

INDICATIVE EU FUNDING FOR CHORD

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of potential European funding options for the CHORD projects. The figures contained within the report are indicative only and must be subject to due process in assessing eligible costs following detailed consideration of the Full Business Cases once they are developed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** (i) To note the report as an indications of potential European funding into CHORD projects.
(ii) To consider the role of the European Unit in the CHORD board project planning process.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** European funding presents an opportunity to maximise the activities that are planned as part of the CHORD projects. With grant rates between 25% and 75% of eligible costs available, assessing the eligibility of expenditure is an important consideration for the Project Board. European funding can also complement other external funders such as the lottery and active engagement is underway with the External Funding Officer to ensure that all external funding opportunities complement each other.
- 3.2** The Council has been given a strong indication by the Highlands and Islands ERDF Programme Director and by the Scottish Government Managing Authority that as there is a significant underspend in the Highlands and Islands ERDF Programme and that they are very keen to work with us to identify eligible projects for grant assistance.
- 3.3** However it is important to note at this stage that European funding has strict eligibility criteria and that these criteria relate to economic development outcomes. The information currently available from the CHORD project Outline Business Cases is not sufficiently detailed to enable a definite level of grant to be

identified. This will be developed once the Full Business Cases are complete. It is important that CHORD projects are placed within the context of wider economic development and regeneration rather than presented as purely physical and environmental projects.

3.4 It is also important to note that an application for European funding cannot proceed prior to all statutory permissions, such as planning, being in place.

3.5 The European Manager has attended the Dunoon and Rothesay Project Boards. In developing the Full Business Cases, officers with European funding knowledge are available to support all of the Boards and project teams.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 There is significant potential for the CHORD projects to benefit from European funding, but this will be subject to eligible costs being identified in the Full Business Cases.

4.2 The European Unit has prioritised CHORD in its work programme and will be available to advise all the Boards and project teams.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The CHORD projects take forward the Councils approved Local Plan policy for town centre regeneration. Economic outcomes from these projects fit with the Government's Economic Strategy.

Financial: Additional income from European grants would enhance the CHORD project budgets.

Personnel: Existing officer time is allocated through the work plan.

Equal Opportunity: All European projects are required to comply with Equal Opportunities.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

1 Appendix A – Table of indicative European funding.

