

Agenda Item	3
Report No	NC/08/21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Nairnshire Area Committee

Date: 13 April 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 Nairnshire Area Committee has been awarded £12,090.00 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Nairnshire Area. Funding will be distributed as the Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Nairnshire (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 Nairnshire at Area Committee on 13 April is as follows:

Available HCCF Funding – £12,090.00
Number of applications for consideration – 2
Total value of grant requests - £12,090.00

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 outcome of technical assessment for each application

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. An approval of funding should detail the amount approved and outline any conditions of funding that Members wish to attach to the approval over and above the required technical conditions. A deferral would allow an applicant to resubmit the current application at a future date with updated information. A rejection would mean that the application will not proceed and any future application to the fund should be brought forward initially as a new expression of interest.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 **Resource** – Nairnshire has available funding of £12,090.00 Applications under consideration total £12,090.00, there are therefore no resource implications should members wish to approve all applications.

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** – As per 3.2 above.

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

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 31st March 2021

Author: Fiona Cameron, Programme Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – RAG Status Summary Sheet

Appendix 2 – Project summary and outcome of technical assessment

Appendix 2

HCCF Nairnshire Projects Summary

Project reference: 12	
Applicant:- St Ninians JFC	
Project Title: Nairn Goals	
Total Project Cost: £6,000	Grant requested: £3,500
Project description: Project is to purchase new equipment and safety storage which will enable the group to continue promote participation in football activities. There is good level of community support for the club and its activities due to the sheer number of people taking part - pre lockdown there were 100 people per week attending coaching sessions. It is anticipated that numbers will resume to pre-lockdown levels and potentially increase as people (especially children) will be keen to participate in organised sports once again.	
Outcome: Technical assessment outcome for St Ninians JFC: <u>passed</u> . Project is eligible for HCCF funding	
Project reference: 74	
Applicant:- Nairn BID	
Project Title: Making Nairn More Welcoming for the Community and Visitors	
Total Project Cost: £15,016.40	Grant requested: £8,590.00
Project description: This application for funding is focused on replacing and/or maintaining some of the town's infrastructure to make it more attractive to visitors and the community. It is part of a major regeneration and improvement initiative taking place across the community in conjunction with the rebranding effort, based around the new "NairnScotland" logo and colours. We propose to replace and upgrade the outdated wayfarer town direction signage, to improve our visitor experience, refreshing the look and bringing the colours into line with the branding, presenting a more inviting and coherent image for the town. The current picnic tables that are a feature of the Links and the harbour areas are in a very poor state of repair (a picture of one of the current tables is attached). We would like to replace 8 units with environmentally friendly (recycled plastic) units. This would ensure their longevity with minimal to no maintenance. They would also be wheelchair friendly to accommodate all levels of mobility, and incorporate signs which include the NairnScotland branding, pointing visitors to the available digital resources, such as the website and online maps.	

The town's public infrastructure (lampposts, railings, bollards, benches etc.) are in poor state of repair and are looking very tired and unkept. We are proposing to paint all the lampposts, railings, benches, and bollards that are a feature of the town centre from the Railway Station to the foot of the Brae/A96 junction.

Outcome:

Technical assessment outcome for Nairn BID: **passed.**

Project is eligible for HCCF funding