

# **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL: EDUCATION, CULTURAL & SPORT SERVICES**

## **VILLAGE HALL STRATEGY**

**AIM:** To support communities in developing and maintaining sustainable halls appropriate to the needs of their community

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### **To Assist and Support Capital Development of Village Halls**

To achieve this we will:

- Work with village halls to maximise partnership funding from Lottery, Europe, Scottish Executive and other sources
- Offer support and advice to hall committees on potential funding sources for large and small scale capital projects
- Compile and make available brief guidance notes for halls
- Carry out an annual survey of capital development needs
- Develop a database of good design practice and successful project management models
- Create opportunities for halls to learn from the experience of successful projects
- Establish links with funding organisations

#### **To Help Disseminate Best Practice in Hall Management**

To achieve this we will:

- Encourage the development of Village Hall Federations in each area to maximise opportunities for sharing ideas, information, knowledge and promote co-ordination of community action and activities
- Arrange or participate in best practice seminars
- Work to develop a training programme for hall management committees (e.g. training for hall treasurers, running village halls as a business, managing capital development)

#### **To Support Halls in Providing a Range of Services Relevant to the Community**

To achieve this we will:

- Operate a revenue grants scheme
- Seek to continue the equalisation process
- Encourage hall committees to be inclusive in their planning (e.g. by involving young people on the hall committee)
- Work in partnership with other council services and organisations to encourage the development of new activities and extend the range of services available within village halls (e.g. the use of village halls as arts venues, for education and training purposes, health services, day care services, as IT centres, for small scale local enterprises)
- Encourage the development of schemes designed to benefit halls financially (e.g. block insurance scheme, block purchase schemes)
- Encourage the development of joint working which will benefit communities within the same area (e.g. co-ordination of childcare, arts or sports programmes)