

Item: 6

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 4 February 2019.

Application Number 0/5/8/67.

Kirkwall Kayak Club.

Purchase of Kayaks and Associated Equipment.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Kirkwall Kayak Club for assistance towards the purchase of kayaks and associated equipment.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Kirkwall Kayak Club has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards the purchase of kayaks and associated equipment, for use by existing, new and prospective members, at a total estimated eligible cost of £16,546.

2.2.

That Kirkwall Kayak Club is contributing £828 of its own resources towards the project.

2.3.

That Kirkwall Kayak Club has applied for match funding amounting to £7,859 from the Orkney LEADER Programme 2014 to 2020 towards the project.

2.4.

That messages of support have been received from the undernoted groups and individuals:

- Scottish Autism (Orkney Services).
- RSPB Scotland (Orkney Office).
- Scottish Canoe Association.
- Voluntary Action Orkney.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a grant amounting to 47.5% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £7,859, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Kirkwall Kayak Club towards the purchase of kayaks and associated equipment, subject to the full funding package being secured to enable the project to be completed.

2.6.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to authorise advance payment of the grant, referred to at paragraph 2.5 above, on receipt of invoices, if required in order to assist cash flow requirements of Kirkwall Kayak Club.

2.7.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Solicitor of the Council, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Kirkwall Kayak Club towards in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraph 2.6 above.

3. Background

3.1.

Kirkwall Kayak Club, which was established in 1973, is an unincorporated constituted group whose primary objective is to encourage paddle sports within Orkney. Spring and Summer club activities take place outdoors at a wide range of locations. In the Winter months most activities take the form of training sessions in the Pickaquoy Centre pool.

3.2.

Kirkwall Kayak club currently have 60 members, 18 of which are juniors (under 18). At present Kirkwall Kayak Club members currently have the opportunity to train and be assessed for nationally recognised qualifications for both junior and senior members. Members then have the opportunity to develop their personal skills and progress to qualified coaches or leaders in their chosen paddle discipline.

3.3.

As part of Kirkwall Kayak Club's ongoing community engagement, they work with external groups and are currently planning further sessions with the local branch of Autism Scotland and Orkney Young Befrienders. In 2018 Kirkwall Kayak Club coaches travelled to Westray and Sanday to deliver "come and try" sessions to local community groups. These ongoing engagement activities have been well received and helped to raise the benefits of paddle sport activities to wide ranging audiences locally.

3.4.

Historically, Kirkwall Kayak Club has had a lower age limit of 12 and as such most of the equipment is accessible to that age group and older. Kirkwall Kayak Club has now allowed participating members aged 8 years and above. In order to prevent cost being a barrier to participation Kirkwall Kayak Club provides all the equipment. However, Kirkwall Kayak Club do not have enough equipment in junior sizes. Also, Kirkwall Kayak Club has struggled to provide equipment suitable for heavier participants. In order to ensure that Kirkwall Kayak Club can develop their potential to be as inclusive a group as possible, they have reviewed their current ability to meet local demand and considered how this could be enhanced.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Kirkwall Kayak Club wishes to establish a fleet of kayaks and associated equipment, which can be used by existing, new and prospective members. The new equipment will be available to suit paddlers whatever their age, size, ability or mobility. The new equipment will also help Kirkwall Kayak Club increase the interest and demonstrate the health and social benefits of paddle sports within Orkney. It is anticipated that this will ultimately increase their membership numbers.

4.2.

The items include the following, with details in Appendix 1 attached to this report:

- 6 junior boats and equipment, suitable for small junior members aged 8 to 12.
- 1 tandem sit on top kayak and equipment, for paddlers in need of additional support on the water.
- 3 small adult kayaks and equipment, to enable small juniors to progress to full size craft as they grow.
- 1 high capacity sea kayak and equipment, for heavier paddlers.
- 2 x 20-foot shipping containers to store the new equipment in.
- 1 vehicle trailer to enable transport of the new equipment.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below (inclusive of VAT as Kirkwall Kayak Club is not VAT registered):

Project Details.	Cost.
Purchase and delivery of kayaks, paddling equipment and trailer.	£13,186.
Purchase and delivery of storage containers (x2).	£3,360.
Total.	£16,546.
Project Financing.	Amount.

Community Development Fund (47.5%).	£7,859.
Orkney LEADER 2014 to 2020 Programme (47.5%).	£7,859.
Own Resources (5.0%)*.	£828.
Total.	£16,546.

* Confirmed.

4.4.

Community Development Fund and LEADER grants are the two remaining funders to be confirmed. A decision on LEADER funding is expected by 6 February 2019.

4.5.

Kirkwall Kayak Club store their existing equipment in the compound of Orkney Sailing Club. The new equipment would be stored in two shipping containers stored within the compound of Orkney Sailing Club as well. Kirkwall Kayak Club has an ongoing rental agreement with Orkney Sailing Club and will continue this agreement once the project is complete.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan, which accompanies the application, outlines the intention to purchase kayaks and associated equipment, making paddle sports and Kirkwall Kayak Club more accessible and inclusive to members of the local communities.

5.2.

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from the following groups and individuals:

- Scottish Autism (Orkney Services).
- RSPB Scotland (Orkney Office).
- Scottish Canoe Association.
- Voluntary Action Orkney.

5.3.

The Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, have supported a wide range of development projects for new sporting equipment, including:

- Orkney Sailing Club towards purchasing new sailing boats and associated equipment.
- Stromness Sailing Club towards purchasing four dinghies, auxiliary equipment, and construction of a storage shed.

- Orkney Rowing Club towards purchasing new boats and equipment, including trailers.

5.4.

With regard to Kirkwall Kayak Club's application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria:

5.4.1. Evidence of need

- Kirkwall Kayak Club has recently lowered the age of participating members from 12 to 8, due to demand from parents and grandparents to allow younger children to take part.
- The recent community engagement work with local groups and visits to Westray and Sanday have been well received and demonstrated demand for enhancing the offering by Kirkwall Kayak Club.

5.4.2. Achievability

- Kirkwall Kayak Club is run by a volunteer committee of 11 people. Each of them brings a variety of knowledge and experience, which has enabled the club to manage its activities, equipment and general operations for 45 years.
- A project sub-committee has been established and consists of three committee members, who have a wide range of skills and experience to carry through the project. This includes management of commercial projects, sports development and fundraising.

5.4.3. Sustainability

- The project will assist in improving the sustainability of Kirkwall Kayak Club's facilities for the future, as well as helping to achieve its long-term sustainability through increased community participation and membership.
- To make paddling in Orkney as accessible as possible, Kirkwall Kayak Club practise is to keep annual membership and pool session fees as low as practically possible. Club funds are maintained through regular fundraising events run annually. This helps increase participation throughout the local community and in turn also helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of Kirkwall Kayak Club.

5.4.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- The project will benefit the wider Orkney community, improving the accessibility of paddling sports and promoting the physical and social benefits to the wider public.
- The formal training on offer to members will lead to the sharing of technical knowledge between generations and the development of social skills.

5.4.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The provision of new paddling and associated equipment will be a first for Kirkwall Kayak Club, providing a new opportunity for new and existing members alike.

- The new paddling and associated equipment will allow new age groups and physical abilities to participate in kayaking, providing new and enhanced opportunities locally.

5.4.6. Enriching quality of life

- Kayaking is an active sport and by ensuring that it is open to as wide a demographic as possible will help encourage a healthy lifestyle within the community and provide new social opportunities for individuals and families in Orkney.

5.4.7. Value for money

- Project costs have been carefully identified through completion of competitive tendering exercise, ensuring best value for money.
- The successful suppliers for the equipment has demonstrated a good understanding of the project brief and are reputable companies within their specialist fields whom the applicant has confidence in.

5.4.8. Partnership funding

- Additional funding has been applied for from the Orkney LEADER 2014 to 2020 Programme, which will potentially lever in external funding to Orkney.
- This demonstrates a strong effort to secure as much match funding prior to approaching the Community Development Fund.

6. Links to Council Plan

6.1.

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

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to the following priorities of the Council Delivery Plan:

- Priority 3.4 we will review Trust options for sports, leisure and learning.
- Priority 5.11 work with partners to support Orkney's hosting of the 2023 Island Games.
- Priority 5.17 we will work towards implementing the recommendations of the Sports Strategy of the Council Delivery Plan.

7. 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.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In July 2016, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils, leaving £900,000 remaining in the new allocation.

8.2.

A total of £327,046 has been allocated from the 2016 tranche of funding to date.

8.3.

Any award to Kirkwall Kayak Club in respect of this project would be met from within the Fund, referred to at section 8.1 above, of which a budget of £333,000 per annum has been agreed for the period 2016 to 2019.

8.4.

The option of accessing Community Development Fund grant as an advance payment, in order to assist cash flow, may also be required to ensure the project reaches a satisfactory conclusion. It is therefore recommended that powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to authorise advance payment of the grant, if approved, on receipt of invoices if required in order to assist Kirkwall Kayak Club with its cash flow requirements.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

There are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, extension 2301, Email gavin.barr@orkney.gov.uk.

Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services, extension 2530, Email roddy.mackay@orkney.gov.uk.

Jackie Thomson, Development and Regeneration Manager, extension 2507, Email jackie.thomson@orkney.gov.uk.

Stuart Allison, Economic Development Manager, extension 2514, Email stuart.allison@orkney.gov.uk.

Alister Brown, Economic Development Officer, extension 2512, Email alister.brown@orkney.gov.uk.

11. Appendix

Appendix 1: Images of some of the equipment to be purchased for proposed project.

Appendix 1

Images of some of the equipment to be purchased for proposed project.



Junior kayaks suitable for members aged 8-12.



Tandem sit on top kayak, for paddlers in need of additional support.



Junior paddles.



Kayak trailer (with additional storage available inside).



Junior buoyancy aid.