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One way to boost your budget

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Highland Core Path Implementation Programme



Why improve Core Paths?

- Importance for health, recreation, conservation, sustainable travel and tourism economy.
- Core Paths are the most 'important' paths in the area,
 - In HC area, 1120 core paths covering 2493 km
- Public expectation after consultation.



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BUT- dwindling budget



- Pre 2007-approx £500K under GAE
- 2008- £180K revenue + £100K capital
- 2009- hold on all non-essential uncommitted funds.
- 2010- ?





Why apply to LEADER?

- Reductions in local authority budget- so ensures committed funds, increase them and enables work to be implemented sooner.
- 3 year commitment
- Not a statutory duty of local authority.
- Aims such as Improving accessibility/ Enhancing the Rural Environment
- Community involvement.
- Highland wide (except Inverness).



LEADER in Scotland

- LEADER- Euro funding & part of SRDP (5%),
- aimed at economic & community development in rural areas
- Bottom up community driven innovative in nature
- Build up knowledge & skills

- Applications decided by Local Action Groups (LAGS)
- 20 LAGS cover 95% of rural Scotland
- £38M + £19.2M convergence in 7 LAGS as previously disadvantaged & remote areas
- Highland LEADER has biggest allocation of £14M



Reasons for success

- High level of consultation= innovation +extent & inclusivity
- Our application met
 - 2/5 Themes,
 - benefits all target groups,
 - high no. of outputs (503)
 - 4/12 Outcomes,
 - 3/6 forms of additionality
- Integration with SOA
 - Our communities take a greater role in shaping their future
 - Our natural heritage is protected & enhanced enabling it to deliver economic health and learning benefit
 - Healthy life expectancy is improved especially for the most disadvantaged

What we want to do?

- Path Improvement Projects £600K
- Signposting £ 90K
- Access network leaflets £ 30K
- People counters £ 20K
- Admin £ 40K

- Identified HC budget £423K
- LEADER £350K
- Bord na Gaidhlig £ 7K

- **TOTAL** **£780K**
- Increased budget by 45% for next 3 years

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Path Improvement Projects



- Community application form
- Apply May-July, up to £25K
- More community involvement the better.
- Priority on accessibility
- HC assistance- AO advice, tendering, invoicing
- Targets –
 - 10 in first year
 - 15 in second
 - 20 in third



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Outline Work Programme



| Year 1- 2010/11 | Year 2 – 2011/12 | Year 3 – 2012/13 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Signposting, 75% of area | Signposting, 25% of area | |
| Improvement projects- min 10 | Improvement projects- min 15 | Improvement projects- min 20 |
| Install counters | | Leaflets |
| £260K | £260K | £260K |

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Summary



- Extensive consultation during Core Path planning.
- Utilises community expertise & enthusiasm and 'ownership'
- Geographic spread of funding.
- Professional staff assistance
- Provides effective value for money.



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Questions?

