#### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

#### CITY OF INVERNESS AREA COMMITTEE - 5 March 2015

Agenda Item	13
Report No	CIA/11/15

#### **DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2015-16**

# Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Report sets out the applications received for the Deprived Area Funds for 2015-16. It sets out the background to the Fund, together with a summary of applications, the assessments and funding recommendations with reasons stated.

The Deprived Area Fund supports the Council's Working Together for the Highland's Programme, the Single Outcome Agreement and complements the Preventative Spend measures by assisting people to obtain employment and improve individual and community wellbeing.

# 1. Background

- 1.1 The Deprived Area Funding (DAF) and criteria were approved by Planning and Development Committee in August 2013 giving an allocation of £160,000 for the Area and authority for approval delegated to the Area Committee. The criteria and scoring for the Fund are placed on the Council website and attached as Appendix 1 to this Report for information. The Area Committee agreed the process and timetable for evaluating applications at its meeting on 21st October 2013 and agreed that the applications should be considered initially by the City of Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee making recommendations to the City Committee.
- 1.2 In relation to the Inverness Fund, the Sub Committee has recognised the purpose of the Fund to assist defined disadvantaged communities to develop activities aimed at improving quality of life and regenerate their communities. The purpose is consistent with the Council's aims to encourage individual empowerment, community action and participation in local services to help tackle poverty and social deprivation" (Ref. Highland Council Dec'12). In discussion they have recognised the need to sustain successful activity over time but also wanted to see the Fund being developed to support activity in other parts of the City.
- 1.3 The Awards for 2014-15 financial year were agreed at the City Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2014 and left a balance of £24,270. Following discussion with the Common Good Sub-Committee, work is being done in other parts of the City to establish Work Clubs in partnership with local community organisations using DAF balances. This is including improving IT access, use of community facilities and sessional staffing where required. Starts have been made in Raigmore; Smithton/Culloden and Hilton. Discussions have also been held in Ardersier. The Fund is also being used to support an application from Merkinch Partnership to the Common Good Fund to develop more structured pre-

employment courses and to make these more available. The initial award to Merkinch Enterprise IT project was for part year costs pending the start of the new EU programme which has been delayed. Support is therefore being offered for the final quarter of 2014-15. It is anticipated that these developments will use most of the balance of funds in 2014-15. However, Members are asked to agree that decisions on any proposals for the use of any remainder of the Fund in 2014-15 should be remitted to the City Manager in consultation with the City Leader and Chair of the Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee, following assessment.

## 2 2015 – 16 Awards

- 2.1 Applications were invited for the 2015-16 funding through Public Notices in local newspapers, on the Council website, by e-mail to Council Members and to previous applicants. A total of 10 applications were received for the City of Inverness Area Funding as shown in the Table 1 below.
- 2.2 The full Applications and Assessments were submitted to the City Common Good Fund Sub-Committee at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February and this report is based on the comments, observations and recommendations made by the Sub-Committee. The Minutes of the Sub Committee are presented to this meeting and this Report reflects these discussions and recommendations.

# 2.3 **TABLE 1**:

INVERNESS AREA COMMITTEE		
Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Application 2015-16 £
10791	Merkinch Partnership	83,139
10797	Inverness Blitz	28,573
10842	Hilton Parish Church	6,804
10844	Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey CAB	40,000
10853	Merkinch Enterprise Information Technology for the unemployed	28,600
10854	Arts in Merkinch	30,000
10855	Merkinch Enterprise Community Newsletter	4,800
10858	TCV Scotland	19,800
10859	Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop	27,228
10904	For the Right Reasons	8,000
		276,944
	Budget 2014 - 15	160,000

- 2.3 These Applications have been given a robust appraisal (process agreed with Internal Audit) including
  - An examination of the Applicant's proposals by Council Officers 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;
  - A separate technical assessment of the organisation is carried out including its governance, experience, 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 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.

A summary of the Applications, Assessments and comments for each Application is shown at Appendix 3

#### 3. Assessment

3.1 Based on these assessments the Awards recommended are shown below –

TABLE 2:

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Recommend 2015-16 £
10791	Merkinch Partnership	63,900
10797	Inverness Blitz	9,500
10842	Hilton Parish Church	Defer
10844	Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey CAB	NIL
10853	Merkinch Enterprise Information Technology for the Unemployed	NIL
10854	Arts in Merkinch	30,000
10855	Merkinch Enterprise Community Newsletter	4,800
10858	TCV Scotland	19,800
10859	Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop	NIL
10904	For the Right Reasons	8,000
	Allocation	136,000

3.2 As discussed previously measuring the impact of targeted activity like this among the wide range of variable factors that influence communities is difficult, particularly in attributing any particular change to specific interventions. Analysis of data for Merkinch, for example, shows that there are significant population and policy changes that make comparisons over time difficult to interpret. However, it is argued that such interventions are important in mitigating the wider socio-economic changes and allowing some individuals to make important changes to their way of life.

## 4. Implications

- 4.1 <u>Resource Implications:</u> The recommendations, if approved will commit £136,000 of the Deprived Area Fund for 2015-16 leaving a balance of £24,000 to be determined later in the year.
- 4.2 <u>Risk:</u> 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. The Grant Funding is managed and monitored using the Council's Grant Standard Terms and Conditions.
- 4.3 <u>Equalities:</u> 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.
- 4.4 <u>Climate Change:</u> There are no significant Climate Change implications arising from the Report.
- 4.5 <u>Legal:</u> There are no Legal implications arising from the Report.
- 4.6 <u>Rural Implications:</u> There are no implications for rural areas arising from this Report.

#### 5. Recommendations

#### 5.1 Members are invited to

- a) Agree that decisions on any proposals for the use of any remainder of the Fund in 2014-15 should be remitted to the City Manager in consultation with the City Leader and Chair of the Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee, following assessment.
- b) Approve the recommendations of the Common Good Sub-Committee for the Deprived Area Fund 2015-16 as shown below.

Ref. No.	Applicant Organisation	Recommend 2015-16 £
10791	Merkinch Partnership	63,900
10797	Inverness Blitz	9,500
10842	Hilton Parish Church	Defer
10844	Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey CAB	NIL
10853	Merkinch Enterprise Information Technology for the Unemployed	NIL
10854	Arts in Merkinch	30,000
10855	Merkinch Enterprise Community Newsletter	4,800
10858	TCV Scotland	19,800
10859	Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop	NIL
10904	For the Right Reasons	8,000
		136,000

c) Agree that decisions on any proposals for the use of any remainder of the Fund in 2015-16 should be remitted to the City Manager in consultation with the City Leader and Chair of the Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee, following assessment.

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Authors: Bob MacKinnon, Employability Team Leader, 01463 702044

# **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES GRANT FUNDING Closing Date 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

# **Target Areas**

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

# **Deprived Area Fund Assessment Criterion 2014-2017**

The Deprived Area Fund will be assessed on the four criterion below. A technical assessment comprising of the Organisational governance, experience, track record and capacity to deliver the project, other sources of funding will also be undertaken.

# 1. Assessment of Application

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING	Max score
Criterion 1: Effective targeting - proposals must respond to identified community needs (primarily within the identified datazones) not including published statistics but evidenced	x 2	10 (2x5)
community and client group engagement and consultation. <b>Assessment:</b> Level of specific targeting identified including how the		
project is going to target these areas.		
A practical approach should however, be taken to ensure project		
proposals do not create artificial boundaries and that neighbouring datazones, as appropriate, are included.		
The identified needs of communities that the project is looking to address must evidenced through engagement and consultation, not just the reproduction of published statistics.		
Criterion 2: Identified employability aims – proposals must have identified and evidenced employability outputs and outcomes.	x 2	10 (2x5)
Assessment: Applications must demonstrate specific employability		
aims – even if early engagement activity: This might include hard		
outcomes of people entering work or college, or softer outcomes		
e.g. lifeskills/social skills, numeracy & literacy, employability skills, vocational skills, financial management, job seeking skills,		
community involvement/volunteering, work placements, enterprise		
skills and career related short courses. Applications must		
demonstrate plans to begin to move participants towards the		
outcome of employment.		
<b>Criterion 3:</b> Proposals must complement and add value to other related services and programmes tackling poverty and inequality.	X1	5 (1x5)
Assessment: The application should that the project will actually		
address the needs identified and compliments and provided an		
additional service rather than duplicating existing activity.		
Criterion 4: Proposals must engage with local communities and	X1	5 (1x5)
build community capacity and leadership. <b>Assessment:</b> Application should highlight <b>how</b> project will engage		
with local communities and assist in building community capacity –		
i.e. use of volunteers, developing project management skills		

# **Scoring of Application**

occining or Approximent	
0- Unacceptable	No information provided or justification provided shows applicant does
	not meet key criteria
1- Poor Justification	Limited attempt to provide key information
2-Lack of full justification	Modest attempt at providing key information with little justification on
	how key criteria will be met
3- Satisfactory	Reasonable effort at providing key information on all points and meeting
justification	criteria
4 – Strong Justification	Good response which covers all points requested and comprehensively
	provides information on how key criteria will be met
5 – Very Strong	Excellent response which provides all key information requested and
Justification	gives substantial additional information which clearly meets criteria

# 2. Technical Assessment (pass or fail)

The purpose is to make a judgement on the applicant organisation's governance, experience, track record and capacity to deliver the project. This will be assessed by Council Officers and will include the following:

- History of Organisation;
- Record of previous funding being spent appropriately;
- Track record of delivering similar projects within or out with the Highland Council area;
- Capacity of Organisation to deliver the project;
- Application costs over good value for money i.e. are judged as reasonable costs; and
- Alternative sources of funding, for example through existing or planned contracting of employability services at a local or national level.
- Appropriate governance arrangements are in place, including sound financial management.

# **CITY OF INVERNESS AREA COMMITTEE**

# **DEPRIVED AREA FUND 2015-16**

Summary Applications, Assessments and Recommendations

## Name of Applicant: Ref 10791 Merkinch Partnership

Application Finance 2015 – 16
Year Project Cost: £143,149
Amount Applied for: £83,139

Application Finance 2015 – 16 2 Year Project Cost: £288,066 Amount Applied for: £166,000

Recommended Year 1: £63,900

# **Project Summary: Merkinch Community Building Blocks Project**

A range of projects working with unemployed people to move them into the labour market, training and developing local volunteers and working with local people to build capacity and skill and encourage community leadership, including: **Get Merkinch Working** – support and advice including creating CVs, using a computer, internet access, e-mail accounts, job search, online applications, accessing Universal Jobsmatch, Welfare Reform, online benefit claims and job search will be available via:

**Merkinch Community Work Club** – 3 days/wk for over 16 hours on a drop-in basis Back to work programme: 5 courses each of 10 weeks duration X10 participants per course. Targeted at unemployed facing multiple barriers

One to One Training Sessions for people needing more intensive support including IT training.12 hours per week. 1 hr slots by appointment

Drop-in facility at Merkinch Partnership office 18 hrs per week

**Support into Employment for Young People** (16-24 years) – one to one support to build skills, increase confidence, job search activities, interview skills, mentoring and referral on to training courses, volunteering & work experience placements provided via:

Back to Work Programme: Employer Liaison

**Volunteering Merkinch** – develop & recruit volunteers, create new volunteer projects, provide skills & personal development opportunities; improve organisational capacity.

**Community Skills Training Programme** – work with local community volunteers to give local people the skills and resources required to deliver successful community projects.

## **Measurable Outcomes:**

#### **Get Merkinch Working:**

**Community Work Club** – yr 1 - 300 people register; 45 people moving into sustained employment 35 people moving into training, education or volunteering Back to Work Programme– 25 long term unemployed people register; 10 people participate in the labour market; 5 people take part in additional training activities; 150 people take part in One to one Employment Skills sessions at least 4 hrs per week. Support into Employment for Young People 35 YP register on the programme. 30 achieve a positive destination-training, education or employment.

Supported Volunteer programme: 40 volunteers register, 15 new volunteers recruited onto p[rogramme.30 volunteers achieve accredited qualifications

Community Skills Training Programme – 45 community volunteers register on the programme.20 volunteers take part in formal training

#### **Assessment Score 24**

## **Criteria 1 Score 8 – (2 x 4)**

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 – (2 x4)

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 – (1 x 4)**

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 4- (1x 4)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 24 /30		Technical Assessment PASS
Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £63,900	

Organisation has applied for £83,000 - however it is possible that it may be eligible for funding through other funding streams including Council sources in 2015-16. Therefore recommendation capped at this time to allow further investigation. The organisation continues to function as an "anchor" community development organisation supporting both individuals and other community organisations.

Name of Applicant: 10797 Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats)			
Application Finance 20 Year Project Cost: Amount Applied for:	014 – 15 £64,473 £28,573	Application Finance 20 2 Year Project Cost: Amount Applied for: (2 years)	)14 – 17 £128,946 £57,146
Recommended Year 1:	£9,500		

#### **Project Summary: Positive Life Pathways**

With the funding achieved from DAF we aim to build and extend on the work done in our project over the past two years, and the impact our organisation has had on the local community in its fifteen years of operation. We are proposing a two year programme that will deliver activities in and around the Inverness area focusing on engaging members of the community to improve citizenship and community spirit, improve health and specifically target those that are unemployed – including young people leaving school with little or no qualifications or struggling in school – and reengage them in an innovative way and build capacity, soft skills, pre-employability focus, break down barriers to volunteering and offer training and mentoring.

The objectives of the project over the course of the two years are to:

- Give young people and adult volunteers opportunities to gain non academic qualifications
- Give young people and adult volunteers opportunities to gain experience in leadership and coaching
- Break down barriers to volunteering for those who are unemployed
- Improve well-being in general including health, fitness, nutrition, mental health, attitude and behaviour
- Provide support, structure and a positive environment to allow people to reach their full potential
- Create mentoring relationships and partnerships

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

14 – 19 year old Pre-Employability Programme - young people aged between 14 – 19 actively engaged in our programme, 30 young people gain certificates/qualifications, 20 YP achieve positive destination (further volunteering, FE, employment or other training. All YP improve confidence, team work and leadership abilities.

Capacity Building in the community

We aim to develop positive leaders within the community so that the project not only can grow but also have a long lasting effect. 8 local groups set up, 30 volunteers supported by Development Manager, 20 volunteers gain PCS certificate.

Referrals and Building Partnerships 15 YP gain access to employability services. 5 YP gain work placements/vol roles in external organisations, 5 YP move into FE (that wouldn't have otherwise).

Improve Health and Well-being 80 YP actively engaged in Physical activity 3x per week. 80 YP part of a positive team network/community. 80 Members of community gain free access to physiotherapy, osteopathy, nutrition advice, motivational workshops/session

Volunteer Development programme: 30 volunteers sign up via online system 25 volunteers achieve accredited

#### Assessment – Score: 15

# 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 (3 x 2)

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)

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 2 (2 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 practice through the delivery of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria 15/30	Technical Assessment Pass	
Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £9,500	

Application focused clearly on lifestyle issues and achieving personal growth and development through sport. Evidence that participants are unemployed or not achieving full potential and assistance given as a contribution to overall project. This application includes a higher level contribution to the core costs of running the organisation on an ongoing basis and it is not recommended that this funding should increase beyond the original level given last year.

Name of Applicant: 10842 Hilton Parish Church	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £27,216 Amount Applied for: £6,804	Application Finance 2015 – 16 2 Year Project Cost: £54,432 Amount Applied for: £12,168 (2 years)
Recommended Year 1: £ DEFER	

#### **Project Summary:**

Project aims to appoint a children's worker to join the staff team at Hilton Youth Project to develop and led a project for children between the ages of 0 – 12and their families. Application is for funding towards salary costs.

Project aims to make a difference to children and families in the community of Hilton, especially those with a need for more assistance socially, emotionally and academically as a result of living in one of the top 15% of the most deprived areas in Scotland and 5% most deprived in Highland. (SIMD SO1003796) We aim to reduce the sense of social isolation felt by young families in the area and foster a deeper sense of community integration.

They seek to work with children and their families to maximise social and emotional well-being so they can realise their potential.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

To employ a project worker to -

- Expand our current parent and toddler provision to two mornings per week enabling young mothers and children to meet together and receive support more often. Increase from 30 to 45
- Develop the work of our Thursday parenting group in partnership with the Early Years Intervention Officer for Hilton, 25% of attendees express increased confidence in parenting
- Work in partnership with two local primary schools to establish a mentoring programme for those children who find the educational process more demanding, enhancing academic achievement and social and emotional wellbeing. Begin mentoring 4 pupils
- Launch a weekly children's after school club with food and homework assistance provided.20 children attending
- Increase the frequency of our community cohesion programme (Messy Church: an event that brings local families together for arts and crafts, sports and a free meal for every person in attendance from quarterly to monthly.

#### Assessment - Score: 14

## 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 4 (2x 2)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to demonstrate employability aims (either soft or hard outcomes) however lacking level of information or justification which demonstrates the effectiveness of intervention in addressing employability aims. Weak level of justification on how participants will move towards the outcome of employment.

# Criteria 3 Score 3 (3 x 1)

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 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 : 14/30	Technical Assessment Pass
Recommendation: DEFER	Amount Recommended: £

Application does not demonstrate sufficient fit with the criteria. Common Good Sub-Committee has asked that there are further discussions with the applicant to more clearly identify support to be given to adults as well as children and to investigate other funding sources.

Name of Applicant: 10844 Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey CAB			
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £43,897 Amount Applied for: £40,000	Application Finance 2015 – 16 2 Year Project Cost: £87,794 Amount Applied for: £80,000 (2 years)		
Recommended Year 1: £NIL			

#### **Project Summary:**

The purpose of the Project will be to develop young people's employability with a particular emphasis on those coming from deprived backgrounds. The target group will be those aged between 16 - 25 years old but support will also be available for those over 25 as well.

The key aim of the Project is to reduce the number of individuals seeking entry to the Employability Pipeline by making more direct links between young people and employers; supporting vocational pathways for school leavers and creating the best environment for the transition into work by providing targeted and focused support around financial literacy, budgeting, benefit advice and tenancy or housing sustainment.

Staffing: The Project will be consisting of 1.5 full time equivalent paid staff covering parts of: Milburn, Central, Ness-Side, West and Culloden and Ardersier Wards. In addition 6 volunteers will be deployed initially into the Project in order to provide the necessary depth and support to clients.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

Examples of the outputs envisaged will include:

- Weekly sessions at Culloden Academy, Milburn Academy, IRA and Inverness
  High with pupils identified by the schools as needing the intervention and support
  offered by this Project. Additional sessions at other secondary schools as
  appropriate.
- Weekly sessions at community centres and meeting places (locations identified previously)
- Weekly sessions as additionally to existing Job Clubs
- Face-to-face and one to one support daily by appointment or drop-in for clients to access the service and support.
- Developments of a "Get that Job Toolkit" that will help equip clients to know what they need to do to obtain paid employment.
- Provision of guided mentoring on use of IT to search and apply for positions. This will mainly be available at our Academy Street office as it will be on a drop in basis 6 days a week.
- A tailored individual plan for each client which will define the "journey" to employment and will address the 8 factors that often act as barriers to paid employment. This plan will be evaluated and monitored at least monthly to ensure successful outcomes are achieved.
- A clear process for referral onwards of clients to programmes and activities delivered by other organisations that will complement their search for paid employment avoiding duplication of effort and resources.
- Target 150 YP
- Volunteers x6 to help deliver project

# Assessment - Score: 15

#### Criteria 1 Score 6 (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

## Criteria 2 Score 6 (3x 2)

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 2 (2x 1)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to demonstrate that the project will actually address the needs identified. Modest attempt to provide evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity.

## Criteria 4 Score 1 (2 x 1)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to demonstrate how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity however with little justification of how this would work in practise.

Overall Score Against Criteria : or 15/30		Technical Assessment Pass
Recommendation:	Amount Recomn	nended:
Not Recommended		£NIL

Proposal does not show how it will work with or consult with other organisations working with the client group. Proposal needs to be considered along with developments to expand money advice / financial capacity as part of anti-poverty programmes. Proposal needs to be considered as part of wider tackling poverty initiatives.

Name of Applicant:	Pof 10953 Markinch	<b>Enterprise IT Training</b>
name of Applicant.	Rei Tuoba Merkinch	Enterprise II I raining

Application Finance 2015 – 16
Year Project Cost: £80,896
Amount Applied for: £28,000

Application Finance 2015 – 16
3 Year Project Cost: £
Amount Applied for: £

Recommended Year 1: £NIL

## **Project Summary: Community Training for the Unemployed**

The primary constitutional aim of the organisation is the "Promotion of Training Skills" which is achieved through the provision of a dedicated Information Technology Training Programme for the Merkinch area however also for the wider Inverness Area. The Project also provides the same level of provision in the Dalneigh Community Centre.

The programme Community Training for the Unemployed remains classroom based and tutor led. Four 10 week training periods will be delivered with an average 18 clients/session. It is anticipated that approximately 80 clients will therefore use the service during the period of the application.

Assessment and accreditation is provided through Inverness College. Training is delivered to HNC level and each client can achieve up to 2 credits at SVQ level 4. European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) SVQ level 2 is also offered.

This is the third year of a three year European Social Fund Project and the funding requested is 25% of the overall project costs.

The main costs relate to staffing, venue hire, childcare and general administration costs.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

IT training for the Unemployed in Merkinch

- 5 into Employment
- 2 into Further Education/Training
- 20 Achieving Accreditation

IT Training for the Unemployed in Dalneigh

- 5 into Employment
- 2 into Further Education/Training
- 16 Achieving Accreditation

IT Training for the Unemployed in Inverness

- 5 into Employment
- 2 into Further Education/Training
- 18 Achieving Accreditation

#### Assessment Score - 21

## Criteria 1 - Score 6 - (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

## 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 3 - (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification . Satisfactory demonstration by applicant 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 4- (4 x 1)**

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria: 21 /30		Technical Assessment PASS
Recommendation: Not Recommended	Amount Recomn	nended: £NIL

While project meets the criteria threshold it has been continued in previous years from DAF because of commitment from ESF funding from the 2007 – 13 Programme. That ESF Programme is now ceased and continued provision should be incorporated in within the Council's commissioned services in the future otherwise it will not be eligible for EU funding. A call for providers will be issued shortly.

Name of Applicant: 10854 Arts in Merkinch

Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £77,500

Amount Applied for: £30,000

Application Finance 2015 – 16
3 Year Project Cost: £159,375

Amount Applied for: £60,000

Recommended Year 1: £30,000

#### **Project Summary:**

Arts in Merkinch aim to promote the social, physical, emotional and economic health of the local community by developing skills and providing access to the arts and cultural activities.

Delivered through key projects funding support is requested towards:

The salary and related costs for the Development Manager and Studio Co-ordinator. The programme of tutored arts provision delivered at The Bike Shed – the projects Community Arts Venue.

The delivery of a varied programme of clay based activity specifically working with marginalised and/or disadvantaged groups at the Clay Studio.

The ongoing development of the education, training and volunteering opportunities being delivered at both the Clay Studio and Bike Shed.

The development of a clay based design, manufacturing and retail enterprise.

The main costs associated with the Project relate to the salaries of the Development Manager, the Studio Co-ordinator and a number of sessional workers.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

In 2015 we wish to continue to provide the following activities in The Bike Shed - Weekly Adult Art Sessions; Weekly Textile Group for those managing chronic pain and mental health conditions; Family Craft Programme; Youth Choir; Dance and Movement Sessions; Junior Theatre Group; Senior Theatre Group; Adult Theatre Group; Creative Writing Group; Community Pantomime; Programme of Films and Children's Theatre; Summer Arts Festival; Summer Community Exhibition (in tandem with summer festival); Christmas Community Arts & Crafts Fair; A programme of exhibitions by local professional and amateur artists (throughout the year)

#### The Clay Studio:

Offer over 160 places across clay activities

50% of participants gain accreditation

7 of class become involved in the Enterprise Project

The Bike Shed

Offer over 100 places on the Bike Shed workshop and class programme Community Steering Group

At least one member of the Community Steering Group will have become a trustee for AiM

Assessment Score: 19

#### Criteria 1 Score 6 –(3 x 2)

Satisfactory Justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

# **Criteria 2 Score 6 – (3 x 2)**

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 $3 - (3 \times 1)$

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 4 – (4 x 1)**

Strong Justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 19/30		Technical Assessment: PASS
Recommendation: Approve 1 year funding	Amount Recomm	nended: <b>£30,000</b>

Project continues to engage with adults in the community as well as young people – developing personal and communication skills that contribute to people's sense of self-worth and therefore improving quality of life (and employment prospects.)

Name of Applicant: 10855 Merkinch  Application Finance 2015 – 16  Year Project Cost: £16,415  Amount Applied for: £4,800	Application Finance 2015 – 16 2 Year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £
Recommended Year 1 £4,800	

#### **Project Summary:**

This is an ongoing project specifically aimed at the provision of services to the residents within the Merkinch Community and continues with the production and delivery of the local community newsletter the Merkinch "News & Views".

The first issue was piloted back in December of 1994 and was followed by the first regular issue in May 1995. The Enterprise continues to financially support this project from our own resources and as the project cannot achieve sustainability, your continuing support is an ongoing requirement.

The newsletter is the voice of the community and is used by many community groups including the Merkinch Partnership, Arts in Merkinch and the Community Council, the project is one that has grown to what it still is today, a quality community newsletter, and still unique to the Merkinch community in an area that we continue to deliver 2,500 copies free to all residents and we do this 11 times per year.

The newsletter is also supported by income generation, unfortunately with the distribution being within the Merkinch area it generally applies only to local businesses who over the years have supported the ongoing costs through advertising; unfortunately due to the economic climate many of our long standing supporters have withdrawn this much needed support. This income was never sufficient to maintain the level of finance required to meet the total, annual costs for the production of this valued community service and our sourcing through the Deprived Area Fund and the Central Ward Members is essential to retain the production and distribution of this valued service.

However, this organisation is committed to the service for the community and continues to provide for the shortfall from our own scarce resources and it is through this application that we seek your continuing and necessary support to reduce this burden on our organisation in an effort to maintain this valuable service for the benefit of the members of the Merkinch Community.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

11 Issues per annum @ 2,500 copies distributed to local area businesses and households.

Raises c.75% of own funding

Involves volunteers in writing, preparation, collation and distribution

Celebrates local achievements, builds community cohesion and well-being. , builds community cohesion and well-being.

Assessment Score: 19

## Criteria 1 Score 6 –(3 x 2)

Satisfactory Justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

## **Criteria 2 Score 6 – (3 x 2)**

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 $3 - (3 \times 1)$

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 4 – (4 x 1)**

Strong Justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 19/30		Technical Assessment: PASS
Recommendation: Approve with conditions	Amount Recomr	nended: £4,800

#### **Special Conditions:**

This project has previously been contained within the Merkinch Partnership project though the setting out and printing has been managed through Merkinch Enterprise. The Newspaper is an important part of creating a sense of identity for the area, celebrating local successes and of conveying public messages about events and advice. Considerable revenue is generated by advertising. It is proposed to continue funding as a separate project through this year and to look at alternative ways of production and reducing costs.

Name of Applicant: 10858 The Conservation Volunteers Scotland

Application Finance 2015 – 16
Year Project Cost: £20,550
Amount Applied for: £19,800

Application Finance 2015 – 16
2year Project Cost: £
Amount Applied for: £

Recommended Year 1: £19,800

Project Summary: Inverness Green Gym Action Plan for Green Gym 2015 – 2016

Inverness Green Gym will support the long term unemployed and those with physical and mental health issues with a sympathetic and supportive environment in order to progress towards a full engagement in society

#### **Green Gym Aims:**

A better environment - matching expertise with locally determined priorities to enable people to take action and find the best solutions to tackle environmental issues that matter to them

**Environmentally active citizens** - support and encourage people to think and act differently, working collectively through practical action to understand and improve their environment

**Improved health and wellbeing** - promote the concept of a "natural health service", by creating and maintaining good quality greenspace to provide opportunities for physical exercise and mental wellbeing

**Employment and skills for the future** - Supporting people to develop new skills that help them into sustained employment, improving their opportunities to become active, contributing members of society.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

Activities 2015-16 - Weekly Green Gym sessions on Wednesdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm. Then 12.30pm – 3.30pm. Sessions are led by a qualified Green Gym Officer employed by TCV, supported by trained TCV Volunteer Officers. Transport, outdoor clothing, tools and snacks are all provided. All Volunteers are covered by our insurance and all sites and types of work are risk assessed prior to work starting. Sites worked at will include: Merkinch Local Nature Reserve; Dunain Woodland; REAL Project at Inverness High School; Hawthorn Project; Culloden Battlefield; - Highland Birchwood Nursery; Great Glen House{SNH}; Local Trails and access paths; Projects/sites suggested by local community members

#### **Green Gym Participants –the beneficiaries**

On average Inverness Green Gym had12 daily attendees in 2014/15, the lowest number of volunteers attending was 5 and the highest 20. Many of the group have a learning disability either/or mental health issue of varying degree. The group's age range is 20 to 65 years and they are mostly male. Referrals come mainly from health professionals though some green gym participants self-refer. In 2014 a total of 32 Inverness Green Gym volunteers carried out 58 Green Gym sessions or 1856 workdays. In addition we shall continue to run a Mental Health Green Gym based at New Craigs Psychiatric Hospital. Part of the programme is to support service user's progression from care, (3.4.31 Healthier Highland - emerging challenge). Inverness Green Gym will offer a key route in that progression.

2015 60 volunteers attend Green Gym sessions and enhance 8 green spaces.

#### Assessment – Score 20

## Criteria 1 Score 6 (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification - Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

## Criteria 2 Score 6 (3 x 2)

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 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 4 (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

	Т	Technical Assessment :
Overall Score Against Criteria: 20 / 30	F	PASS
Recommendation:	Amount Recommend	ded:
Approve 1 year funding	£19	9,800

Continues with steady attendance from around 30 participants over a quarter with over 60 different individuals over the year to date. Has particularly worked with Employability agencies to ensure engagement and progression for participants to other learning. Project has worked at environmental improvements to 10 sites including work at New Craigs and Merkinch Local Nature Reserve.

Name of Applicant: 10859 Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop

Application Finance 2015 – 16
Year Project Cost: £27,228
Amount Applied for: £27,228

Application Finance 2015 – 16

2year Project Cost: £

Amount Applied for: £

Recommended Year 1: £TO FOLLOW

## **Project Summary:**

Our project is to teach young people how to build a bike of their own from scratch using second hand and new parts. At the end of the course they get to keep the bike they worked on for no charge. The aim of the Velocity BuildaBike course is to help develop labour skills, life skills and social skills through practical activity. The course will introduce the idea of cycling as an alternative mode of transport, recreation and the many positive benefits of cycling; such as health, environmental, cost and social benefits. The course will also incorporate concepts of reducing waste, reuse and upcycling. We will teach young people outside of the classroom environment, using the skills, experience and enthusiasm of the Velocity team to work with young people in a bicycle workshop environment at 2:1 children to trainer ratio.

Over the six weeks of BuildaBike, our budding mechanics will build their own bike; everything from the brakes and wheels, to the bearings and the colour scheme. More than that, though, they will develop skills relevant to employability, building confidence, communication skills, numeracy, problem solving and experience the realities of a workplace. They will also get experience in becoming more self-sufficient and self-reliant which will boost an individual's confidence in the run up to becoming a more independent young adult. Moreover, routes to formal qualifications mean tangible outcomes that individuals can use to enter the workplace. Taking referrals from local schools, we will work with groups of 4 children, for one 3.5 hour session a week over a period of 6 weeks, working towards a formal qualification based on the needs of the individual and the advice of the school.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

.By the end of the course, young people will have built their own bike from scratch. They will also have gained one or more of the following qualifications:

- 1. SQA cycling awards: SCQF level three and four, cycle maintenance unit
- 2. Velotech. Red/White/Blue

We will also work with schools to provide a component of:

- 3. SQA employability award
- 4. SQA engineering practical skills

While covering this content, we will work in tandem with the curriculum to deliver the following transferable skills:

1. Numeracy; Communication; Information management and technology; Problem solving; Sharing information; Confidence; Inspiration to lead a happy, healthy life, and information to make choices about active transport and physical well-being. This project will be targeted at secondary school aged children in four schools across some of Inverness' areas of deprivation. We have delivered similar courses already and can demonstrate the benefit this brings to the individuals involved.

More broadly, however, we can demonstrate that Velocity's activities to date are of benefit to Inverness as a whole.

56 YP built their own bike and gained a formal qualification

#### Assessment – Score 16

## Criteria 1 Score 6 (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification - Satisfactory effort at providing justification for targeted identified areas and evidence of identifying community and client needs through client group engagement is provided although would have benefited from being more comprehensive.

# Criteria 2 Score 6 (3 x 2)

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 2 (2 x 1)

Satisfactory justification - Satisfactory demonstration by applicant 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 2 (2 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.

		Technical Assessment :
Overall Score Against Criteria: 16 / 30		PASS
Recommendation:	Amount Recomme	nded:
Not Recommended		NIL
The project is mainly directed at engagir	ng with school pupils	and non-attenders. It
has merit but needs to be considered ful	rther within the Cour	ncil regarding whether it
is to be supported.		

Name of Applicant: For the Right Reasons 10904		
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £36,404 Amount Applied for: £8,000  Application Finance 2015 – 16 2year Project Cost: £ Amount Applied for: £		
Recommended Year 1: £		

## **Project Summary:**

Charity and Social Enterprise based in Merkinch aiming to assist people with drug and alcohol addiction by helping them to stay clean and acquire the confidence and skills to sustain the profound changes they have achieved. The project hey want to develop is their Supported Volunteer Programme providing volunteering opportunities for 6 or 12 months for local people who are addressing their addiction problems. The programme will offer participation in Work Club activities; producing a CV referrals and sign-posting. Main content will consist of work experience placements within the charities social enterprise activities (printing; charity shop; recycling). Costs include Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator (both part-time  $-2 \times 10 \, \mathrm{hrs}$  per week) to work one to one in developing personal action plans , induction and monitoring of placements; review and goal planning ensuring a progression for individuals.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

Minimum 10 participants in volunteer programme each year. Regular attendance, learning skills, taking responsibility for self and others; working as part of a team regaining self-confidence and self- respect.

#### Assessment – Score 17

## 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 (3 x2)

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.

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# 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.

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# Criteria 4 Score 4 (4 x 1)

.Strong justification: Good response which clearly demonstrates 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 as an important part of the project delivery.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 17/30		Technical Assessment :
Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £8,000 to be confirmed	

Organisation is engaging with people tackling drug and alcohol misuse and has demonstrated ability to establish governance and financial management. Core funding is being met from external sources and generated income.