

FOR PUBLICATION

MG 12/05
HIE 2004/02228

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT GROUP HELD ON MONDAY, 4 APRIL 2005

PRESENT: D MacDiarmid (Director – Global Connections) (in the chair)
G Cox (Director – Network Management System Project)
S Myles (Director – Human Resources)
W Sylvester (Director – Partnership Projects)
J Wright (Director - Growing Businesses)
A MacLeod (Corporate Services)
A Murray (Developing Skills)
A Nicolson (Strategy)
D Smillie (Strengthening Communities)
M Anderson (Executive Office)

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH (MG 11/05) (HIE 2004/0228)

These Minutes were approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING

(1) **Glencanisp and Drumrunie Acquisition (PCS 35037) (HIE 2004/02605)**

It was noted that following ministerial approval of a community right to buy and confirmation of Scottish Land Fund assistance of 50% of project costs, Network staff had been in discussion with the Assynt Foundation and a paper would be presented to the Management Group on 11 April for approval of Network funding towards the project.

3 CROFT ENTRANTS SCHEME 2005/06 (PCS 35325) (HIE 2004/04182/01)

At its meeting on 29 March, the Management Group had deferred a decision on this proposal to enable staff to provide additional information on budget provision and to give further consideration to the methodology for selecting the draft priority areas. Noting that these issues had been addressed satisfactorily, approval was given for a Network contribution of £197,500 towards total project costs of £274,500 for a Croft Entrant Scheme for 2005/06, aimed at providing financial support, advice and guidance as well as stimulating innovative developments for 50 new entrants to the scheme. It was noted that the Crofters Commission and Argyll & Bute Council were each to fund an additional 5 cases. The project, to be administered by the Crofters Commission, would operate in all of the locations falling within HIE's designated Priority Areas as set out in the paper. Funding to be debited from the Strengthening Communities Block A budget in 2005/06, to be released quarterly in arrears on presentation of evidence of expenditure by the Crofters Commission, subject to the conditions set out in the Service Level Agreement.

4 Paragraph removed for reasons of commercial interest.

Murina Anderson
4 April 2005