

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	7
Report No	LA/17/24

Committee: Lochaber Committee

Date: 27 August 2024

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

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 To agree a process for the allocation of area Invitation to Pay income within the community 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** authorisation of spend up to £10,000 would be assigned to the Senior Community Development Manager and £10,000 or over would be subject to Area 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** – There are no specific implications associated with this report.
- 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** – There are no specific implications associated with this report.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no specific implications associated with this report.

3.7 **Gaelic** – There are no specific implications associated with this report.

4. Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 An integrated screening assessment for this proposal has been carried out and as there are no identified negative impacts a full impact assessment is not required.

5. Background

5.1 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.

5.2 £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.

5.3 During the 2022/23 financial year Invitation to Pay was introduced at the following location: Mallaig – West Bay Car Park.

5.4 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 income earmarked for the current financial year or remaining available in future years.

5.5 The amount allocated for the Lochaber Area Committee from the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years is **£17,062**.

Lochaber Area Committee	50% Net
Mallaig West Bay Car Park 2022/23	£7,566
Mallaig West Bay Car Park 2023/24	£9,496
	£17,062

6. Proposed Process for Allocation of Area Share of Invitation to Pay Income

6.1 Members are asked to approve a process that will allocate the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Area share of invitation to pay income - **£17,062** - during the 2024/25 financial year. The proposal would involve inviting a joint application from the Community Council and a

relevant Community Development Group for the Mallaig area. The Community Groups would be advised of the maximum available amount they could bid for. Applicants will be encouraged to identify a project/s which are 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.

- 6.2 Authorisation of spend up to £10,000 would be delegated to the Senior Community Development Manager and £10,000 or over would be subject to Committee approval, as per the Scheme of Delegation.
- 6.3 At the end of the 2024/25 financial year a review of the process will be undertaken to consider any changes that may be required for future implementation.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

Date: 22 July 2024

Author: Willie MacKinnon, Community Development Manager

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](#)