

Argyll & Bute Funding Hub Report September 2007

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to appoint a management committee member as chair of the Funding Hub to drive forward a fundamental change within the funding arena and to establish a sustainable way of working with Argyll and Bute projects to deliver CPP objectives.

Background

The Funding Hub has been in operation since the first meeting on 18th April 2007. The purpose of the Hub is to help develop or maintain sustainable projects in the area by maximising the amount of funding and support to these projects through improved quality of bids and closer links with local priorities as identified through the CPP Plan. The outcomes are;

- Better quality bids
- Higher bid success rate
- Successful bids help deliver local priorities
- Projects are knowledgeable about the sources of funding and support available to them

To date the Hub has fed back on six pitches and is progressing joint initiatives to signpost and co-ordinate funding in the area eg. European Funding and strategic relationship with Big Lottery Fund.

Role of Chair

The appointed person will chair the pitching session and full meeting both of which are held after the Management Committee meetings every 8 weeks. They will be responsible for ensuring that emerging agendas within the funding arena are highlighted and acted upon as necessary by the MC and the full CPP.

Emerging Agendas

- European Funding – Priority 3: Peripheral and Fragile Communities. “It is expected that CPPs will be invited to submit proposals for a package of projects/activities in their respective areas.”
- SRDP - Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (SRDP). It is a bottom up form of local governance aimed at empowering communities to develop their own area using innovative approaches and cooperation. LEADER is a mainstream part of this.
- Initiative at the Edge – The national steering group have indicated that the relationship between latE and CPP will be closer.
- Sustainability– The Hub is the forum for partners to share information on their available resources/funding eg. The CHP
- The Funders Forum – National forum bringing together all funders to develop common approaches to grant making and closer working.

Why?

The reasons for having a member of the MC chair the Hub are to;

- give partners the opportunity to participate more actively
- enable the Hub to operate at a more strategic level
- ensure two-way communication
- ensure projects/initiatives that need support are flagged up
- where appropriate to develop a project from an identified need
- act as a link between the hub and the CPP

Who?

The skills required by the Chair would embrace a range of appropriate disciplines such as assessing and awarding grants, experience of EC funding processes, committee chairing, reasonable neutrality and unlikely to have a direct stake in the projects being assessed. Care must be taken to ensure that the position of Chair is not comprised by their involvement in emerging projects.

Conclusion and recommendation

There are many exciting opportunities for the Funding Hub to become a leading exemplar in joining up funding to make best use of resources. It is a mechanism for partners to work closer together and deliver CPP objectives and having a chair who is a member of the management committee will help to drive this forward.