Agenda Item	5
Report No	SR/3/21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Isle of Skye and Raasay Local Committee

Date: 29 March 2021

Report Title: Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of

Applications

Report By: Executive Chief Officer: Infrastructure and Environment

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The Highland Coastal Communities Fund is a new fund designed to support economic regeneration and sustainable development around coastal areas in Highland. The fund is derived from revenue generated by Scottish Government Crown Estate marine assets. Each year, local authorities are allocated a proportion of the profits.

Within an overall allocation to Highland of £3,034,703, the Isle of Skye & Raasay Local Committee has been awarded £505,492.06 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Isle of Skye & Raasay Area. Funding will be distributed as the Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Isle of Skye & Raasay (HCCF).

1.2 Broad eligibility criteria for the scheme is as follows:

All projects are expected to be able to meet at least one of the following priorities:

- Economic recovery
- Community resilience
- Mitigating the impact of the climate/ecological emergency
- Addressing the challenges of rural depopulation.

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:

- Sustainable/viable
- Providing value for money
- Providing additionality
- Able to evidence local support/local benefit
- Able to evidence positive impacts for coastal communities and/or the coastal economy
- 1.3 An open call for expressions of interest was held during December 2020. Following this, a number of projects were invited to proceed to full application stage.

1.4 In summary the position in the Isle of Skye & Raasay Local Committee on 29 March is as follows:

Available HCCF Funding – £505,492.06 Number of applications for consideration – 19 Total value of grant requests - £689,469.27

To aid Members in their decision making, the following appendices are provided to this report:

- Summary spreadsheet of applications for consideration including RAG status from technical assessment
- Project summary and technical assessment outcome for each project

Technical assessments and the RAG status are based on the application form and supplementary information provided during the application process.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Consider all applications presented for funding and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application; and
 - ii. Agree which applications should receive a funding award from HCCF up to the value of the available area allocation
- 3. Implications
- 3.1 **Resource** Isle of Skye & Raasay has available funding of £505,492.06. Applications under consideration total £689,469.27 therefore if applications approved exceed the funds available the committee will need to undertake a prioritisation process to agree the funding awards.
- 3.2 **Legal/Risk** When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back to back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** Coastal communities funding is available to all Area Committees within Highland with a coastline. The focus of the funding is economic recovery and community resilience. Consideration on issues relating to equalities, poverty and rural issues are dealt with on an individual basis for applications and covered in the technical assessments of project
- 3.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** Mitigation of the climate/ecological emergency is a specific aim of the HCCF funding. All applicants are required to evidence environmental sustainability as referenced in the technical assessments
- 3.6 **Risk** When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back to back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.

3.6 **Gaelic** – Consideration given within individual project applications in line with HC policy

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 16 March 2021

Author: Fiona Cameron, Programme Manager

Appendices: Appendix 1 – RAG status summary Sheet

Appendix 2 – Project summary and technical assessment

outcome

EOI Ref	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Requested	Project Robustness	IX Sunnort	Int Demand/	Legacy & Exit Strategy	Equalities issues/impacts	Environmental sustainability	Value for Money		Meets Local Priorities	Additionality	Score
146	Radio Skye (Cuillin FM Ltd)	Radio Skye Signal Expansion Project	£26,700.00	£18,400.00	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
31	Kyleakin & Kylerhea Community Council	Castle Access Paths	£9,478.00	£6,278.00	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	29
91	Geary Common Grazings Committee	Geary Crofting Township Regeneration	£17,765.00	£15,125.00	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3 3	3	3	29
104	Broadford & Strath Community Co	Elgol Toilets & Visitor Facilities	£227,912.00	£34,500.00	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3 2	2 3	3	29
156	Portree & Braes Community Trust	Camanachd Square Feasibility Study	£35,000.00	£31,500.00	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	29
27	Edinbane Community Company Ltd	Lyndale Multi user Path	£111,089.00	£25,000.00	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2 3	3	28
38	Skye Sailing Club	Safety Boat Renewal	£45,000.00	£40,000.00	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3 3	3	28
77	Sleat Community Trust	Toremore Forest	£16,500.00	£13,560.00	3	3	3	3	2	. 3	2	2 3	3 3	3	28
105	Minginish Community Hall Association	Path and Habitat Improvement	£143,500.00	£20,000.00	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2 3	3	28
116	Broadford & Strath Community Co	Corry Capers	£42,000.00	£23,225.00	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2 3	3	28
58	Climavore CIC	Climavore Builds	£23,732.00	£7,000.00	2	3	3	3	. 2	3	. 3	3	3	3	27
99	Raasay Development Trust	Raasay Community Pontoon & Offshore Facilities	£663,564.00	£74,003.00	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2 3	3	27
107	Broadford & Strath Community Co	Community Co-ordinator	£49,800.00	£34,200.00	3	3	3	3 2	2 3	3	. 2	2 3	3	2	2 27
122	Kilmuir Community Trust	Kilmuir Community Hub (Phase 1)	£81,150.00	£50,000.00	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	L 3	3	26
73	The Highland Council	Kilt Rock Car Park Extension	£67,100.00	£57,100.00	3	2	3	1	. 3	3	1	. 3	3	3	25
137	Kyleakin Connections	KC Plus	£315,000.00	£64,578.27	1	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	. 3	3	25
129	Ionad Throndairnis	Guthan na Tire/Voices of the Land	£352,000.00	£50,000.00	1	3	3	3	3	3	2		3	2	24
148	Hebridean Diving Services	Coastal Defence Adjacent to Stein Jetty	£53,246.00	£25,000.00	2	3	3	1	2	3	3		. 3	3	24
162	Staffin Community Trust	The Staffin Slipway Redevelopment	£3,247,200.00	£100,000.00	1	3	3	3	2	3	2		. 3	3	24

Total £689,469.27

Edinbane Community Company Ltd: Lyndale Multi User Path

Total Project Cost: £118,089.00 Grant Requested: £25,000.00

The Edinbane area is comprised of a series of smaller communities. The A850 runs through providing motorised access but is largely unusable for non-motorised access particularly for younger and older age groups and the disabled. The result of this is a splitting of the community. For example, children beyond an inaccessible stretch are more likely to go to MacDairmaid or Portree primaries than those nearer the Edinbane Primary. It is the intention to repair and renovate/ resurface an old road to link Braebost and Brookside. This together with a different Sustrans funded stretch tackles the main gap in provision.

The path project has been investigated widely about nine years ago and last year and the results brought to the community. There has also been a community scoping and consultation exercise called 'An Atlas of Edinbane' carried out in 2019. Better path connections were in the top three community preferences.

Last autumn an online consultation was carried out about the use and historic use of paths and barriers that people perceived in the area. This again showed strong support for paths.

Small and basic links have been created through gaps in the existing path network and two very encouraging things happened - after an initial request for defect spotting and reporting maintenance is being carried out voluntarily and also the use of the path parts has greatly increased.

Neighbours have been written to consult on the project because of Covid – visits had been intended. Discussions have been undertaken at length with the major landowner. Liaisons and gathering input more widely including Community Council, Councillors, Political representatives, THC 'Roads' Paths, Transport policy and the Infrastructure plan for Skye and Raasay. The Access Forum has given useful input which we're incorporating.

More detailed information has been submitted including a justification of the path, surveys relating to our paths, notes on meetings, extract from the local plan, stakeholder and equalities information.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Kyleakin & Kylerhea Community Council: Castle Access Paths

Total Project Cost: £9,478.00 Grant Requested: £6,278.00

To provide improved access to Castle Moil by removing the tidal restriction.

The project would be in four parts as described below to provide safe access, to improve the access, and improve the information at the location.

- 1 Refresh the path from the turning head at the Fishery Pier round to the vicinity of the boatshed. 2 To create a path from the boatshed towards the Castle that would provide a defined and safe path along the shore and remove the tidal restriction.
- 3 Re-define the path from the shore to the interpretation board below the Castle.
- 4 Renew interpretation board below the Castle.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Skye Sailing Club: Safety Boat Renewal

Total Project Cost: £45,000.00 Grant Requested: £40,000.00

Skye Sailing Club are seeking assistance to replace two ageing safety boats. It is a simple purchase-and-take-delivery proposition. The boats are fundamental to the activities providing safety cover in what is potentially dangerous environment – the sea. They are regulated by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and for most of the courses they deliver, safety cover is mandatory. Their safe working ratio requires them to have two safety boats operating when they exceed 50% of their sailing boats on the water, and with the inclusion of windsurfing and sculling this year that need is increased.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Climavore CIC: Climavore Builds

Total Project Cost: £23,732.00 | Grant Requested: £7,000.00

Climavore CIC are seeking funding to run 5 workshops with local experts on traditional and innovative ways of using shells and seaweeds as regenerative construction materials from intertidal origin. These will take place at the WHC Portree.

The project will involve industrially testing the material on site and in a specialised lab to trace durability, strength, slip and chemical resistance, water absorption, and thermal expansion. A scalable format will be created for this circular economy model, and a feasibility study to replicate this small-scale affordable model to other coastal communities in Scotland.

A CLIMAVORE Building Apprenticeship will also be created, aiming to create one full-time position developed from existing collaboration with WHC Construction Skills Course.

The hope to develop a business case for both affordable and bespoke shell composite products for the local and national markets and hold a knowledge-sharing workshop, involving Zero-Waste Scotland and industry representatives, showcasing the work and the new curriculum.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

The Highland Council: Kilt Rock Carpark Extension

Total Project Cost: £67,100.00 Grant Requested: £57,100.00

The current car park can accommodate around 14 hard standing parked cars and three busses max. However, the increase in visitors is causing large numbers of vehicles to park up on the verges and cause significant damage to the surrounding environment and congestion on the single lane one-way road system. Due to the lack of space available in the car park, visitors are now also parking on the roadside of the A855 causing the same issues. The lack of capacity has also resulted in a lot of visitors driving by the site without stopping as they cannot gain access which has a negative impact on their visitor experience to Skye.

Phase one will deliver the following outputs:

- Widening of bell mouth entrance to the site
- Marking out additional spacing for cars and busses on road up to car park,
- Filling existing potholes and erosion
- Re-surfacing with stone surface.
- Creation of temporary lined disabled bays at the top of the car park that will be replaced with permanent bays in the phase 2 development.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Sleat Community Trust: Tormore Forest

Total Project Cost: £16,500.00 Grant Requested: £13,560.00

The project involves the purchase and delivery of a forestry timber trailer with crane. The machine will be owned and managed by SRL, with relevant insurances, servicing and maintenance completed by SRL. It will be operated by a local contractor using their tractor, and charged at an hourly rate. The main purpose of the machine is to move 3m log lengths within the forest to rotate stock and replenish the stack yard with new logs in preparation for processing.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Geary Common Grazings Committee: Geary Crofting Township Regeneration

Total Project Cost: £17,765.00 Grant Requested: £15,125.00

This project aims to enhance the sustainability of the Geary community by creating new crofts out of an area of common grazings and to seek means for the delivery of affordable housing solutions for young people wishing to live and work in the community. This is considered the best mechanism of regenerating this small remote community and invigorating the township and returning the land back to productive use. One of the first requirements will be to build on the initial discussions with shareholders by carrying out a detailed community consultation. This will also involve the non-crofting members of the community. This consultation will be undertaken by a consultant using remote/online survey methods, including participative mapping software and questionnaires, interviews and perhaps meetings if current Covid-related restrictions are removed or relaxed in time. For those without online access social distanced outside interviews will be conducted. The consultation will include a broader search for community initiatives and developments for future consideration (beyond the scope of this initial project). The consultant will work with the grazings committee to analyse the results and present that analysis back to the community with recommendations for next steps. Radical, and perhaps experimental, ideas will be encouraged alongside tried and tested responses. The scheme to create new crofts will require some regulation by the Crofting Commission. This will trigger the need for registration of all crofts that have not yet been registered. This is a daunting prospect for elderly crofters and this project provides an ideal opportunity to bring that process together into a township exercise.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Raasay Development Trust: Raasay Community Pontoon & Offshore Facilities

Total Project Cost: £663,564.00 Grant Requested: £74,003.00

The physical outputs of the project will be:

- Two access bridges
- A permanent 12 berth pontoon that will remain afloat at all tides with the potential for additional capacity if necessary
- Water, WiFi and electricity accessible from the pontoon
- Toilets, showers, and laundry facilities within a redeveloped ferry terminal building
- 4 Campervan hook-up points
- Wastewater and refuse/recycling facilities
- 2 Electric car charging points

This will provide a quality, well planned, public space for the benefit of the residents of Raasay and the islands visitors. It will improve the ferry terminal building, providing efficient use of the existing space and increasing its benefit to the community and visitors. The development is projected to generate local economic sustainability directly and indirectly through the following outputs:

- There will be increased employment opportunities
- There will be increased income to invest in community led projects
- Existing businesses will have opportunities to grow and diversify
- There will be opportunities for new businesses to develop
- There will be increased spending within the Raasay economy
- Raasay will be better marketed and promoted to visitors

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Broadford & Strath Community Company: Elgol Toilets & Visitors Facilities

Total Project Cost: £227,912.00 Grant Requested: £34,500.00

This project will build an environmentally friendly, accessible toilet block. It will include:

- Accessible toilets
- An upgraded sewage system
- Adjacent disabled parking
- Waste and water facilities for campervans

- Electric charging point
- Improved parking at village hall and by the toilets
- Facilities which are safe, healthy and hygienic in response to Covid 19

Improved facilities will ensure Elgol is better prepared for visitors and locals and will give anyone visiting the area a vastly enhanced experience. The facilities will be safer, accessible to all and environmentally friendly thanks to better quality facilities. Any charges for using the facilities will be reserved for ongoing cleaning and general upkeep of the facility.

This application is to provide match funding for the main build and will allow landscaping of the facilities appropriately, provide a charging point for electric vehicles and provide interpretation panels to highlight visitor information and information about the coastal geology, flora, walks etc.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Minginish Community Hall Association: Path and Habitat Improvement

Total Project Cost: £143,500.00 Grant Requested: £20,000.00

This project involves the improvement of an existing path and the creation of viewpoints. It will directly link with an existing project of path improvement works, construction of bridges and creation of viewpoints. This will ensure walking will be easier at the site and the viewpoints at key locations will allow visitors to experience the best views and access key parts of the site more easily.

Thanks to the infrastructure improvements the project will also facilitate the development of new techniques and measures to rehabilitate damage to the natural heritage qualities of the site. This will provide sustainability to the Natural Capital and visitor experience. The ongoing management and maintenance of the project will be facilitated by funds generated at the car park. These funds are also, in part, acting as match funding to this specific project.

The project will help underpin and secure jobs directly involved in providing visitor services, including 2 full time operatives and seasonal workers at the Fairy Pools car park. It will also help to underpin and grow the many other jobs in the Minginish area directly involved with the tourism sector and create opportunities for MCHA to create additional community benefit which, in some cases, will include jobs. Furthermore, the social impact of ensuring the sustainability of this site (and subsequently investment elsewhere in the Community) will be to create a more robust and sustainable local economy with greater opportunities for young people to remain on the island after school or to return following tertiary education elsewhere in Scotland or the UK.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Broadford & Strath Community Company: Community Co-ordinator

Total Project Cost: £49,800.00 Grant Requested: £34,200.00

The proposal is to establish a community development officer to help build better systems for meeting the community needs, allow their project teams to be self-managing within a framework, coordinate and develop their diverse volunteer effort and highlight their future direction.

A primary focus will be to use this opportunity to secure long term funding for this role, a model successfully used across Scotland.

This role would unlock further potential in the community through an enormous multiplier effect.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Broadford & Strath Community Company: Corry Capers

Total Project Cost: £42,000.00 Grant Requested: £23,225.00

The project aims to establish a new, permanent outdoor learning centre with processes and procedures in place in line with Care Inspectorate requirements. They hope to gain registration from the Care Inspectorate to enable a fully functional outdoor learning centre to operate for after school and holidays care called Corry Capers, this will include and outdoor nursery as the facility develops.

Funding would allow daily, quality after school childcare outdoor sessions for local primary school children with a target of at least 50 children attending on a weekly basis. Outdoor learning, school holiday sessions with a limit of 24 children would be able to be offered on a daily basis.

Collaboration work with local primary schools, with a focus on Broadford Primary School and Nursery will be undertaken to develop their outdoor programme from nursery through to Primary 7, both on and off site.

Due to the current funding model, they have been unable to charge for the daily 1 hour 55 minute session which means that the whole school community has been able to access the sessions for free. Once they are registered with the Care Inspectorate they can become a Highland Council childcare partner provider which would allow tax free childcare and funding for those who may otherwise struggle to cover childcare costs.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Kilmuir Community Trust: Kilmuir Community Hub (Phase 1)

Total Project Cost: £81,150.00 Grant Requested: £50,000.00

Kilmuir Community Trust is seeking funding for expanding and improving the hall's car park for the local community and the large number of visitors to the area. Existing car parking provision around the site area is extremely limited and vehicles have to park on the road verge which creates safety issues. They also wish to install two 22kW (fast) electric vehicle charging point to meet the demand of the electric car market, which is growing quickly. The Scottish Governments pledge to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans across Scotland by 2032 has accelerated the transition towards electric vehicles. The Global Energy Perspective Report 2021 by McKinsey's forecasts that electric vehicles are likely to become the economic choice over the next five years.

The project will also see the installation of a chemical disposal point (CDP), grey water disposal and fresh water supply to help address the challenge of irresponsible waste disposal which is common to Skye and many other parts of the Highlands.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Ionad Thronairnis: Guthan na Tire/Voices of the Land

Total Project Cost: £352,000.00 Grant Requested: £50,000.00

The project will involve communities across the Trotternish peninsula and it will run for 2.5 years. The project activities are based on successful "community mapping" initiatives across the world. Community mapping the a process in which people come together to capture their knowledge about a place and use it to show others the place as they experience it. Through the project, the people of Trotternish will come together to document, share and celebrate Trotternish, its history, character and communities. This will allow the creation of a digital archive of knowledge, culture and history relating to the local area. The archive will be accessible online and, in due course, the archive will also be available at lonad Throndairnis and present the area and its history, as seen through local eyes, to the other residents and to visitors.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Kyleakin Connections: KC Plus

Total Project Cost: £315,000.00 Grant Reguested: £64,578.27

The KC Plus project is the construction of a new building behind the Old School, comprising two rooms, storage area and toilet facilities. One room is for practical activities and the other as a quiet area with sensory furnishing.

These rooms will allow more SUs to attend, a greater variety of activities delivered at one time and one-to-one or small group activities to take place. Being a separate building, it will provide a more calming environment and more privacy for confidential meetings and activities such as counselling.

Planning Permission and Building Warrant for the new building were obtained in 2019 and a tender process was carried out to find the cost of the construction. The returned tenders were considerably higher than anticipated and due to Covid-19 the process was halted. A local contractor has calculated independently the costs of construction based on the existing plans and this is the figure given as the total cost. An exercise to make changes to the design to reduce costs has shown that the design would be compromised with the resulting savings being relatively small.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Radio Skye (Cuillin FM Ltd): Radio Skye Signal Expansion Project

Total Project Cost: £26,700.00 Grant Requested: £18,400.00

The project will consist of working together with the two sites at Sleat and Staffin to install two new twin dipole antenna systems which are new modern slimline antennas with minimum visual impact.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Hebridean Diving Services: Coastal Defence Adjacent to Stein Jetty

Total Project Cost: £53,246.00 Grant Requested: £25,000.00

The applicant intends to undertake 2nd phase of Stein Regeneration Project: The project seeks to complete the Stein Regeneration Project, the first phase of which was undertaken in 2005/6 in the historic fishing village of Stein, a conservation area of national importance due to links with Thomas Telford and The British Fishery Society.

Funding is sought to undertake the second and final phase of the project, which will improve visual amenity in the Conservation Area fishing village of Stein, stabilise the land, which gives the opportunity to rebuild an existing historic building currently under threat of loss to the shore, create increased space for ongoing development and diversification of the existing marine ecotourism business, create employment, enhance the local tourism offer and facilitate the continuation of the citizen science projects.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Portree & Braes Community Trust: Camanachd Square Feasibility Study

Total Project Cost: £35,000.00 Grant Requested: £31,500.00

The PBCT propose to work closely with identified stakeholders to develop a feasibility study and master plan study for the wider Camanachd Square area. This study will further develop and consolidate the ideas for Portree that have been previously outlined in the Portree Development Ideas Study (2016 – commissioned by the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association), the feasibility study for the acquisition of land owned by Fearann Eilean Iarmain in Portree (2018 – commissioned by Portree and Braes Community Trust), The Portree Parking Study (2018) and other relevant local reports.

Technical assessment outcome - passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding

Staffin Community Trust: The Staffin Slipway Redevelopment

Total Project Cost: £3,247,200.00 Grant Requested: £100,000.00

The redevelopment plans for the Staffin Slipway include:

- Construction of a new breakwater offering protection and shelter for a wide range of vessels, including commercial, leisure craft, fishing boats, yachts and fish farm landing craft.
- A new and enhanced pier allowing for access during all tides
- A pontoon system for yachts, boats, etc
- Access to deeper and safer berthing allowing larger boats to land (reducing travel time and carbon footprint).
- Installation of services, including power and water (currently not available).
- Construction of buildings with toilets, showers, drying area and offices.
- Substantial improvements to the access road to the slipway and vehicle parking.
- Separation of commercial activities from leisure / local access.

Technical assessment outcome – passed. Project is eligible for HCCF Funding