

Minute

Community Development Fund Sub-committee

Thursday, 15 June 2023, 14:00.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Graham A Bevan, David Dawson, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson and James W Stockan.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth.
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Stuart Bevan, Solicitor.
- Morag Robertson, Development Officer.

Observing

- Annabel Bews, Development Officer.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Graham A Bevan – Item 1.
- Councillor Kristopher D Leask – Item 1.

Chair

- Councillor Graham A Bevan.

1. Stage 1 Funding Applications – Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

Councillor Graham A Bevan declared an interest in this item, his connection being that a close family member was the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Pier Arts Centre, and was not present during discussion thereof.

Councillor Kristopher D Leask declared an interest in this item, his connection being that he was a Director on the Board of the Pier Arts Centre, and was not present during discussion thereof.

Signed: Graham A Bevan.

As the Chair, Councillor Graham A Bevan, had left the meeting, the Clerk called for nominations for Chair for this item.

The Sub-committee resolved:

1.1. That Councillor David Dawson be appointed Chair for this item.

Councillor David Dawson took the Chair.

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth, the Committee:

Noted:

1.2. That the Council had received requests from the undernoted organisations to submit Stage 1 applications to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the 2024/25 funding round:

- Birsay Heritage Trust – regeneration of HMS Tern – £760,000.
- Pier Arts Centre – provision of a creative arts hub – £1,608,000.

1.3. That, in accordance with the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund guidelines, the Council, as lead applicant, was required to rank applications.

1.4. That, whilst both third party applications were considered to be highly worthwhile of being supported in their own rights, on balance, the Corporate Leadership Team considered that the Pier Arts Centre project be ranked first.

On the motion of Councillor David Dawson, seconded by Councillor Gillian Skuse, the Sub-committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

1.5. That the Council should submit Stage 1 funding applications to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, on behalf of both the Pier Arts Centre and Birsay Heritage Trust.

1.6. That, in accordance with the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund guidelines, the applications be ranked in the following priority order:

- Priority 1: Pier Arts Centre, at the requested amount of £1,608,000.
- Priority 2: Birsay Heritage Trust, at the requested amount of £760,000.

Signed: David Dawson.

Councillor Graham A Bevan rejoined the meeting at this point and resumed the Chair.

2. Application Number 0/5/8/70 – Westray Sailing Club

Construction of New Workshop and Building of Traditional Westray Skiff

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That, on 26 November 2019, when considering the eligibility of projects funded by the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme in applying for grants from the Community Development Fund, and other Council funding, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended:

- That community-led projects which had previously secured part-funding from the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme be considered eligible to seek co-funding from other Council funding streams, including the Community Development Fund.

2.2. That Westray Sailing Club had applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards construction of a new workshop and building a traditional Westray skiff, for use by the members of Westray Sailing Club, the local community and visitors to the island of Westray, at a total estimated eligible cost of £287,666.

2.3. That the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme had identified the construction of a new workshop and the building of a traditional Westray Skiff as a project to potentially support and had indicated a potential grant allocation of £93,456 towards the project, subject to approval by the North Isles Landscape Partnership Working Group.

2.4. That, although guidance notes stated that, where total project costs exceeded £10,000, the Community Development Fund Sub-committee would determine whether appropriate security should be taken over any appropriate heritable property improved as a result of the project, Westray Sailing Club would not be in a position to grant security over the heritable property, to be leased from Westray Development Trust, and the Council was unlikely to wish to have any security over the lease.

2.5. That messages of support had been received from the undernoted groups:

- Westray Development Trust.
- Westray Junior High School.

On the motion of Councillor W Leslie Manson, seconded by Councillor Gillian Skuse, the Sub-committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

2.6. That a grant amounting to 34.8% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £100,000, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Westray Sailing Club towards construction of a new workshop and building a traditional Westray skiff.

2.7. That powers be delegated to the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to authorise advance payment of the grant, referred to at paragraph 2.6 above, on receipt of invoices, if required in order to assist cash flow requirements of Westray Sailing Club.

2.8. That powers be delegated to the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Governance, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Westray Sailing Club in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 above.

3. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:28 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Graham A Bevan.