

FOR PUBLICATION

MT 20/07

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM HELD ON MONDAY, 16 JULY 2007

PRESENT: Sandy Cumming (Chief Executive)
Sandy Brady (Director – Strategy)
Forbes Duthie (Director – Corporate Services)
Susan Myles (Director – Human Resources)
John Watt (Director - Strengthening Communities)
Jackie Wright (Director – Business Growth & Research)
Stuart Robertson (Global Connections)
Douglas Cowan (Developing Skills)
Calum MacPherson (Area Operations)
Robert Muir (Director - HIE Skye and Wester Ross) (item 2 only)
Mandy Holmes (HIE Moray) (item 3 only - by VC)
David Reid (HIE Moray) (item 3 only - by VC)
Annemarie Monteforte (HIE Caithness and Sutherland)(item 4 only - by VC)
Keith Muir (HIE Caithness and Sutherland) (item 4 only - by VC)
Ken Abernethy (HIE Argyll and the Islands) (Item 5 only – by VC)
Dianne Waddell (HIE Argyll and the Islands)(Item 5 only - by VC)
Andrew Ross (Executive Office)
Anna Miller (Executive Office)

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 JULY 2007 (MT 19/07) (HIE 207/00262)

These Minutes were approved.

2 *Item removed for reasons of substantial prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

3 TIO LTD - TWO PART INVESTMENT PROJECT (IEH 2006/05572) (NMS 238641)

This paper recommended the allocation of financial resource to Tio Ltd in order to alter their cold storage area, improve their washing facilities and to extend their existing factory premises in Forres, Moray. Tio Ltd process, pack and market organic produce for the fresh and prepared vegetable markets. In discussion it was noted that HIE Network assistance was required in order for the project to proceed within timescales that would enable Tio Ltd to capture market opportunity and minimise disruption to business. It was also noted that whilst supportive, the applicant's bank was understood not to be prepared to fund the full project without public sector grant aid. Building costs associated with the extension of cold storage and the existing factory had been established through negotiation with MacGregor Construction (Highland) Ltd, a contractor with prior experience in dealing with Tio Ltd and that was available to complete the work within the necessary timescale. It was therefore agreed to approve a funding package of £266,300 on the basis that the obligation period was extended to 10 years.

4 ASHLEY ANN LTD - WICK FACTORY REDEVELOPMENT (CAS 2007/01470) (NMS 235636)

This project sought funding to enable Ashley Ann Ltd, a well established manufacturer of kitchens and fitted bedrooms, to modernise a new production site in Wick, replacing their original production premises in Thurso. Ashley Ann Ltd had purchased from HIE the disused factory building on the Wick Industrial Estate, formerly occupied by Grampian Records, and proposed to redevelop the building to provide increased capacity to allow the business to meet its sales targets. In discussion it was understood that the current showroom in Thurso would be maintained with the remainder of the building put on the market. The project was welcomed by the Management Team. The application for a maximum of £363,250 or 35% of eligible costs, whichever was the lower, was approved with the addition that in the event of sale of their original premises in Thurso in excess of £50,000, the HIE Network reserved the right to recover the excess.

5 INTEGRIN ADVANCED BIOSYSTEMS LTD - BESPOKE PREMISES (HIE 2006/02495) (NMS 239487)

This project sought assistance to Integrin Advanced Biosystems Ltd in order to design detailed plans for a proposed new office / laboratory at Glenshellach Business Park, Oban. Phase 1 funding had previously been approved in order to conduct feasibility studies and an options appraisal. This second application was to enable the design of architectural plans and obtain planning permission for the bespoke building. The project was welcomed and phase 2 funding of £186,000 was approved, acknowledging that this would give the HIE Network possession of detailed plans and planning permission for a bespoke marine science building in the Argyll area.

6 UHI'S RENEWABLE ENERGY CO-ORDINATION UNIT (HIE 2005/001267) (NMS 239487)

This project outlined the proposal that the University of the Highlands and Islands establish a Renewable Energy Co-ordination Unit (RECU). RECU would provide a coherent and co-ordinated approach to UHI renewable energy research and teaching, and facilitate the development and funding of renewable energy R&D capacity across the UHI partnership. It was understood that the application for HIE funding was contingent on UHI applying for and receiving approval of ERDF funding through their strategic delivery body agreement. In discussion it was agreed to approve funding of £380,500 on the basis that the application for ERDF funding was successful, that UHI as the applicant of European Funding would take full responsibility for the funding and any consequences, and that a location for the co-ordination unit would be agreed in advance by HIE and would not be situated within the Inverness area.

A Miller
18 July 2007
HIE 2007/00262