

# CARLOWAY ESTATE TRUST

HIE and SLF acquisition (May 2015)



## WHAT

Purchase of the Carloway Estate and associated rights, to allow pro-active development of the estate for community benefit.

## HOW HIE HELPED

Acquisition and revenue costs: £38,964

- Contributed to the total costs of acquisition, revenue and associated legal costs.

Officer support:

- To complete a strong application to the Scottish Land Fund for additional acquisition costs and revenue funding.

## OUTCOME

The Carloway community is empowered and enabled to own and manage the estate in accordance with local needs.



## BACKGROUND

Carloway Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh) (CET) formed to pursue the opportunity of purchasing Carloway Estate. Representatives of the local community entered discussions with the landowner during 2012 regarding community ownership of the 11,500 acre crofting estate on the west-side of Lewis.

Extensive consultation and research was carried out including detailed feasibility studies on the main options for income generation on the estate – housing, tourism and renewables. These activities were highlighted as being of particular relevance to help build community confidence and stem depopulation in the area. A community ballot took place in February 2014, involving 16 and 17 year olds for the first time in a ballot of this sort, demonstrating community support for the estate buyout by CET.

## PROJECT DETAILS

Community ownership of the estate was seen to have numerous potential benefits for the development of projects which could help provide employment and housing, and generate income. These are largely based around tourism, renewable energy and business development to stimulate the economy in the area. There is also a drive to manage the land sustainably and build local skills through volunteering opportunities. This demonstrates the potential environmental and social benefits from community ownership and management of the estate.

CET were keen to secure funding for a development officer to help take forward their development plans following acquisition of the estate. This takes some of the burden off the volunteer board, provides a central contact point for the local community and allows the group to maintain their momentum building on progress so far.

## HIE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

We part-funded the project by contributing to the conveyancing costs of the acquisition, revenue costs of the development officer post and mapping of the estate. Our involvement also helped to guide CET throughout the process of applying for funding resulting in a successful application to the Scottish Land Fund for the majority of the acquisition and revenue funding. We have continued to support the Trust through account management by the HIE area office.

## OUTCOMES

### HIE support helped to:

- Build community confidence through the consultation and acquisition process.
- Empower the community to take on ownership of the estate and develop income generating opportunities.
- Secure funding for the acquisition and ongoing development officer costs.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### Contact

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### Contact

Carloway Estate Trust

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