

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee
26 February 2015

Agenda Item	10
Report No	LA 8/15

DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2015-16

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

The Report invites Members to consider recommendations for the allocation of the Deprived Area Fund for 2015-16 in the Lochaber Area.

The Deprived Area Fund directly supports the Council's Programme by assisting organisations working in defined disadvantaged communities to develop and implement activities aimed at improving quality of life and regenerating communities. Priority will be given to projects which directly deliver employability outcomes for individuals who live within the targeted area and who are furthest removed from the labour market.

1. Background

- 1.1 The scope and criteria of the Deprived Area Fund 2014-15 (DAF) was approved by PED Committee on 14 August 2013 and reported to the Lochaber Area Committee on 25 November 2013. A note of the criteria and areas of benefit are attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The awards of funding for 2014-15 were made at Area Committee on 27 February 2014. A note of these is attached as **Appendix 2** to this Report and an updated verbal Report will be given to Committee.

2 2015 – 2016 AWARDS

- 2.1 Notice of the 2015 – 16 Funds was placed in Press Public Notices, on the Council's website and an e-mail sent to all Council Members in November 2014. A total of 3 applications were received by the closing date of 9 January for the Lochaber Area Funding – as shown in the table below. The allocated Budget is £30,000.

TABLE 1:

LOCHABER AREA COMMITTEE		
Ref no	Application Organisation	Application 2015-16 £
10780	The SHIRLIE Project	4,610
10822	West Highland College UHI (Lochaber)	9,970
10879	Lochaber Hope	9,829
		24,409

2.2 These applications have been given an appraisal including –

- An examination of the Applicant's proposals by Council Officers along with Officers of Partner organisations (JCP & SDS) to assess the need and appropriateness of the proposals; their "fit" with partner services to avoid duplication; and the capacity of the organisation to deliver using the assessment criteria outlined in Appendix 1.
- A separate Technical assessment of the organisation is carried out including its governance, experience, other activities undertaken, how business is managed, including an examination of its Annual Report and Accounts. This undertaken by a Council Officer with assistance from other Services where appropriate;
- Organisations already in receipt of DAF have had to submit Quarterly Reports of the organisation's performance in meeting the targets set for 2014-15;
- Where necessary further information has been obtained, project meetings and visits undertaken as necessary – and in some cases Council staff are in weekly contact with the organisations undertaking joint activities.

2.3 A summary of the Applications, assessments is given in **Appendix 3**. The recommendations are made for 12 months funding from April 2015 (subject to continued performance and reporting through the year).

3 IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource: The recommendations, if accepted by Members, are within the budget of £30,000 and will leave £5,591 available for allocation in the course of the year.

3.2 Risk: The recommendations are based on a thorough assessment of the organisations' capacity to deliver efficiently and effectively. The organisations are established and meet current monitoring requirements.

3.3 Equalities: The Deprived Area Fund aims to tackle identified socio-economic inequalities. In particular the measures within the programme particularly target young people; women and people with long term conditions.

3.4 Climate Change: There are no significant Climate Change implications arising from the Report.

3.5 Legal: There are no Legal implications arising from the Report.

3.6 Rural Impact: The revised geographic targeting of the Deprived Area Fund has identified a wider range of communities as eligible including rural areas.

4 CONCLUSION

Members are invited to approve the recommendations shown –

Ref no	Application Organisation	Application 2015-16 £
10780	The SHIRLIE Project	4,610
10822	West Highland College UHI (Lochaber)	9,970
10879	Lochaber Hope	9,829
		24,409

Members are also asked to delegate decisions on the balance of the Funds in 2015-16 to the Director of development and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee and appropriate Ward members.

Designation : Director of Development and Infrastructure

12 February 2015

Author: Bob MacKinnon, Employability Team.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES GRANT FUNDING
Closing Date 9th January 2015

Purpose:

Applications are invited from community and third sector organisations to assist in the key outcome of widening participation in the labour market in targeted Highland communities. Allied to this and a secondary outcome sought, is to increase the skills and confidence of these targeted communities to take action themselves to widen participation in the labour market.

Funding will be available to March 2017 and applications for projects over that period will be considered as well as shorter term proposals.

Key Criterion for Applications to the Deprived Area Fund

Criterion 1: Effective targeting - proposals must respond to identified community needs (primarily within the identified datazones) including published statistics and evidenced community and client group engagement and consultation.

Criterion 2: Identified employability aims – proposals must have identified and evidenced employability outputs and outcomes.

Criterion 3: Proposals must complement and add value to other related services and programmes tackling poverty and inequality.

Criterion 4: Proposals must engage with local communities and build community capacity and leadership.

Application and Assessment Process

Deprived Area funding applications must be received by the closing date of **Friday 9th January 2015**. Appraisals of the proposals will be undertaken by officers of the Council in liaison with partner organisations with recommendations with funding decisions being made at appropriate Area Committees.

- DAF – application form
- DAF – application guidance

Work Programme

Applicants should ensure they are not using Deprived Area Funds to duplicate local Work Programme activity or to significantly benefit Work Programme Contractors.

Completed Applications should be sent by e-mail to: policy6@highland.gov.uk

Or by mail to:

The Highland Council Grant and Discretionary Funding Applications
Chief Executive's Office
Highland Council Headquarters

Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Deprived Area Target Area

Please see the target areas for the fund by following the link below.

- [Deprived Area Fund Target Areas list of datazones](#)
- [Deprived Area Fund Target Areas Map](#)

The total available funds on an Area Committee basis are listed below.

Area Committee	No. of Datazones	£
City of Inverness Area	16	£160,000
Caithness & Sutherland Area	10	£100,000
Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area	13	£130,000
Lochaber Area	3	£ 30,000
Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Area	2	£ 20,000
Total	44	£440,000

LOCHABER - Deprived Area Fund 2014-15

The Area Committee approved the undernoted application for 2014-15 – leaving a balance of £6,151 uncommitted for the remainder of the year.

LOCHABER AREA COMMITTEE			2014-15
Ref no	Application Organisation	Application 2014 - 15	Recommend 2014 -15
3535	Lochaber Hope	£ 9,519	£ 9,519
3542	SHIRLIE Project	£ 4,360	£ 4,360
3541	West Highland College	£ 9,970	£ 9,970
	Total		£ 23,849
	Budget 2014 - 15	£ 30,000	

No subsequent applications have been received and therefore Officers are consulting with partner and community organisations to identify opportunities to use the balance of funds this year.

Meantime the existing funded organisations continue to submit progress reports and receive monitoring visits. A verbal update on these matters will be given at Committee.

LOCHABER AREA COMMITTEE – 26 FEBRUARY 2015

DEPRIVED AREA FUNDS 2015-17

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: The S.H.I.R.L.I.E. Project	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £4,360 Amount Applied for: £4,360	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: N/A Amount Applied for: £N/A
Recommended Year 1: £4,360	
Project Summary: The Shirly Project propose to deliver a 4 day employment focused workshop targeting individuals in the areas of Lochaber considered to be the most deprived.. The project will target additional support needs, deprivation & equality whilst reacting to statistics. The 4 day workshop will include 1 ½ days employability skills and personal development activities and 2 ½ days sector specific training in hospitality industry. Work shop sessions can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Development• Information, Advice & Guidance• Core Skills• Employability• Health and Wellbeing• Sector Specific training-hospitality Alexandra Hotel. Management and staff from the hotel, supported by Shirly Project Job Coaches will deliver sector specific training. Work Experience: Alexandra hotel and other hotels in Fort William have offered work experience following the training. This gives employers access to a number of potential new recruits.	
Measurable Outcomes: Expected Outcomes and Outputs for 10 to 12 individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generic employability skills which can be utilised in all employment sectors.• Sector specific skills within the Hospitality and catering industry• The opportunity to meet with and impress local employers• Increased awareness of their own skills and abilities• An up to date quality CV• Improved employability skills- sourcing vacancies, completing applications, personal presentation and interview skills etc.• An income maximisation check undertaken for all participants	

Assessment Score 21

Criteria 1 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Criteria 2 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which demonstrates clear employability aims and how these will be delivered. Good and credible evidence to demonstrate that participants will at least begin to move towards the outcome of employment.

Criteria 3 Score 4 4 x 1

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers.

Criteria 1 Score 1 1 x 1

Poor justification. Limited attempt to demonstrate how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity

Overall Score Against Criteria 21:/30	Technical Assessment PASS
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Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £4,360
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Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: West Highland College	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £9,970 Amount Applied for: £9,970	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3Year Project Cost: £29,910 Amount Applied for: £29,910
Recommended Year 1: £9,970	
Project Summary: To run weekly workshops in the Fort William and South Lochaber area (incl. Mallaig, Ardnamurchan, Lochaber, Kinlochleven). The aim of the project is to empower residents by addressing fundamental issues such as <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digitalisation – job search skills, build a C.V, register with Universal Job Match• Personal and group development skills – assertiveness, citizenship & communication• Budgeting skills – opening a bank account, obtaining recognised ID & proof of identity.• Assertiveness – taking control/ownership awareness• Working on reality – how we live and how it affects us in relation to finding and sustaining employment or further education. Apply for individual learning accounts to promote further learning	
Measurable Outcomes: In every workshop an individual assessment and employability needs assessment addressed. Clients signposted to short vocational courses (ECDL, PC passport, CSCS, Food &Hygiene and ESOL). Support individuals to apply for individual learning accounts. Where they are not eligible for funding support will be sourced from partner organisations. Those that do not wish to go onto further learning voluntary opportunities or employment opportunities will be explored Past performance show: Nine students graduating with WHC 2014 -2015 all received support through these workshops. Three of these students graduated with top awards including Student of the Year, Further Education Student of the Year and Higher Education Student of the Year. Partnership working with Adult Basic Learning Co-ordinator, JCP, SDS and Highland Council Employability has ensured there is no gap in provision and all individual employability needs are addressed	

Assessment Score 23

Criteria 1 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which clearly provided justification on why and how identified areas will be targeted. Good level of information provided on how the needs of the community were identified through community and client group engagement.

Criteria 2 Score 8 4 x 2

Strong justification. Good response which demonstrates clear employability aims and how these will be delivered. Good and credible evidence to demonstrate that participants will at least begin to move towards the outcome of employment.

Criteria 3 Score 4 4 x 1

Strong justification: Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers

Criteria 4 Score 3 4 x 1

Satisfactory justification: Satisfactory demonstration by applicant how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills. Application would have benefited by providing some additional information on how this would actually work in practise through the delivery of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 23 /30

Technical Assessment
Pass

Recommendation: **Approve**

Amount Recommended: **£9,970**

Special Conditions:

Deprived Area Fund (DAF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant: Lochaber Hope	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £15,029 Amount Applied for: £9,829	Application Finance 2014 – 17 3 Year Project Cost: £44,553 Amount Applied for: £28,953 (three years)
Recommended Year 1: £9,829	
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>The aim of the project for 2015 to 2017 is to provide additional employment opportunities to their customers by utilising current resources and increasing engagement with employers: LH will work with employers to identify employment posts that they find difficult to fill because of a lack of suitably qualified candidates, LH will continue to identify clients who are interested in these jobs and give them training to enable them to take up a position with a local employer possibly after a short work placement where the employer can satisfy themselves that the applicant is suitable for the position.</p> <p>By equipping their clients with soft, practical and vocational skills they can prepare people for specific employment roles and duties, they can phase this over 3 to 5 years to develop a social enterprise employment agency.</p> <p>Over 2015 LH will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the hours of our current part time employment advisor from 21 to 35 hours. • engage with employers, providing online and social media advertising, CV search, short listing candidates and arranging interviews. • provide funding for vocational training where there will be a guaranteed job outcome. • deliver focussed group motivational and confidence building classroom training (2 x 5 days) • provide mentoring support to customers. • provide ongoing classes including mock interviews and client facilitated listening groups. • Daily job search support, online search and online applications, cover letters and CV's 	
<p>Measurable Outcomes:</p> <p>To help individuals to achieve more through personal development training and volunteering opportunities; with a particular emphasis on attracting participants who have already taken part in confidence building through their interaction with Lochaber Hope i.e. providing progression routes for those who have already been supported by Deprived Area Funding.</p> <p>By getting involved in volunteering activities in the area, participants will be contributing to community development and capacity building. The programme for Years 2014/15 and 2015/16 Pre-volunteering course for 6 candidates. Group event Award in Volunteering Skills for the 6 candidates. SCQF levels 3,4 and 5 I2016/17 – Evaluation of 2015-16 and re-run of improved programme.</p>	

Assessment Score 16

Criteria 1 Score 4 2 x 2

Lack of full justification. Attempt to provide information on some aspects of the criteria although limited justification for targeted identified areas. Some evidence of identifying community needs through community and client group engagement and consultation but required to be more comprehensive.

Criteria 2 Score 6 2 x 3

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address employability aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of employment however would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 3 3 x 1

Satisfactory justification Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e. that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 Score 3 3 x 1

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity such as the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills. Application would have benefited by providing some additional information on how this would actually work in practise through the delivery of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 16/30	Technical Assessment PASS
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Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £9,829
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Special Conditions: