

A photograph of three people working in a community garden. A man in a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, wearing tan work gloves, holds a small potted plant with orange flowers. A woman in a teal polo shirt and khaki shorts, wearing green gloves, is planting a red flower in the soil. Another person wearing a red hat is partially visible on the left. The garden is filled with various plants, including green leafy vegetables and small white flowers. A green mesh fence is in the background.

COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

APPROVED BY HHP BOARD:

EFFECTIVE DATE:
February 2024



hebridean housing
partnership

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The HHP Community Grant Fund is available to support small scale community projects that will improve the quality of life for residents and make a real difference to the neighbourhoods which we serve. The level of award for any suitable project shall be determined by the Board.

AIMS

- 2.1 This policy seeks to support activity by local groups to improve the lives and environment in their area.

ELIGIBLE GROUPS

- 3.1 The fund is open to charities, tenant and residents' groups and voluntary organisations. There must be a benefit to our tenants from the project being proposed.
- 3.2 Groups must be based in an area which serves one or more of our estates or streets. Normally groups should have a registered bank account with two signatories who are not related and who do not live at the same address.
- 3.3 It may however be possible to fund projects where the group do not have a bank account and where the costs can be paid directly by us. Funds may also be managed via the Forum.

PRIORITIES

- 4.1 Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate that their project supports one or more of the following priorities:

Healthy Living and Well Being

- 4.2 We aim to support residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, with access to the care and support services they need. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to reduce isolation, build connections and friendships.

Environmental Improvements and Sustainability

- 4.3 We aim to make our neighbourhoods greener and cleaner places to live and to assist our residents to live more sustainable lifestyles. We are particularly interested in projects which actively engage people in improving spaces or places as well as projects which support greener lifestyle choices.

Young People, Children and Older People

- 4.4 We want to support the most vulnerable in our communities. We want to provide opportunities for our young people and to ensure our elderly are supported.

Employment Training and Skills

- 4.5 We aim to support residents in developing skills and accessing training opportunities in order to enter into, and sustain, employment. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to increase employability, gain qualifications and help people progress into work. We also aim to ensure that everyone is able to access the basic financial services products that are needed to participate in a modern society. We are interested in projects which increase the confidence of people to manage their money.

Community Support and Safety

- 4.6 We aim to ensure that our communities are safe places to live and are equipped with the infrastructure they need to shape their aims and aspirations. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to bring the community together and to make our communities feel safer and increase a sense of belonging and pride.

DECISION MAKING

- 5.1 Decisions on whether projects will be supported are made by the Operations Working Group.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 6.1 Applicants to the fund will be required to submit an application form providing details of their project and group.
- 6.2 All applications will be assessed, and a report will be presented to the next meeting of the Board following completion of this assessment.
- 6.3 Applicants will be notified of the decision as quickly as possible thereafter.

CONDITION OF GRANT

- 7.1 It will be a condition of any grant offer that the applicant will work with officers to record expenditure, to monitor progress and to share stories. Officers will work to support successful applicants to make sure that the project is a success.

- 7.2 The grant offer will set out the payment arrangements for the grant and the timescale for the grant.

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- 8.1 The following activities are not eligible for funding and will not be supported.
- Routine repairs or maintenance. (Upgrading equipment may be supported)
 - Political or religious activities.
 - Ongoing running costs e.g. insurance, utility costs, rent, and salaries
 - Funding individuals or projects which only benefit one person
 - Fixtures and fittings e.g. chairs, tables etc. unless the project cannot run without the specialised equipment
 - Sponsorship or projects, which are motivated mainly by marketing or branding
 - Purchase and distribution of alcohol for any event

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 9.1 We are committed to providing fair and equal treatment to all its customers and service users and will not discriminate against any individual, household or group on the grounds of:
- sex or marital status;
 - race or colour;
 - disability;
 - age;
 - sexual orientation;
 - language or social origin;
 - employment status or;
 - other personal attributes, including beliefs or opinions such as religious beliefs or political opinions.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF POLICY

- 10.1 This policy will be reviewed every 3 years in line with the Policy Review Schedule.

INTERPRETATIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

The following interpretation and abbreviations are used in this policy:

WORD	INTERPRETATION
<i>HHP or Partnership</i>	Hebridean Housing Partnership
<i>Board</i>	Means the Board of the Hebridean Housing Partnership
<i>Board Members</i>	All Members of the Board including co-opted Members
<i>The Forum</i>	Western Isles Housing Association Community Forum
All references to the masculine gender in this policy shall read as equally applicable to the feminine gender	

If there is a conflict between this Policy and any statutory provision or regulation, the latter shall prevail.



HHP is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, Registered Number: 2644R(S), Registered Office: Creed Court, Gleann Seileach Business Park, Willowglen Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2QP. It is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number: SCO35767, registered as Registered Social Landlord with the Scottish Housing Regulator, Registration Number: 359 and registered as a Property Factor, Registration Number PF000183

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