

FOR PUBLICATION

MG 08/06

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT GROUP HELD ON MONDAY, 6 MARCH 2006

PRESENT: Sandy Brady (Director – Strategy) (In the Chair - Items 1, 2 and 3)
Douglas MacDiarmid (Director - Global Connections) (In the Chair - Item 4)
A Paterson (Director – Developing Skills)
Bill Sylvester (Director – Partnership Projects)
John Watt (Director - Strengthening Communities)
Jackie Wright (Director - Growing Businesses)
Allan MacLeod (Corporate Services)
David Smillie (Strengthening Communities) (Item 2 only)
Ken Grant (Orkney Enterprise) (Item 3 only)
Graham Sinclair (Orkney Enterprise) (Item 3 only)
Alison MacNeill (Executive Office)

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2006 (MG 07/06) (HIE 2004/0228)

These Minutes were approved.

2 CONTRACT WITH COMUNN NA GAIDHLIG 2006-07 (PCS 29301) (HIE 2004/04533)

Funding was requested by Comunn Na Gaidhlig (CNAG) for its current wide ranging Gaelic development programme including Cli Gaidhlig (an organisation providing services for learners, supporters and speakers of Scots Gaelic) who deliver Gaelic courses which fill the considerable gaps in the provision of language tuition in Scotland, and Tosg (the Gaelic Drama Company) whose programme includes the taking of commissioned work to Highlands and Islands locations, as well as youth opportunities, creative writing and script development work. It was agreed to approve gross Network assistance of £376,000 from HIE's Block A, Culture, Heritage and Youth Budget. Fund dispersal will comprise £94,000 in financial year 2005/06 and £282,000 in financial year 2006/07.

Confirmation was received from Solicitor, Allan MacKenzie that the CNAG contract does not fall within the OJEU procurement requirements.

3 THE EUROPEAN MARINE ENERGY CENTRE LTD (EMEC) – PROJECT UPDATE (HIE 2003/00175)

Agreement was given for Orkney Enterprise to release the next tranche of £350,000 approved working capital assistance from the cash projections for the current financial year (2005/06), subject to a further detailed report on the progress of the project being submitted to Management Group before 30 June 2006. The requirement for a timeline for future payments was also highlighted and the Group noted EMEC's projected future cash requirements beyond September 2006 and the intention to bring this to the attention of project funding partners' at a meeting being held on 6 March 2006.

It was also agreed that formal proposals for financing HIE's share of any funding arrangement covering the tidal project overspend would be brought before the Management Group as soon as practicable after the initial meeting with the project funding partners on 6 March 2006.

The need for ongoing support for the EMEC facility to meet its intended role of providing unique facilities to make a UK marine energy sector a commercial reality was noted.

4 OTHER BUSINESS

(1) PICT INNOVATION – PCS AMENDMENT (PCS 29301) (RCE 2005/00417) (HIE 2004/03216)

Douglas MacDiarmed assumed Chair due to Sandy Brady's role as Director of PICT Innovation Ltd. It was agreed that Jackie Wright who was also a Director could remain in the meeting in order to answer any questions which might arise.

Approval was given to de-commit £303,831 in financial year 2005/06. This represents the total amount claimed from ERDF for the period up to 31 March 2005, from the total ERDF approval of £347,327, with the final claim still outstanding.

The Network spend to date is £554,930.97 against a total approval of £570,992.

A J MacNeill
06 March 2006
HIE 2004/02228