

Item: 5

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 22 February 2024.

Application Number 0/5/8/86.

Pickaquoy Centre Trust.

Swimming Pool Digital Display Board and Timing Equipment.

Report by Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

1. Purpose of Report.

To consider an application from the Pickaquoy Centre Trust for assistance towards the purchase and installation of a swimming pool digital display board and timing equipment.

2. Recommendations.

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the Pickaquoy Centre Trust has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund for the purchase and installation of a swimming pool digital display board and timing equipment for use by the members of the Orkney Amateur Swimming Club and users of the Pickaquoy Centre, at a total estimated eligible cost of £88,250.

2.2.

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

- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club.
- Kirkwall Kayak Club.
- Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.
- Orkney 2025 (Orkney Island Games Organising Committee).

2.3.

That the Pickaquoy Centre will be a pivotal venue for the 2025 International Island Games which will be held in Orkney and will include swimming in the sporting itinerary.

It is recommended:

2.4.

That a grant amounting to 50% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £44,125, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to the Pickaquoy Centre Trust towards the purchase and installation of a swimming pool digital display board and timing equipment, subject to:

- Confirmation of the subsidy control position to the satisfaction of the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Confirmation of a full funding package.

2.5.

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 the Trust in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraph 2.4 above.

3. Background

3.1.

The Pickaquoy Centre Trust was set up in 1999 to manage the Pickaquoy Centre on behalf of the Council and is a registered charity with a formally constituted Board. The Trust's main objective is to promote and encourage the community to be healthier and happier through the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science and public participation in sport. The Trust is run by a Board of 14 Trustees.

3.2.

The Trust, in partnership with Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, as part of their preparation for the 2025 Island Games, have identified that the current timing display board does not adequately meet the standard required for advanced competition. The current display board is alphanumeric and is limited in what can be displayed.

3.3.

The proposed digital display board and timing equipment is viewed by the Trust and Orkney Amateur Swimming Club to be essential to delivering properly timed licensed galas and competitions and this will include Orkney 2025. The ability to run properly timed licensed galas increases opportunities for aspiring athletes as it allows them to train for higher level competitions outwith Orkney and enables hosting of invitational and open meets with participants from other clubs and areas. The digital display board can be used to display warm up schedules for visiting teams along with live video stream and sponsorship.

3.4.

The 2023 Island Games held in Guernsey used a comparable display board to the one the Trust is seeking funding support to purchase. Event organisers for Orkney 2025 highlight that the Island Games offer “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our communities... to experience an international multi-sport event... where competitors and officials from Islands all across the world will come together for a... competitive sporting programme in excellent facilities [creating] a meaningful legacy for local sport and communities”. This digital display board and timing equipment will ensure that the swimming event operates smoothly and showcases Orkney in its best light as host.

3.5.

After Orkney 2025, in addition to its use at future events the digital display board will play an important role in encouraging user participation in sport by advertising forthcoming events at the Pickaquoy Centre. The board will also be used to display sporting club information outside of competitions. The Kayak Club have identified that the board will be useful for their events and would also support their work with disadvantaged groups as it would allow welcoming and encouraging messages to be displayed.

3.6.

This project has been identified for potential grant funding support from SportsScotland in support of Orkney 2025. An application was submitted in 2023 seeking a grant of £44,125 with a decision expected by mid-March 2024.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

The Trust wishes to purchase and install a swimming pool LED digital display board and timing equipment at the Pickaquoy Centre enabling swimming events to be properly times and displayed. This will provide a legacy for future swimming events and will ensure that the facilities meet required competition standard.

4.2.

The works include the following:

- Purchase and installation of a swimming pool LED Display Board and timing equipment.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below. This includes a level of non-recoverable VAT at a rate of around 8.8%. The Trust is VAT registered but the Pickaquoy Centre and subsequent use will be partially exempt due to the nature of its intended use:

Project Details.	Cost.
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Purchase of Board and Timing Equipment	£59,326.
Delivery, Installation and Training	£28,924.
Total.	£88,250.
Project Financing.	Amount.
Sports Scotland – (50%).	£44,125.
Community Development Fund (50%).	£44,125.
Total.	£88,250.

4.4.

The Community Development Fund will help attract external match funding by supporting this project. Sportscotland has identified potential match funding of 50% for this project as part of their support for the Island Games.

4.5.

The Trust has confirmed that Swiss Timing will continue to maintain the display board and timing equipment under its existing maintenance contract 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 and install a swimming pool LED digital display board and timing equipment. This will provide new facilities that will be welcoming and accessible to members of Orkney Amateur Swimming Club, the local community, participants in the Island Games 2025 and visitors to the Pickaquoy Centre.

5.2.

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

- Orkney Amateur Swimming Club.
- Kirkwall Kayak Club.
- Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council.
- Orkney 2025.

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 involving sports and recreation, including:

- The Pickaquoy Trust towards the construction of a purpose-built mountain bike facility that will be used in the Island Games 2025.
- Westray Sailing Club towards the construction of a new workshop and the building of a traditional Westray skiff.
- Orkney Sailing Club towards the building of a new storage and training facility at Hatson Slipway.
- Orkney Rowing Club towards the purchase of new boats and associated equipment.
- Stromness Golf Club towards improvements and enhancements to Stromness Golf Course.
- West Mainland Bowling Club towards the creation of an artificial bowling green and storage facility in Dounby.

5.4.

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

5.4.1. Evidence of need

- The Trust in partnership with Orkney Amateur Swimming Club has consulted with Orkney 2025 event organisers and Sportscotland to ensure that the Pickaquoy Centre swimming facilities would support the standard required for advanced competition.

5.4.2. Achievability

- The Trust is run by a board of 14 Trustees, who possess a wide range of skills and experience to carry through the project. This includes representatives from the arts, tourism, and sports community along with members from the local community, as well as elected members of the Council.
- Some members of the Trust have been involved in the coordination of previous projects, which received funding from various sources.

5.4.3. Sustainability

- The project will help support the sustainability of competitive swimming and growth of swimming as a sporting event on Orkney, by providing facilities required for training for competitive events and competitions. This will help to support the Trust's charitable purpose in relation to the advancement of public participation in sport whilst improving health and wellbeing.

5.4.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- The project will benefit the Trust, and the wider community by improving accessibility of competitive sport and encouraging health and wellbeing.

5.4.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The proposals seek to create competition standard facilities for swimming through the provision of a digital display board and timing equipment. The various facets of this project have been designed to be as cost effective and beneficial as possible

to all existing and potential members of the Pickaquooy Centre and Orkney Amateur Swimming Club.

- The new facilities will assist in raising the profile of the Pickaquooy Centre and its future use by locals and visitors.

5.4.6. Enriching quality of life

- Swimming is an active sport, and this project will enable Orkney to showcase its considerable swimming talent whilst encouraging new entrants into the sport that will create positive lifestyle benefits. The Island Games seek to provide a legacy that will encourage more people to participate and engage in sport.

5.4.7. Value for money

- Only one quotation was secured for the proposed purchase. The rationale for this is that it would be more cost effective to utilise some of the existing timing system as this will be compatible with the new system. The display board needs to effectively communicate with the timing system, which requires the same manufacturer for both elements. Additional cost savings result from the continuance of the pre-existing contract for the new equipment.

5.4.8. Partnership funding

- Sportscotland have identified potential funding support amounting to £44,125 as part of their support of the Island Games.
- Due to financial pressures the Pickaquooy Centre have confirmed that they are unable to contribute.

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 theme of Strengthening our Communities.

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to Priority C1 Social Care/community led support 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 Sustainable Development and Local Equality.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In December 2022, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring fenced for Community Councils.

8.2.

At present there is sufficient budget within the 2022 Community Development Fund tranche to consider this project.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

Subject to section 9.3 below, there are no legal constraints to the recommendation 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.

9.3.

Any financial assistance provided by the Council will need to be assessed to determine if the financial assistance proposed meets the definition of a subsidy under section 2 of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (the 2022 Act). If it is determined that the financial assistance is a subsidy, then it will need to be provided in a manner compliant with the provisions of the 2022 Act.

9.4.

In accordance with the Community Development Fund Guidance, if grant assistance is to be provided by the Council and the total project cost exceeds £10,000, then the Community Development Fund Sub-committee will determine whether appropriate security should be taken over any appropriate heritable property improved as a result of the project. The property to be improved as a result of the project is owned by the Council and leased to the Pickaquooy Centre Trust and, as a result, no appropriate security can be taken.

10. Contact Officers

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