

Item: 4

Special General Meeting of the Council: 16 April 2020.

Community Resilience Fund.

Report by Chief Executive.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider establishment and administration of the Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund.

2. Recommendations

The Council is invited to note:

2.1.

That the Council has been notified of an award of £350,000 from the Barnett consequential from the UK Government's Hardship Fund.

2.2.

That the Hardship Fund allocation may be used by the Council as it chooses.

2.3.

The community groups that the Hardship Fund is intended to support as noted in section 3.2 of this report.

2.4.

The proposal to establish an Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund and invite applications from local voluntary, charitable and not for profit organisations that are carrying out support work in the community to assist vulnerable people, to be administered by Democratic Services in liaison with HIE Orkney.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That an Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund be established.

2.6.

That an initial allocation of £150,000 be made to the Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund from the Council's allocation of funding from the Barnett consequential of the UK Government's Hardship Fund.

2.7.

That the Community Resilience Fund Application Guidance Notes and Criteria and Application form attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report be approved.

2.8.

That the Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund be open to applications from 16 April 2020.

3. Community Resilience Fund

3.1.

It is proposed that the Council establish a Community Resilience Fund to support local voluntary, charitable and not for profit organisations that are carrying out support work in the community to assist vulnerable members of the Orkney population during the coronavirus pandemic.

3.2.

The Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund will be open to applications from charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations for the delivery of projects in Orkney. The focus of the fund is to support groups and organisations working with the following sectors of Orkney's communities and issues that are affected by coronavirus:

- People aged 70 or older and those aged under 70 with an underlying health condition, including anyone given the flu vaccination each year on medical grounds.
- Those at increased risk, particularly in relation to poor mental health and wellbeing.
- Vulnerable isolated people and families, particularly those living in remote rural areas, families where a parent/both parents have lost their employment or where children are living in poverty.
- Children and young people's projects, particularly focusing on the voice of young people and connecting through creative digital mediums.

3.3.

The fund needs to be accessible, to be able to respond to local issues which arise from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Development and application of the fund criteria will therefore need to evolve as the crisis develops. For instance, the experience of other countries suggests that increases in domestic abuse and mental health problems can be expected.

3.4.

As further community resilience funds become available from Scottish Government, the value of grants can be reviewed as can the criteria. It will be necessary to adopt a fairly flexible approach to community needs.

4. Application Criteria

4.1.

Applications should come from constituted groups or groups affiliated to a constituted group and hold a bank account. Grants will be paid through the Creditors payment system in the same way as the Non-Domestic Rates Business Relief Grants.

4.2.

Grants can be awarded up to the value of £2,000 and Democratic Services will request evidence and reporting from the recipients that the monies disbursed are spent in accordance with the grant conditions and the approved application.

4.3.

The criteria for grants are to be flexible but will be in connection with continuing to develop community resilience.

4.4.

Community groups/ community resilience groups/ volunteering groups can submit a simple application form to Democratic Services. An application form has been developed and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Draft guidance notes and criteria are attached as Appendix 2.

4.5.

Democratic Services will keep a record of all payments and grants awarded and will report these at a later date to the Policy and Resources Committee. The Council will seek to recover any funds that have not been appropriately used by the recipient bodies.

5. Co-ordination with HIE Orkney

5.1.

It is essential that a co-ordinated approach is taken with HIE Orkney to ensure that the actions the Council take are complementary to and support what may be delivered via the HIE network and that the most appropriate support is provided as soon as possible at a local level. Linking up local knowledge with an established and experienced organisation will prove beneficial in terms of speed of operation and the reach into our communities.

5.2.

HIE Orkney has offered assistance in the processing or vetting of applications for assistance and an agreement on data sharing may therefore be appropriate.

6. Human Resource Implications

There are no particular staffing implications arising from this report. The management of this budget will be undertaken within existing Democratic Services resources.

7. Equalities Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

8. Links to Council Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priorities of Connected Communities, Thriving Communities, Enterprising Communities and Quality of Life.

9. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and a Vibrant Economy.

10. Financial Implications

10.1.

It is proposed to allocate £150,000 to the Orkney Islands Council Community Resilience Fund from the Council's allocation of £350,000 that has been awarded by the Scottish Government to Local Government from the £50 million in Barnett consequentials from the UK Government's Hardship Fund.

10.2.

The £50 million in Barnett consequentials is additional funding that was announced on 18 March 2020 and is being distributed on the basis of GAE (Grant Aided Expenditure) plus SINA (Special Islands Needs Allowance) and will be paid to the Council as a redetermination in March 2021. It is open to the Council to use this funding in any way it sees fit.

10.3.

Utilisation of the remainder of the Hardship funding will be considered in other reports.

11. Legal Aspects

11.1.

Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, obliges the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs.

11.2.

In terms of Section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within it. This includes power to give financial assistance.

11.3.

The Council must make arrangements which secure best value. An authority securing best value will be able to show that it is making effective and efficient use of its financial resources.

12. Contact Officers

John Mundell, Interim Chief Executive, extension 2101, Email john.mundell@orkney.gov.uk

Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support, extension 2202, Email karen.greaves@orkney.gov.uk

Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance, extension 2103, Email gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk

13. Appendices

Appendix 1: Application Form.

Appendix 2: Community Resilience Fund Application Guidance Notes and Criteria.

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment.



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

COVID -19

Funding Application Form 2020

The aim of the Community Resilience Fund is to develop and support community resilience and volunteering efforts in the local area.

Initially one application per organisation up to the value of **£2,000** will be considered. Repeat applications may be considered dependent on demand.

Groups applying must be either constituted or affiliated to a constituted group. An email from the constituted group, e.g. a Community Council, will be sufficient evidence that a group is affiliated to them.

Applications for the Fund will be accepted from: 16 April 2020

Decisions on applications will be made by: Democratic Services

The target timescale for decision making will be: 7 working days from receipt of valid application form

SECTION 1: Group Details

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Organisation/Group applying | |
| Name of Constituted Group if affiliated | |
| Contact Name | |
| Position | |
| Address (incl. Postcode) | |
| Telephone Number | |
| Email Address | |

Treasurer's Details (if different from above)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Address (incl. Postcode) | |
| Telephone Number | |
| Email Address | |

Bank Account Details

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Bank Account Number | |
| Sort Code | |
| Bank Account Name | |

SECTION 2: Details of the Project

2.1 Please give details of your project, identifying proposed outcomes and how this project contributes to developing / supporting community resilience and/or volunteering.

2.2 Have you received any other funding for this project?

Please provide details of amount and the funder:

2.3 How many people are likely to benefit from the project?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Less than 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 – 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 51 – 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Whole Community |










2.4 Does the project demonstrate partnership working?

Please give details of any other groups/partners that are involved in the project:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Orkney Islands Council is committed to promoting positive attitudes, equality and diversity and eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation for people with protected characteristics.

2.5 Is your project aimed specifically at any of the following protected characteristics?

| | |
|--|--|
|  Sexual Orientation | |
|  Age | |
|  Disability | |
|  Religion/Belief | |
|  Marriage/Civil Partnership | |
|  Pregnancy & Maternity | |
|  Race | |
|  Sex (Gender) | |
|  Gender Reassignment | |

SECTION 3: Project Cost

| | |
|---|--|
| Total cost of project | |
| Amount requested (must not exceed £2,000) | |
| Breakdown of cost | |

SECTION 4: Signature

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Signature | |
| Position | |
| Date | |

Please check that you have included the following documents:

The application form

A copy of the group's (affiliated group's) Constitution, or Memorandum and Articles

Please return the completed application form and any supporting documents to Democratic.Services@orkney.gov.uk

Democratic Services, Chief Executive's Service, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY.

For Office Use Only

Award Amount:

Authorised By:

Date Sent to Finance:



ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES AND CRITERIA

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY WHEN COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

Section 1: Group Details

Please ensure this section is completed in full including bank details and that a copy of the group's (or affiliated group's) Constitution or Memorandum and Articles is attached.

Name of Organisation/Group applying: This is the name of the group applying for the funding.

Name of Constituted Organisation/Group if affiliated. This is the name of the constituted group the applicant is affiliated to if not constituted. This should be left blank if the group making the application is constituted.

Section 2: Details of the Project

2.1 Project Details

Applicants should detail the outcomes the project proposes to achieve and explain how these relate to developing / supporting community resilience and / or volunteering.

2.2 Have you received any other funding for this project?

Please give details of any other funding you may have received towards this project.

2.3 How many people are likely to benefit from the project?

Please give an indication of the number of people who will benefit from this project. If possible, applicants should seek to provide demographic information.

2.4 Does the project demonstrate partnership working?

Does your project involve other groups or partners?

2.5 Is your project aimed specifically at any of the following protected characteristics?

Everyone is protected by the Equality Act. Every person has one or more of the protected characteristics, so the Act protects all of us against unfair treatment.

Please indicate if your project is specifically aimed at promoting positive attitudes, equality and diversity and eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation in any of the nine protected characteristics.

Section 3: Project Costs

Please ensure this is completed as fully as possible.

Applications will be limited to a maximum of £2,000.

Initially one application per organisation up to the value of £2,000 will be considered. Repeat applications may be considered dependent on demand.

Payment will be made directly into a group's bank account.

The money awarded must be spent, and receipts sent to Democratic Services, School Place, Kirkwall, KW151NY, by 31 March 2021.

Section 4: Signature:

Please ensure the application is signed by one of the group's office bearers. If you are unable to sign the form, please type your name in the Signature Box and ensure the form is sent from the same email address stated in the group details section of the form.

Additional Information

Eligibility is limited to properly constituted groups (or groups affiliated to constituted groups) with an annual turnover of less than £250,000 per annum. Applications which are solely or substantially for individual benefit will not be considered.

If any additional assistance or guidance is required, please contact:

Democratic Services
Orkney Islands Council
Council Offices
Kirkwall
KW15 1NY



Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to improve the work of Orkney Islands Council by making sure it promotes equality and does not discriminate. This assessment records the likely impact of any changes to a function, policy or plan by anticipating the consequences, and making sure that any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised and positive impacts are maximised.

| 1. Identification of Function, Policy or Plan | |
|--|--|
| Name of function / policy / plan to be assessed. | Establishment of a Community Resilience Fund in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. |
| Service / service area responsible. | Chief Executive's Service |
| Name of person carrying out the assessment and contact details. | Gareth Waterson Head of Finance Gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk |
| Date of assessment. | 8 April 2020 |
| Is the function / policy / plan new or existing? (Please indicate also if the service is to be deleted, reduced or changed significantly). | The Community Resilience Fund would be a new funding stream for community organisations. |

| 2. Initial Screening | |
|---|---|
| What are the intended outcomes of the function / policy / plan? | The Community Resilience Fund will be open to applications from charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations for the delivery of projects in Orkney. The focus of the fund is to support groups and organisations working with the following communities and issues and that are affected by coronavirus: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older people 2. Those at increased risk, particularly in relation to poor mental health and wellbeing 3. Vulnerable isolated people and families, particularly those living in rural areas, families where a parent/ both parents have lost their |

| | |
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| | <p>employment or where children are living in poverty</p> <p>4. Children and young people's projects, particularly focusing on the voice of young people and connecting through creative mediums</p> |
| Is the function / policy / plan strategically important? | Yes – it is important to support community groups who are caring for the disadvantaged and at-risk members of the Orkney Community. |
| State who is, or may be affected by this function / policy / plan, and how. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older people. 2. Those at increased risk, particularly in relation to poor mental health and wellbeing. 3. Vulnerable isolated people and families, particularly those living in rural areas, families where a parent/ both parents have lost their employment or where children are living in poverty. 4. Children and young people. |
| How have stakeholders been involved in the development of this function / policy / plan? | There has been no consultation outwith the Council on the proposals contained in the report, however the Council has received representations from Community Groups, businesses and individuals who have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak and the actions of Government to contain the spread of the virus. A common theme is that financial support is required to deliver services. |
| Is there any existing data and / or research relating to equalities issues in this policy area? Please summarise. E.g. consultations, national surveys, performance data, complaints, service user feedback, academic / consultants' reports, benchmarking (see equalities resources on OIC information portal). | Not that we are aware of. This is a quickly changing situation and it is unlikely that any specific research has been carried out. |
| Is there any existing evidence relating to socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in this policy area? Please summarise. E.g. For people living in poverty or for people of low income. See The Fairer Scotland Duty Interim | Almost any change to a council service has some socio-economic impact. This is because the nature of our responsibilities and the extent to which the more deprived communities and more vulnerable people in Orkney rely on our services. Poor social and economic circumstances affect people's health and quality of life. Steps such as paying the Scottish Living Wage go some way to help tackle levels of child poverty by making more |

[Guidance for Public Bodies](#) for further information.

money available to help families bring up their children.

Generally, this benefits lower-paid workers and their families.

Steps such as paying the Scottish Living Wage go some way to help tackle levels of child poverty by making more money available to help families bring up their children. Generally, this benefits lower-paid workers and their families.

The movement to more of our services being available through digital access and delivery continues, with the associated benefits of convenience and fast response for most people. However, evidence suggests that some members of groups such as older people, people with disabilities and people whose first language is not English, are less likely to be able to access digital services.

Evidence also suggests that socioeconomic status and household income are strong determinants of whether people have the knowledge, skills and confidence to access public services online.

Local and isles shops can be much more expensive than the supermarkets (up to twice the cost on some of the isles).

Availability of reliable internet connection is also an issue for many isles residents.

Women have been identified as being disproportionately vulnerable to socio-economic impacts and elements of welfare reform are likely to have a disproportionate impact on women and lone parents.

Reduced services for children, young people and older people can place additional burdens of care on women.

Women are more likely than men to manage reduced family budgets, have primary caring responsibilities and act as the buffers, going without to protect their children from the worst effects of poverty and also continue to report higher levels of concern about their financial situation.

A high percentage of women in Orkney work part time in the public, voluntary and community sectors. The continued reduction in the public and voluntary workforces impact disproportionately on this group.

Inevitably, the overall effect of the combination of age, disability and deprivation means that changes to support services are likely to

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| | <p>increasingly impact disproportionately on women and lone parent families. Children in out-of-work households are at greater risk of poverty although there are a significant number of children nationally who are classed as living in poverty who live in households where someone is working (in-work poverty).</p> <p>Children of lone parents, children with disabilities and those in large families are at greater risk of living in poverty. By retaining core services focused on supporting the most vulnerable children, including those with specialist needs, and families, councils can continue to address the greatest levels of disadvantage and tackle inequality.</p> |
| Could the function / policy have a differential impact on any of the following equality areas? | (Please provide any evidence – positive impacts / benefits, negative impacts and reasons). |
| 1. Race: this includes ethnic or national groups, colour and nationality. | Unlikely |
| 2. Sex: a man or a woman. | Unlikely |
| 3. Sexual Orientation: whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes. | Unlikely |
| 4. Gender Reassignment: the process of transitioning from one gender to another. | Unlikely |
| 5. Pregnancy and maternity. | Unlikely |
| 6. Age: people of different ages. | <p>There may be additional funding targeted to the elderly and to children and young people.</p> <p>Orkney's demographic is changing and in line with the rest of Scotland, the shift is towards an older average age with significance increases in the over 65's bracket. As people get older, they are more likely to acquire a disability or to need higher levels of support, therefore proposals impacting older people are also likely to have impacts for those with disabilities and those with caring responsibilities. Similarly, proposals impacting children and young people may also have impacts for those with caring responsibilities.</p> |
| 7. Religion or beliefs or none (atheists). | Unlikely |

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| 8. Caring responsibilities. | In Orkney, 9.2% of individuals aged 16 and over identified themselves as an unpaid carer in the 2011 Census. The majority (62%) of carers provided between 1-9 hours of care per week, while 24% provided 50+ hours of care per week. There were more female carers (around 60%) than male in Orkney, the largest numbers were aged 50-64 years old. |
| 9. Care experienced. | Young people can be treated differently because of their care identity - that they have experience of care. In an effort to address the disadvantages faced by people with care experience, OIC is now assessing the impact of any proposals for those with care experience as part of the equality impact assessment process. These steps aim to provide care experienced young people with protection from discrimination and harassment because of their care identity. |
| 10. Marriage and Civil Partnerships. | Unlikely to be any differential impact. |
| 11. Disability: people with disabilities (whether registered or not). | People with a disability are more likely to experience poorer outcomes in terms of employment, income and education. They are more likely to face discrimination and negative attitudes and often experience greater difficulties in accessing housing and transport. The 2011 Census figures show that 6.5% of the population in Orkney reported a disability; around half (51%) were sensory impairments, 32.8% related to a physical disability, 2.2% to a learning disability and 3% as having a mental health condition. |
| 12. Socio-economic disadvantage. | Tackling deprivation and reducing inequalities remains a priority and as such it is recognised that fuel poverty is a significant issue across Orkney. In addition, evidence suggests that child poverty in Orkney is variable and the Isles locality has the greatest level of housing deprivation. Whilst Orkney does not have data zones within the greatest areas of deprivation across Scotland within the SIMD analysis, it is acknowledged that in remote and rural settings SIMD may be a less useful marker of deprivation. |
| 13. Isles-proofing. | There may be additional funding targeted to organisations that support people living in the isles. Local and isles shops can be much more expensive than the supermarkets (up to twice the cost on some of the isles). |

| 3. Impact Assessment | |
|---|-----|
| Does the analysis above identify any differential impacts which need to be addressed? | No |
| How could you minimise or remove any potential negative impacts? | N/A |
| Do you have enough information to make a judgement? If no, what information do you require? | Yes |

| 4. Conclusions and Planned Action | |
|---|-----|
| Is further work required? | No. |
| What action is to be taken? | N/A |
| Who will undertake it? | N/A |
| When will it be done? | N/A |
| How will it be monitored? (e.g. through service plans). | N/A |

Signature: 
Name: GARETH WATERSON

Date: 8 April 2020
(BLOCK CAPITALS).

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send a copy to HR and Performance. A Word version should also be emailed to HR and Performance at hrsupport@orkney.gov.uk