

## The Highland Council

### Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee 6 February 2014

Agenda Item	<b>4</b>
Report No	<b>TEC 2/14</b>

### Funding for Social Enterprises Sector Recycling Projects for 2014/15

### Report by Head of Waste Management

#### Summary

This report invites Members to approve that the current level of funding provided to Social Enterprise Groups involved in recycling is carried forward to 2014/15.

#### 1. Background

The Council, through the TEC Services Revenue Budget for Waste Management, provides support to the following Social Enterprise Groups who provide recycling services:

- Blythwood Care (Evanton)
- New Start Highland (Inverness)
- HomeAid (Caithness and Sutherland)
- Lochaber Environmental Group
- Acharacle CC /Rag Tag N Textiles

#### 2. Services Provided

- 2.1 **Blythwood Care** provides practical help for those in need and collects a range of goods, including furniture, clothing and footwear, soft furnishings, CDs, DVD's, mobile phones toys and tools.
- 2.2 **NewStart Highland** provides a furniture reuse service and runs a bicycle re-use project as well as training programme to get long term unemployed back into the work place.
- 2.3 **HomeAid (Caithness and Sutherland)** collects surplus household goods and either passes them directly on to families on low incomes, or sells them in their charity shops to raise funds.
- 2.4 **Lochaber Environmental Group** operates 4 community composting sites dealing with green waste.
- 2.5 **Acharacle CC /Rag Tag N Textiles** reuse textile goods and make them into fashion goods and a furniture re-use service in west Lochaber.

#### 3. Funding 2014/15

- 3.1 The level of funding is based on the amount of recycling delivered by each group and the estimated funding for 2014/15, based on the activity in 2013/14, is

detailed in the table below:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Estimated level of funding for 2014/15 based on activity in 2013/14</b>
Blythswood	£289,853
NewStart Highland	£145,751
HomeAid	£44,722
LEG	£14,669
Acharacle CC/Rab T n T	£6,649
<b>Total</b>	<b>£501,644</b>

#### **4. Future Relationship**

- 4.1 Waste Management and the groups will carry out an assessment during the next year to determine the “social value” of the work carried out and amend as appropriate the agreements in place.
- 4.2 Each group will receive an individual agreement between the Council and themselves which will seek to protect jobs and training places whilst moving towards new areas of activity which will benefit both the group and fit in with the Council’s overall strategic waste management objectives.
- 4.3 The focus of activities for the groups will be to optimise re-use/recycling activity for the benefit of the Highland Community.
- 4.4 The overall budget of £0.5M will be preserved for the social enterprise sector. Individual budgets will be agreed based on tonnage diverted and activities carried out and will allow flexibility to incentivise groups to go beyond their targets.

#### **5. Implications**

- 5.1 The base funding allocation is contained within the TECS Revenue budget.
- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 A number of the Groups help to support employment.
- 5.4 Reuse and recycling helps to reduce the level of greenhouse gases produced from landfill and contribute to Carbon Clever Highlands.

5.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Members are invited to approve funding to existing social enterprises for 2014/15 as set out in this report.

Designation: Head of Waste Management

Date: 24 January 2014

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