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**SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2018/19**

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**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report recommends projects to be put forward to a public vote for the award of the Supporting Communities Fund in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.
- 1.2 This process is part of the Council's decision to undertake a pilot project with the Supporting Communities Fund and trial a Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach to distributing the funds.
- 1.3 Voting is expected to take place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April and a plan to engage and promote this to all citizens in the administrative area is attached for consideration.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Area Committee agrees the 23 projects, listed in table 1, progress to the public vote.
- 2.2 Area Committee considers and provides any further suggestions to the proposed plan for engagement and promotion of voting.
- 2.3 Area Committee agrees that projects taking place between 31 March and the vote count cannot be funded retrospectively but that funding can be awarded to be spent within a calendar year of the vote count.
- 2.4 Area Committee agrees carry forward of £1,082.30 with respect to the Dunollie Projects Ltd "New Routes" project into the year 2018/19, which would allow an extended funding programme into June 2018. These monies are discrete from the monies (detailed below at 3.6) going to public vote.

**3.0 DETAILS**

- 3.1 It was agreed by Council on 27 September 2017 that the Supporting Communities Fund be distributed via a PB approach for 2018/19 as a pilot. Recommendations from the pilot will support the Council's considerations of how it could best implement the Scottish Government target of 1% of budget distributed through PB methods by 2020.
- 3.2 Area Committee considered the outline approach to the pilot project at their meeting in December.

- 3.3 A website for project ideas was open from 13 November to 22 December 2017. 33 ideas were shared on this for Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Some of these ideas developed to applications to the fund. An evaluation of the ideas site will form part of the overall evaluation of the pilot.
- 3.4 27 eligible applications were received in Oban, Lorn and the Isle with one subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. The process of scoring of applications against criteria remains the same as in previous years of the fund. 23 projects are recommended to go forward to public vote, see Table 1.
- 3.5 It was agreed at Council on 27 September that in 2018/19 successful applicants, via public vote, can receive full funding of project up to maximum of £2,500.
- 3.6 The Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for 2018/19 is £24,500. In addition, there is a carry forward of £4,393 from a return of funds from previous projects unable to spend their funding, giving a total available for allocation at public vote of £28,893.
- 3.7 Projects that are not recommended to go forward this year either did not meet the criteria or meet a threshold in the scoring to be taken forward. Support to strengthen future funding applications is offered to those projects. Details in Table 2.
- 3.8 For projects going forward to the public vote support is provided to best describe the project and illustrate it with an image for the online dedicated voting website. A plan to promote voting to citizens in the area is attached for consideration.
- 3.9 A focus group of representatives from groups identified as potentially having a lower equality of access to online voting sites is informing the approach and the attached plan may develop subject to their input.
- 3.10 One application has been received for a project which will take place during the voting period. Current grant conditions state that the Supporting Communities Fund cannot support retrospective projects. Unless otherwise agreed by Area Committee, all funding has to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The trial of a PB approach to distributing the Supporting Community Fund will culminate in a digital online public vote that will take place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. The engagement plan attached will provide a wide and varied approach to engaging with the public and, informed by the Focus Group, provide assistance for those that need it.
- 4.2 On completion of the grant pilot process, a full evaluation will take place to review and make recommendations for future Supporting Communities Fund distribution.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy: Pilot project in response to legislation within the Community Empowerment Act requiring Councils to consider Participatory Budgeting in financial decision making
- 5.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities Potential inequality in accessing a digital voting site is recognised, a focus group has been put together to address this
- 5.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

## **6.0 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote
- 6.2 Table 2 – Not going forward to Public Vote
- 6.3 Engagement Plan – Public Vote

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**Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote**

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
1.	Air Ghleus	Air Ghleus	Air Ghleus provides tuition for children from Mull and Iona to learn Gaelic and evoke interest in the language. It promotes Gaelic culture, encourages its development and assists in sustaining local and national mòds.	£2,500
2.	Appin Community Development Trust	Appin Goes Digital	This project will create a web portal for Appin to provide easy and integrated access to information on organisations, groups, activities and events across the whole of the Appin area. This will benefit both residents and visitors, connect them to activities, and encourage volunteering.	£2,500
3.	Ardchattan Community Council	10 Year Plan for Benderloch, Bonawe, Barcaldine, North Connel	This project will host events to engage the community and encourage them to contribute to a 10 year Community-led Action Plan for Ardchattan area. Facilitators will encourage participation and creative activities will inspire people to look at where they live imaginatively.	£2,170
4.	Bookends	Bookends Pop-ups - Bridging the Gap	Following the success of Bookends Festival in Benderloch this project will extend the chance for all members of the community to share this space on a regular basis, bringing young and old the chance to gather communally. The monthly events are in response to community feedback.	£495

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
5.	Comar	Show on the Road	Comar will provide community based one-off performing arts workshops for primary aged children in five locations. The sessions will be followed up with teacher training packs for local schools to enable activities to be continued through the schools.	£1,630
6.	Co-Roinn Ghàidhlig Mhuile agus Idhe	Co-Roinn Ghàidhlig Mhuile agus Idhe	As well as regular Gaelic classes, this project plans to offer both step dancing and Gaelic drama workshops for both adults and children on Mull.	£2,500
7.	Crossroads North Argyll	Crossroads North Argyll Reminiscence Project	This project aims to develop a reminiscence project for elderly people with care needs living at home with a carer. This will enable the cared for person to get out of the house and take part in an activity that keeps the brain stimulated and active.	£2,480
8.	Fèis Latharna	Fèis Bheag	Fèis Bheag will offer 5 ½ day artsplay sessions for 5-7yr olds as part of their Easter event, giving them a fun and engaging taste of traditional music, song and dance.	£713
9.	Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival*	Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival	This project is seeking a contribution towards a volunteer run 3 day traditional music and dance competition event that attracts 3,000+ visitors to the area. It includes community activities such as an outdoor event with young musicians, music workshops, pipe band event etc.	£2,000
10.	Lorn & Oban Healthy Options Ltd	Dalmally: developing healthy communities.	The project will deliver a 42-week programme of Strength and Balance exercise classes in Dalmally. Classes cater for a range of fitness levels and can lead to 1:1 support if required.	£2,225

11.	Mull Museum	Lephin Chapel Community Archaeological Excavation	Mull Museum plans a programme of archaeological works at the burial ground site known as Lephin Chapel or Port Bhraonian, on the Isle of Mull. The project will build upon the exciting results from Baliscate project in 2012.	£1,500
12.	North Argyll Eventide Home Association	Music and Movement at North Argyll House	The project will provide weekly fun, interactive Music, Dance and Movement sessions. All residents will be encouraged to join at their own pace and ability.	£2,100
13.	Oban and Mull Army Cadets	Oban & Mull Army Cadets WW1 Battlefield Tour 2018	This request is a contribution to enable young people from Oban and Mull to participate in a Battlefields tour to increase cadets' awareness and understanding of the sacrifices and events of WW1	£2,500
14.	Oban Communities Trust	Master Builders: Creative Construction and Lego Club	Oban Communities Trust is working with a group of parents to establish a weekly family Lego Club in Oban town centre and the application is for start-up costs. Oban Communities Trust will provide on-going support, with the aim that the club will become independently constituted and self-running.	£2,500
15.	Oban Community Sensory Garden	Oban Community Sensory Garden Art Project	This project will run an art project for adults with learning disabilities to create mosaic panels, shell sculptures and plant identification labels, to provide creative development opportunities for members and enhance the Oban Community Sensory Garden.	£900

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
16.	Oban Mòd Academy	Oban Mòd Academy	Oban Mòd Academy provides tuition and Gaelic speaking and non-Gaelic speaking children to prepare them for local and national Mòds and increase participation from Oban and Lorn. The grant would contribute to tutor fees.	£2,000
17.	Oban Riding for the Disabled Driving Group (SCIO)	Driving for Success	This group have applied for running costs for their horse and carriage driving project for people with disabilities. Costs include hay, shoes, feed and vet fees for two horses.	£2,052
18.	Oban Youth Cafe	Oban Youth Café Monday Club	This project requests start-up costs for a weekly after school youth club for young people with additional support needs to be held in Oban Youth Café.	£2,000
19.	Rockfield PTA	Kilts and Tartan Ties for Rockfield Primary School Choir	Rockfield School Choir is an after school club open to all P4-7 pupils. This project would provide kilts and ties for choir members to borrow to improve presentation and confidence at performance.	£858
20.	Sound Waves SCIO	Mull Music Makers	This project will help to fund a programme of free music workshops to youngsters on the Isle of Mull and will help to pay for regular violin/fiddle tutors.	£2,500
21.	Tiree Music Festival*	Tiree Music Festival: The Elements Programme	Creative and active workshops around the themes of Wind, Sea, Sand and Sun to be delivered to local children in the run up to the Festival and will be open to all over the course of the Festival itself.	£2,500

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
22.	Tobermory Harbour Association	Making waves in marine science at Mull Aquarium	Mull Aquarium will engage children in science by fostering curiosity in marine life. This will be achieved through participation in CREST awards, a nationally accredited scheme, to be completed through fun sessions.	£1,800
23.	UHI Wind and Wave Club	Progress Through Training	This project aims to train members in refitting and maintaining their fleet of Fireflys providing sailors with skills in basic boat repairs and increasing employability for all attendees.	£2,320

*\*Events and Festivals*



**Table 2 – Not Going Forward to Public Vote**

<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
1	Arinagour Primary School Parent Council	An annual residential excursion to Mull for the pupils of Coll to meet with and learn alongside Mull pupils who will also, at secondary school level, be attending Oban High School. The grant would cover costs for travel, food and accommodation.
2	Fèis na h-Apainne	Monthly traditional music and dance tuition for children of all ages and adults including clarsach, chanter and pipes, guitar, dance, Gaelic singing, music technology, fiddle, accordion, whistle and group work.
3	New Start Oban	To provide starter packs for homeless people moving into tenancies.
4	Roses Charitable Trust	To provide a regular programme of outdoor activities for a group of vulnerable young people from Oban High School.

## **Engagement Plan: Public Vote (3<sup>rd</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018)**

### **1.0 Pre-Voting Stage**

- 1.1 In accordance with the National Standards of Community Engagement, efforts have been made to maximise inclusion in promoting the public vote. Obstacles to participation were identified by the participants of a focus group. Digital exclusion has been identified as a barrier. The outcome of the focus group will inform the approach taken to reduce perceived barriers.
- 1.2 The Community Development team worked together with the community to identify the methods of engagement that were fit for purpose to expand the voting base.

### **2.0 Public Engagement**

- 2.1 The Outreach strategy has several strands. To advertise the SCF PB website to the widest possible range of communities; to target specific communities with identified participation barriers, and to target 'advocate' groups, who would be enthusiastic participants.
- 2.2 The strategy builds on the groundwork by the team during the Ideas stage of the SCF PB pilot and follows a similar trajectory.
- 2.3 The Community Development team works with community partners such as Adult Learning and Argyll & Bute TSI to deliver the Outreach strategy.
- 2.4 In particular, the strategy targets locations and communities with identified inequalities issues and takes a variety of formats. (see table, below)

Format	Method	Purpose
Advertising	Posters, fliers and Postcards displayed in public places – Leisure Centres, Libraries, Community Halls, Public Notice Boards, Local Pubs, Cafes and Shops.	To widen public knowledge about SCF PB and to generate interest in voting.
Digital /Social Media	Information on A&B Council Website, Facebook Page & Twitter.  Community Groups are encouraged to advertise and redirect to SCF PB from their Website, Facebook page & Twitter.	To multiply SCF PB coverage.
Face to Face Events	Publicised events with Community Development staff	To explain SCF PB and to present the voting site and to get face to face feedback with a broad section of the community.
Targeted Events	Specific Groups  Either: Identified as having barriers to participation, eg. Seniors, the Digitally Excluded and Groups of Multiple Deprivation.  Or: 'Advocate' groups – enthusiastic participants, who would encourage others to the site to vote, eg. S5 & S6 students.	To demonstrate the SCF PB website and to guide hesitant members of the public whilst voting.