allocation of Funding

Transparency Statement: Mr D Rixson made a Transparency Statement in respect of the Foxglove, Isle of Rum Community Trust application in that he had a connection to this application by reason of his position on the Isle of Rum Community Trust. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare as it was a Council appointment and non financial, but nevertheless he decided not to take part in the discussion or decision on this application. Mr Rixson requested that this Statement be recorded in the Minutes.

There was circulated Report No. LA/11/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy which invited Members to agree recommended projects to receive an award of funding from The Highland Council through the Islands Infrastructure Fund.

Reference was made to an application regarding road maintenance on the Isle of Rum and it was queried why this had not come forward for Islands Infrastructure funding. The reason for this would be checked and a response provided to Councillor Henderson.

It was queried if there would be any outstanding Islands Infrastructure funding available should the projects in the report be approved. It was advised that the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee had already approved projects for funding and should the Lochaber Committee approve the projects in the report, the entire Islands Infrastructure funding would then be allocated. The focus had been on how quickly projects could be delivered in order to make recommendations to Members. If projects were not able to go ahead the money would need to be reallocated, but this was not anticipated.

Members supported the recommended projects and therefore, the Committee **AGREED** the recommended projects outlined in Appendix 1 and shown below to receive an award of funding from The Highland Council through the Islands Infrastructure Fund as per the individual amounts detailed:-

Isle of Canna Hub, Canna Harbour - £42,760

Foxglove, Isle of Rum Trust - £20,000

An Laimhrig Community Hub – Isle of Eigg Trading Company - £50,000

Small Isles Road Infrastructure Improvements - £17,240

The meeting ended at 9.30 a.m.