

Agenda Item	7
Report No	WRSL/009/23

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh

**Date:** 12 June 2023

**Report Title:** Allocation Process for Area Share of Invitation to Pay Income

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

### 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To agree a process for the allocation of area invitation to pay income within the communities in which it has been generated.

### 2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to: -

- i) **Approve** the proposed process for the area allocation of invitation to pay income
- ii) **Note** that the process will be reviewed after the first year of implementation
- iii) **Note** that the delegated powers for the authorisation of spend up to £10,000 would be assigned to the Senior Ward Manager and over £10,000 would be subject to Committee approval.

### 3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – Invitation to Pay income supports the maintenance of infrastructure and releases funds to the Area Committee to allocate to local community priorities.

3.2 **Legal** – No implications.

3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** – This scheme is designed to better support visitor management to popular tourist destinations. Visitor income supports many aspects of the Area's economy, and this proposal will release income directly to the local committee to be invested in their local priorities.

3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** –. It should have a neutral impact on current climate impact.

3.5 **Risk** – No implications

3.6 **Gaelic** – No implications.

## 4 Background

- 4.1 The Council approved a £1.5m Visitor Management Strategy at its meeting on 4 March 2021 in response to the increased numbers of tourists visiting the Highlands. The strategy recognised that there was a need to invest in infrastructure and council services to improve the visitor experience, and to address some of the issues arising from overcrowding in popular hotspots, including insufficient parking areas, bad/inconsiderate parking and consequential damage to roadside verges.
- 4.2 £250,000 from the Visitor Management Fund was allocated for improvements to parking management across Highland comprising installing charging at tourist dominated sites, improved signage, lining, minor repairs and increasing staff resources.
- 4.3 At a meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh (WRSL) Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the Committee agreed to introduce Invitation to Pay at the following locations: Ullapool – Latheron Car Park, Dornie – Hall Car Park, Gairloch – Harbour Car Park, Kyle – Upper Car Park, Little Gruinard Beach and Plockton – Village Car Park
- 4.4 As per Council policy, 50% of net income, after costs, are passed to the relevant Area Committee as earmarked funds from the previous financial year, with 2022/23 income earmarked for 2023/24 budget or available in future years.
- 4.5 The amount allocated for the WRSL Area Committee from the 2022/23 financial is **£19,256**

WRSL Area Committee	50% Net
Ullapool, Latheron Car Park	£9,296
Dornie Hall Car Park	£528
Gairloch Harbour Car Park	£590
Kyle, Upper Car Park	£1,885
Little Gruinard Beach Car Park	£2,363
Plockton Village Car Park	£4, 594
	<b>£19,256</b>

## 5 Proposed Process for Allocation of Area Share of Invitation to Pay Income

- 5.1 Members are asked to approve a process that will allocate the 2022/23 Area share of invitation to pay income - **£19,256** - during the 2023/24 financial year. The proposal would involve inviting a joint application from the Community Council and Development Trust for each area that has an invitation to pay scheme operating. Each area would be advised the maximum available amount they could bid for. Applicants will be encouraged to identify a project which is a community priority. If the relevant community did not wish to

submit a bid in this financial year, the money would be held and added to future income raised. If this process is agreed, then an application would be submitted via a similar process as per the Ward Discretionary Budget.

- 5.2 All applications for funding of under £10,000 would be delegated for officer approval via the Senior Ward Manager and any applications for over £10,000 would be subject to Committee approval, as per the Scheme of Delegation.
- 5.3 At the end of the 2023/24 financial year a review of the process will be undertaken to consider any changes that may be required for future implementation.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

Date: 24 May 2023

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Background Papers: THC Parking [Policy](#) 2018 to 2023  
[Item 6 Visitor Management Car Parking and Motorhome Provision \(2\).pdf](#)  
[Item 15 Parking Strategy 2021 \(5\).pdf](#)