

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Community Challenge Fund Applications Panel** held in the Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on Wednesday, 22 October 2014, at 3.00 p.m.

Present

Dr D Alston

Mrs C Wilson (by teleconference)

Committee Chair

Mr G MacKenzie

Officials in attendance:

Ms M Morris, Assistant Chief Executive

Ms L Lee, Committee Administrator

Dr D Alston in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr J Gray, Mr D Hendry and Mrs F Robertson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 27 August 2014

There had been circulated Minutes of Meeting of 27 August 2014, which had been approved by the Council at its meeting held on 4 September 2014.

The Panel **NOTED** the minutes, subject to correction that Mr G MacKenzie had attended the meeting rather than Mr D Fallows.

4. Assessment Criteria

The Panel **NOTED** that copies of the Assessment Criteria agreed by Highland Council at its meeting on 25 October 2012 were available for reference if required.

5. Expressions of Interest – Round 7

There had been circulated Report No. CCF6/14 dated 15 October 2014 by the Depute Chief Executive which provided recommendations for how best to proceed with three Community Challenge Approaches as listed below.

The report also proposed two changes to the process for the Panel to consider and advised of new action which would support the development of the Fund going forward.

The Panel considered the applications in turn:

Agenda Item 7

Alness Handyman Project – this project was supported by the Panel; there was potential to use the project as a model for other communities to follow, and to extend the project in the future to include servicing of the public toilets.

Kinlochleven Community Trust Grounds Maintenance – this project was supported by the Panel subject to clarification on some issues..

Fort William Shinty Pitch – this project was supported by the Panel subject to officers ascertaining whether the area was a public park and if so whether locking the gates would be permitted; clarification of communication channels; and finalisation of the scope of the project, costs and staffing implications.

It was hoped to bring all the above applications to the November Panel meeting, the expectation was that they would progress quickly and positively.

The Panel then considered the proposed changes to the assessment criteria, which were being put forward as a means to deal with future foreseeable budget reductions for specific services, when an activity had been taken on by the community at an agreed cost. Members were minded that discussion should be deferred to the next meeting, with all Panel Members being encouraged to attend, given the importance of this issue.

The actions described in the report to support the development of the Fund going forward, including Local Member involvement earlier in the process, to make best use of local knowledge, were welcomed.

The Panel **AGREED** that:

- i. the Alness Community Council be invited to submit a full application;
- ii. points be clarified with officers and the Kinlochleven Community Trust for a full assessment of the application to be made before a recommendation can be provided;
- iii. officers negotiate with the Fort William Shinty Club on price, and deal with the staffing implications before a recommendation being made;
- iv. local Members be always advised of applications made in their Ward for local member knowledge also to be taken into account in assessments; and
- v. given the importance of the proposed changes to the assessment criteria as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report, consideration of this issue be **deferred** to the November meeting, with all Panel Members and Relevant Chairs be strongly encouraged to attend, to allow full discussion of the proposals.

The Panel also **NOTED** the redesigned manager post in the Ward Management team would directly support the success of the Community Challenge Fund.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.