

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Community Challenge Fund Applications Panel** held in the Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on Wednesday, 17 June 2015, at 12.00 noon.

Present

Mrs M Davidson

Mrs M Smith

Committee Chairs

Mr D Millar (ECAS)

Mr A Henderson (COMS) (by teleconference)

Officials in attendance:

Ms M Morris, Depute Chief Executive

Mr P Mascarenhas, Community and Democratic Engagement Manager

Ms L Lee, Committee Administrator

Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant

Mrs M Davidson in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs I McCallum and Mrs F Robertson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 25 February 2015

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of 25 February 2015, which had been approved by the Council at its meeting held on 12 March 2015.

4. Assessment Criteria

The Panel **NOTED** the Assessment Criteria, copies of which had been circulated.

In response to a question raised, the Depute Chief Executive gave a brief explanation of the composition, operation and remit of the Panel and the associated Officers' Working Group. The Panel **NOTED** the information given, and that the new Administration might review the operation of the Fund.

5. Community Challenge Fund – Round 10

There had been circulated Report No. CCF2/15 dated 3 June 2015 by the Depute Chief Executive which updated the Panel on progress with applications for the Community Challenge Fund.

The Panel considered the operation of the Fund in general. Points raised included:

- the importance of bodies such as the Council and the NHS developing relationships with small groups at the local level, as local groups had a better understanding of what their community required, leading to better solutions; the forthcoming Community Empowerment legislation would drive this approach forward
- where a project had benefits for health, social justice etc., other bodies, such as the NHS, should be asked to help – this could be particularly useful where a project was seeking substantial funding
- that there were two categories of funding – projects which helped free up a service budget; and those which would prevent expenditure in the future; outputs for these latter were harder to quantify; training for communities in this regard was available from the Council
- many groups worked hard and had good ideas, but projects supported by the Fund needed to be financially sustainable in the longer term
- that it should be made clear to applicants what kind of information that the Council needed.

Having considered the recommendations of the Officers' Working Group and discussed the Expressions of Interest and the Application in detail, the Panel **AGREED** that:

- i. the Expression of Interest from CCAST be **refused**, but that officers work with CCAST to support them to bid for Council contracts being offered later in the year;
- ii. the Expression of Interest from Ross-shire Voluntary Action be **approved** to the next stage and a full application sought; the need to deliver savings to the Council to be highlighted to the group, and local Members to be apprised of the project; and
- iii. the Application from Viewfield Garden Collective be **deferred** pending the Collective providing further information on outputs and sustainability, and working with officers to compile an application which would meet the Fund's criteria; also, given the sum sought, that contact be made with the 3rd Sector Interface and NHS Highland to explore whether they could help fund the project.

The Panel **NOTED**:-

- i. the information provided on progress with applications by Alness Community Council, Fort William Shinty Club and Caberfeidh Horizons, and applications pending from Kinlochleven Community Trust, Nethy Bridge Community Council, Nairn River Community Council, and Lochalsh Sports Association; and
- ii. that information on the Alness Community Council Handyman project, for use in informing the development of similar projects in other areas, could be obtained from the Ward Manager.

The meeting ended at 12.40 p.m.