

Item: 3

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 21 August 2018.

Application Number 0/5/8/19.

Orkney Sailing Club.

Purchase of Sailing Boats and Associated Equipment.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Orkney Sailing Club for assistance towards purchasing new sailing boats and associated equipment.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Orkney Sailing Club has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards the purchase of new sailing boats, for use by existing, new and prospective members for training and racing, together with associated safety and radio equipment, at a total estimated eligible cost of £78,450.

2.2.

That Orkney Sailing Club is contributing £3,924 of its own resources towards the project.

2.3.

That Orkney Sailing Club has already secured match funding amounting to £37,263 from the Orkney LEADER Programme 2014 to 2020 towards the project.

2.4.

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

- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Gwenda Shearer.
- Councillor Leslie Manson.
- Holm Sailing Club.
- Orkney Historic Boat Society.

- Orkney Marinas.
- Orkney Rowing Club.
- Orkney Sea Cadets.
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution Kirkwall Lifeboat.
- Royal Yachting Association Scotland.
- Stromness Sailing Club.
- Westray Sailing Club.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a grant amounting to 47.5% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £37,263, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Orkney Sailing Club towards the purchase of new sailing boats and associated safety and radio 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 Orkney Sailing 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 Orkney Sailing Club in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 above.

3. Background

3.1.

Orkney Sailing Club, which has existed since 1889, is an unincorporated constituted group whose primary objective is to encourage the sport of sailing in Orkney. Orkney Sailing Club is headquartered at the Girnol, Harbour Street, Kirkwall, with a training centre and storage compound at the Hatston Slipway. The organisation is run by an elected Management Committee consisting of 10 persons. It currently has 162 members, 15 of which are juniors (under 18).

3.2.

The core activities of Orkney Sailing Club include:

- Organisation of regular seasonal “points” racing for dinghies, yachts and catamarans.
- Organising annual sailing and cruising events.
- Participation in and support for other local sailing club activities including those in Holm, Stromness, Westray and Longhope.
- Junior and senior Royal Yacht Association sail training programmes.
- Maintenance and management of all facilities and equipment.
- Providing ongoing support to other community groups, including, amongst others, Orkney Sea Cadets and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

3.3.

In 2016, the Management Committee identified the need for a strategic development plan to ensure the continued success and long-term sustainability of Orkney Sailing Club. A workshop was held in early 2016 with the members of the Management Committee, with points raised used to produce the first draft of the Strategic Development Plan. This was then issued for consultation and comment to the wider membership of Orkney Sailing Club, with additional comments incorporated into a revised draft.

3.4.

The priorities identified during the creation of the Strategic Development Plan were for Orkney Sailing Club to increase its efforts to improve access to sailing for the Orkney community, and to encourage an overall upturn in the level of sailing activity across the county. In response to this, Orkney Sailing Club developed a Development and Access Programme, which includes various measures and activities aimed at increasing sailing across Orkney.

3.5.

As Orkney Sailing Club prepares to celebrate its 130th anniversary in 2019, a programme of activities is being established. One of the main measures from the Development and Access Programme, which links with the activities planned for the 130th anniversary, includes improving access to equipment and facilities, which in turn will help to secure the long-term sustainability of Orkney Sailing Club and its activities in the local community.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Orkney Sailing Club wishes to establish of a fleet of boats, which can be used by existing, new and prospective members for training and racing. This will involve the purchase of a fleet of dinghies that are available to the community to engage in sailing. The dinghies can be used for both junior and senior training and racing and will allow people to participate without having to buy their own equipment, ensuring that sailing in Orkney becomes as accessible as possible. The new safety boat is required to support the activities associated with the new equipment, specifically the anticipated uplift in dingy racing and training. The model of the safety boat, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, has been selected to support the activities that will be delivered under the Development and Access Programme.

4.2.

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

Project Details.	Cost.
Purchase and delivery of 7 dinghies.	£41,841.
Purchase and delivery of safety boat.	£29,048.
Purchase and delivery of safety equipment, wetsuits and handheld radios.	£7,561.
Total.	£78,450.
Project Financing.	Amount.
Community Development Fund (47.5%).	£37,263.
LEADER (47.5%) confirmed.	£37,263.
Own Resources (5%) confirmed.	£3,924.
Total.	£78,450.

4.3.

The Community Development Fund grant is the only remaining funding element to be confirmed. A decision on LEADER funding was made on 18 July 2018.

4.4.

The new equipment will be stored at the training centre and storage compound at the Hatston Slipway and will be maintained by members of Orkney Sailing Club.

4.5.

Images of the proposed new fleet of boats is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan outline the desire to ensure that sailing is an accessible sport, open to the whole community. In addition, it is hoped that increased participation through the additional equipment available will increase participation in sailing, as well as the capacity of Orkney Sailing Club.

5.2.

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

- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Gwenda Shearer.
- Councillor Leslie Manson.
- Holm Sailing Club.
- Orkney Historic Boat Society.
- Orkney Marinas.
- Orkney Rowing Club.
- Orkney Sea Cadets.
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution Kirkwall Lifeboat.
- Royal Yachting Association Scotland.
- Stromness Sailing Club.
- Westray Sailing Club.

5.3.

The 2016 tranche of Community Development Fund funding will continue to use the approved assessment and evaluation criteria which were agreed in March 2012. The Council resolved that all Community Development Fund applications should seek to demonstrate positive attributes in respect of the following factors, which would each be assessed and evaluated in the report to the Community Development Fund Sub-committee on the application:

- Evidence of need.
- Sustainability.
- Achievability.
- Serving the local public and having lasting benefits.
- Opportunities provided or upgraded.
- Enriching quality of life.

- Value for money.
- Partnership funding.

5.4.

Orkney Sailing Club previously secured grant assistance from the Community Development Fund in July 2011, namely a grant of up to £95,000, amounting to 37.3% of eligible project costs, towards development of a new training centre at Hatston slipway.

5.5.

Council policy for the Community Development Fund states that “the intention of the Community Development Fund is that a project should be sustainable for a minimum of 15 years without any additional assistance from the Council”. This requirement for a project to demonstrate longevity has tended to result in applications to the Community Development Fund being in respect of ‘infrastructure’ projects with equipment being only a minor part of costs. However, the Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, has provided funds towards the purchase of equipment in recent years, for example:

- £17,000 to Orkney Rowing Club towards the purchase of new boats and equipment.
- £13,125 to Stromness Sailing Club towards the purchase of four dinghies and a safety boat, and construction of a storage shed.
- £11,199, to St Magnus Festival towards the purchase of staging, lighting and storage equipment.
- £13,976 to Friends of Stromness Town Hall towards the purchase of staging, lighting, and sound equipment.
- £12,975 to the Friends of Hoy Kirk towards the purchase of display equipment.

5.6.

With regard to Orkney Sailing Club’s application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the following factors:

5.6.1. Evidence of need

Orkney Sailing Club undertook a workshop with the board members in 2016, followed by a consultation exercise with full members and external discussions with key organisations. A Strategic Development Plan and Development and Access Programme outlined the main series of measures and activities that Orkney Sailing Club members desired. This has subsequently been incorporated into the proposed project. Orkney Sailing Club also refer to the first open days, held in May 2018, which led to new candidate members participating in a wide range of introductory sailing activities.

5.6.2. Achievability

Orkney Sailing Club is run by a volunteer committee of 10 people, who have a broad spectrum of skills, knowledge and experience beyond their shared interest in sailing. They successfully completed the Community Development Fund project, referred to at section 5.4 above. The volunteer committee also have considerable knowledge and experience of project management developed through their careers, which they will take into this project. The project is considered achievable based on the completion of the project in 2011, completion of the 2016 consultation exercise and the collective ambition and project management experience of the committee.

5.6.3. Sustainability

The project will assist in improving the sustainability of Orkney Sailing Club's facilities for the future, as well as helping to achieve its long-term sustainability through increased community participation and membership.

5.6.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

The project will benefit the wider Orkney and sailing community, improving the accessibility of the sport in Orkney and promoting Orkney's rich sailing heritage to the wider public. The enhancements to the facilities will ensure their future use to other associated community groups.

5.6.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

The provision of a club fleet will be a first for Orkney Sailing Club, providing a new opportunity for new and existing members alike.

5.6.6. Enriching quality of life

Sailing 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.

5.6.7. Value for money

Project costs have been carefully identified through the sourcing of competitive quotes for the various equipment contained within this project, ensuring best value for money.

5.6.8. Partnership funding

Orkney Sailing Club has been successful in securing external funding through the Orkney LEADER Programme 2014 to 2020. One of the main Community Development Fund priorities is to attract as much external funding into Orkney as possible and funding for the Orkney LEADER 2014 to 2020 Programme is part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme, which originates from Europe.

Orkney Sailing Club has also been actively involved in fundraising to help support the ongoing maintenance costs of their existing facilities and equipment. These include the organisation of a number of events throughout the year and the provision of training courses, both of which provide fundraising opportunities, Orkney Sailing Club also operates a bar which is open to members and guests, which, coupled with social functions and fundraisers throughout the year, assist greatly towards their sustainability. These endeavours will continue and will support the new equipment being requested through this application.

6. 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 Thriving Communities and Quality of Life.

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 Living Well.

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 £170,333 has been allocated from the 2016 tranche of funding to date.

8.3.

Any award to Orkney Sailing Club in respect of this project would be met from within the fund detailed in 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 Orkney Sailing 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 (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

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11. Appendix

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