

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	14
Report No	SR/9/24

Committee: Isle of Skye and Raasay

Date: 12 February 2024

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for a number of funds that are available for communities/organisations to access in Highland. It comprises elements of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund along with the Highland Coastal Communities Fund and the Place Based Investment Programme, both of which are Scottish Government Funding streams to support economic regeneration and sustainable development in Highland. Area Committees are awarded devolved allocations according to approved formulae and decision making on which projects should receive funding sits with elected Members.

Within Isle of Skye and Raasay the following allocations are available for distribution in 2023/24 :-

- Highland Coastal Communities Fund (capital/revenue);
- Place Based Investment Programme (capital); and
- UK Shared Prosperity - (separate capital and revenue allocations)

Total funds available - £500,572.83 (this is a mix of capital and revenue from the individual funding programmes above).

1.2 Broad eligibility criteria for the fund 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; or
- addressing the challenges of rural depopulation

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:-

- sustainable/viable;
- providing value for money;
- providing additionality; and
- able to evidence positive impacts and wide community benefit

1.3 In summary the position in Isle of Skye & Raasay at Area Committee on 12 February 2024 is as follows:-

- Funds awarded to date £63,072.16 at Isle of Skye & Raasay Committee on 26 June 2023
- Balance of funding remaining – £437,500.67
- Number of applications for consideration – 11
- Total value of grant requests - £395,503.37

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

- **Appendix 1** – Project application form; and
- **Appendix 2** - RAG Summary Spreadsheet

RAG status on key criteria is based on the application form and supplementary information provided during the application process. All applications presented are technically eligible – if any criteria are marked as red this does not indicate an eligibility concern but reflects the quality of information provided or outstanding requirements that will require technical conditions to be applied to any award of funding.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- Consider** the applications presented and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application. An approval of funding should detail the amount approved and outline any conditions of funding that Members wish to attach to the approval over and above the required technical conditions. A deferral would allow an applicant to resubmit the current application at a future date with updated information or for the project to be approved subject to further funding becoming available. A rejection would mean that the application will not proceed and any future application to the fund should be brought forward initially as a new expression of interest;
- Agree** the approved CRF grant award for each application up to the value of the available area allocation; and
- If there is a balance of funding remaining, **agree** to ringfence remaining grant within the 2023/24 allocation to deliver area priorities identified through work to develop an area-based plan, subject to full applications being brought to a future committee meeting for consideration.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – Isle of Skye and Raasay have available funding of £437,500.67. Applications under consideration total £395,503.37 therefore there are no resource implications in approving the funding award as requested.

3.2 **Legal** - 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, Rural and Island)** - The focus of the funding is economic recovery, regeneration, and community resilience. Consideration on issues relating to equalities, poverty and rurality are dealt with on an individual basis for applications and covered in the technical assessments of projects.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - Mitigation of the climate/ecological emergency is a specific aim of the CRF funds. All applicants are required to evidence environmental sustainability as referenced in the technical assessments.
- 3.5 **Risk** - A balanced approach to risk is necessary when disbursing grant funds as sometimes it is necessary if a community led project is to proceed, to forward grant payment. Factors such as past knowledge of and project experience of the grant recipient, release of funds related to invoices/works completion certificates etc are considered in such assessments.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.
- 3.7 **Gaelic** - Consideration given within individual project applications in line with the Council's policy.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

Date: 18 January 2024

Author: Fiona Cameron, CRF Programme Manager
Marie-Anne Gray, CRF Project Officer

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Project Application Forms
Appendix 2 – Project Technical Assessments – RAG Summary

Isle of Skye & Raasay committee - 12.02.2024																	
CRF Applications - RAG Summary spreadsheet																	
Ref No	Organisation	Project title	Project description	Total project cost	Grant Requested	% rate	Project Robustness	Engagement & Support	Meeting a need/demand	Legacy & Exit Strategy	Equalities issues/impacts	Environmental sustainability	Value for Money	Match funding	Meets Local Priorities	Additionality	Score
2135	Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association	Connecting our Communities	The project seeks to build resilience in our community on Skye, via four distinct project strands which enhance our existing service by stretching our support to reach more people with severe and enduring mental health conditions - geographically across South Skye and demographically to include young people (16 – 26). By providing longer-term support for members to build confidence and skills, express talent and creativity and contribute to the community through social enterprise. By safeguarding our critically needed weekend service. The project responds to dire need and will increase SLMHA's impact on growing issues of mental ill-health in our community.	£ 69,952.00	£ 60,058.00	86%	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	28
2152	Uig Community Hall SCIO	Accessibility Improvements	To re-model the toilets and entrance with the building to enable modernisation and accessibility for all. The design allows for 1 x Accessible toilet, 1 x Family-friendly toilet, 5 x Gender-neutral toilets, 1 x Cleaning store and 1 x Accessible entrance with electronic push-pad operation.	£ 135,400.00	£ 67,500.00	50%	1	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	26
2165	Sleat Community Trust	Supporting our community over the next three years	We are working with the Highland Council and Sleat Community Council to upgrade and redesign our local play area. Options for sustainable accessible travel on Skye are limited. Affordability and carbon reduction for residents (12,000) and visitors (650,000pa) is a challenge with over reliance on car use for both groups. Visitor dependence on cars adds to congestion and carbon footprint. Three studies have been completed - Integrated Transport Action Plan for Skye; Active Travel Master Plan for Portree, Options appraisal for Active travel on Skye - All plans define follow up work. A project officer is required to take forward these plans forward.	£ 86,400.00	£ 55,719.00	64%	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	27
2176	Skye Connect	Sustainable Transport & Infrastructure Improvements	To create a harbour at Carbost, Loch Harport Isle of Skye by installing concrete breakwater pontoons to provide berthing within. These pontoons will create an outer shell giving 24/7 protection throughout the boating season from the damaging winds experienced at Carbost from the East and North-West. We are planning on the harbour therefore becoming more attractive to local residents and visitors as well as being able to be used directly by larger vessels. This expansion will create the opportunity to provide new services and attract more and younger people.	£ 114,161.20	£ 57,080.00	50%	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	28
2185	Carbost Pier Ltd	Safe Harbour	With the help from Community Regeneration Funding this year, SkyeDance were successful in employing two Dance Officers that share a full-time role who have been working on delivering a wide variety of dance classes and projects around the Isle of Skye, including inter-generational projects between primary schools and care homes, summer workshops that were delivered around local halls and outreach after school classes. The funding we seek is to complement our income and funding awarded from other sources, which will allow us to continue our activities/development.	£ 41,679.00	£ 29,813.00	72%	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	27
2227	SkyeDance	Building connection and community through dance	Broadford & Strath Resilient Communities Programme is the umbrella name for a suite of activities taking place in and beyond Broadford's community-owned woodland and 'Growers Hub'. The programme supports sustainable growth in our area through providing activities for young people, wellbeing support initiatives and activities that facilitate social connections. It has three strands: Corry Capers outdoor learning, enabling children to thrive through quality after school and holiday activities; Flourish Together horticultural therapy, providing a supportive environment for people to heal and grow; and a Community Outreach programme which will take growing and learning experiences into the heart of our community.	£ 32,704.00	£ 23,052.37	70%	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	28
2229	Broadford and Strath Community Company	Resilient Communities Programme	With this grant, SLCAB would be able to employ a 'roaming Outreach adviser' to reach out to all parts of our community and offer Home Visits. This would be to assist our clients in more remote areas with all manner of enquiries relating to debt; debt pack completion, money advice options, financial education, budgeting matters, income max, fuel debts etc. The majority of the actual casework would be done back in our bureau in Portree.	£ 43,956.00	£ 24,776.00	56%	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	29
2246	Skye & Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau	Cost of Living Advice in the Community	We are requesting match funding to support the creation of two new, 12-month, part-time roles (Caretaker and Booking Co-ordinator) to work flexibly alongside the existing voluntary committee to promote the venue and increase income to the hall, strengthen relationships with local users, maintain the building and identify opportunities to meet local needs. These roles will support the organisations aim of providing a local, high-quality, and affordable facility for sports, entertainment, recreation, and community services.	£ 31,677.00	£ 18,177.00	57%	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	27
2248	Portree Community Centre Association	Venue Coordinator	Dunvegan Community Trust is seeking funding for the redevelopment of the neglected Lochside Play Area into Dunvegan Community Park, a dynamic new recreational space for north-west Skye. This initiative will transform the site into a vibrant and inclusive play area, effectively addressing rural deprivation by improving local amenities. The park will boast eco-friendly and innovative play equipment, designed to accommodate a variety of age groups and abilities, fostering community cohesion and enhancing the well-being of residents. With strong community endorsement and collaborative efforts, the project will address the acute shortage of facilities for young people in Dunvegan.	£ 12,587.00	£ 11,328.00	90%	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	29
2267	Dunvegan Community Trust	Dunvegan Community Park	Our aim is to establish a coherent, safe and attractive environment for walking, wheeling and cycling across the Broadford and Strath Community Council area. In the first instance we wish to engage a consultant to undertake a feasibility study of our current path network and look at potential path links that will enable this to happen. The work will include community consultation, surveys, mapping, identifying funding sources, and a final report setting out priorities. Evidence in the report would be used for future funding bids to support path construction and maintenance.	£ 181,090.76	£ 37,500.00	21%	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	26
2277	Broadford and Strath Community Company	Broadford & Strath Community Paths Network – Feasibility Study		£ 21,000.00	£ 10,500.00	50%	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30

NOTE - RAG assessment criteria scoring. Red Amber Green ratings are based on information provided during the application process and are provided as a guide only. The ratings are converted into scores as follows: Red – 1, amber – 2, green – 3. This allows a total score for each project to be provided. All projects presented today are eligible for funding. Where a project has been awarded Red or Amber against any criteria, this does not reflect an eligibility issue but does flag up that there are outstanding concerns, or that only brief information was provided within the application. If Members wish to approve projects that have Red or Amber ratings then we would usually seek to address these concerns by applying technical conditions to any funding award made.