

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FINANCE AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: TOMINTOUL AND GLENLIVET DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**Prepared by: Sandra Middleton, Head of Rural Development
Lee Haxton, Community Support Manager**

Purpose

To provide an update on the current funding situation with the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) and implications for CNPA's funding contribution.

Recommendations

The Finance and Delivery Committee are asked to:

- note the current funding situation;
- provide feedback on the proposed strategic outcomes; and,
- consider and advise on the proposed options for addressing any funding shortfall for the Development Officer Post.

Executive Summary

The Corporate Plan provides for further funding of the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust Development (TGDT) Officer post for the current year and two future funding years. Strategic Outcomes for the Grant Offer to the Trust have been drawn up to align with other funders, the Trust's business plan, and the CNPA Corporate Plan. This approach also brings TGDT into closer alignment with CNPA funding for other Community Development Organisations including Marr Area Partnership and Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey. TGDT is also applying for funding from existing funding partners HIE and the Moray Council. In the situation that there is a funding gap for the post other funding options are being explored, in the event of a shortfall the preferred option is to compress the project period.

Background

1. The CNPA has been a part funder of the TGDT Development Officer post since its inception three years ago. A great deal has been achieved to date by the Trust and a new Development Officer is in post to bring the Trust into the next phase. CNPA has been working with the Trust and key partners HIE, the Moray Council, and the Crown Estate to confirm funding for the Development Officer post for a further three years. TGDT are a key partner in ensuring the success of the Landscape Partnership Bid and delivery of key projects if the bid is successful. Without the Development Officer post the Trust would not have the capacity to support delivery of these projects.

TGDT Funding Situation

2. TGDT are an HIE account managed community with HIE providing a third of the funding to the Development Officer Post with CNPA and Moray Council providing a further third each. The Crown Estate provides support in kind. The current funding arrangement expires in November of this year and a review of the approach has been undertaken with partners to inform future funding arrangements. TGDT are now seeking further funding to extend the Development Officer Post to 2018.

Strategic Outcomes

3. TGDT has successfully delivered on a number of the key points identified in the Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan. Following a review led by HIE as Account Managers for the organisation and discussions with funding partners, three key outcomes have been identified for TGDT to focus on over the period to 2018. These outcomes will be a funding requirement for partners, these are:
 - a) **Outcome 1** – There is improved and sustainable capacity within the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust and wider community;
 - b) **Outcome 2** – Community services, infrastructure and facilities are improved, maintained and become increasingly sustainable; and
 - c) **Outcome 3** – Natural and cultural heritage is enhanced and celebrated, and used to attract additional visitors.
4. These outcomes align with the Memorandums of Agreement that CNPA have with the Marr Area Partnership and Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey who provide community capacity building and support in the wider CNP. Outcome 1 specifically refers to capacity building in the community to enable TGDT to become more sustainable and less reliant on the public purse for funding.

Funding Partners

5. **HIE** – remain very supportive of TGDT providing both funding and wider support, they are currently going through the approval process to confirm further funding.
6. **Moray Council** – TGDT have made an application to the Moray Council for funding which will be considered by their Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee on 25 August. Given the current financial constraints and the Moray Council's commitment to funding the Landscape Partnership Bid there is a risk that this application may not be successful.

7. **CNPA** - through the CNPA Corporate Plan we have committed to funding this post for a further three years at £15k per annum, this is confirmed through the Operational Plan for the current year.
8. **Crown Estate** - continue to be supportive of the Trust but are not currently in a position to commit support at this stage.
9. **TGDT** – the Trust creates its own income streams through the Hostel and events, these are relatively low at present. They are also developing other income generating projects which will provide a more sustainable future for the Trust.

Funding Options

10. In the event that there is a funding shortfall for the Development Officer post there are a number of options that are currently being explored, these are outlined in the table below.

| No. | Option | Description |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Investigate other Funding partners | HIE are currently investigating other funding options to support the Trust including Scottish Government initiatives. |
| 2. | LEADER | TGDT could develop projects to apply for LEADER funding, as well as aligning to the Local Development Strategy these would also have to align with the TGDT business plan and there is no guarantee of success or that funding would support the post. |
| 3. | Landscape Partnership Bid | TGDT are a key partner in delivering key projects in the Landscape Partnership Bid, the Trust must ensure full cost recovery in relation to these projects and the bid could be adapted to support this although timing of this may be an issue and this could not be confirmed at present. |
| 4. | Making post part-time | The Development Officer post could be made part-time to reduce funding requirement. Current workload requires a full-time post and the Development Officer was recruited as such. |
| 5. | Compression of project period | Reduction in the period of the project would enable the post to continue full time but for a slightly shorter period enabling them to develop future funding options. |

11. All funding options are currently being pursued, in the event that there is a shortfall and other funding partners cannot be found the preferred option is to compress the period of the project (No. 5). This option is supported by HIE and the TGDT.

Financial Implications

12. CNPA has already committed funding for the post within the current Corporate Plan. We aim to continue funding at the budgeted level with the potential for this funding to be compressed into a shorter period as required. The total funding for the project would remain at the same level but the length of project reduced to bring it into line with financial years. The compression of the period of the post will result in slightly higher levels of expenditure over the next two years than originally anticipated, albeit with the same total expenditure commitment to the post. This can be accommodated within current budgets although there will be some opportunity costs of loss of flexibility in ability to respond to other needs which may arise in this time.

Next Steps

13. Following discussion with the Finance and Delivery Committee and the decision from Moray Council, HIE would produce the necessary paperwork, based on the three strategic outcomes identified in paragraph 6. Following the commencement of the project HIE would invoice CNPA for our contribution, approximately three months in arrears.
14. CNPA has regular liaison with TGDT through the Community Support Manager and has recently been asked to attend Board Meetings to ensure that strategic oversight is maintained.

Sandra Middleton
Lee Haxton
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sandramiddleton@cairngorms.co.uk
leehaxton@cairngorms.co.uk