

GALLAN HEAD COMMUNITY TRUST

Start-up costs (November 2014)



WHAT

Community purchase of an area of land for development of economic and employment opportunities for community benefit.

HOW HIE HELPED

Start-up cost support: £2000

- To fund early group and project costs such as incorporation, venue hire, community consultation and professional fees.

Officer support:

- To consider options for purchase, and working alongside the Scottish Government Community Land Team, to initiate the Community Right to Buy process.

OUTCOME

Suitable organisation established with good community support to pursue the Community Right to Buy application and complete the acquisition.



BACKGROUND

Gallan Head Community Trust (GHCT) was formed in September 2014 to explore the options for community purchase of the RAF Aird Uig site from the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The site is adjacent to a small community in an area on the west coast of Lewis which has a number of challenges such as an aging population, limited employment opportunities and connectivity and lack of suitable housing.

The MoD approached the community to suggest the sale of the land and a public meeting was held to discuss further investigation of the idea. This met with a favourable response as community acquisition was seen as an opportunity to address some of the local challenges.

PROJECT DETAILS

As requested by the MoD, the group entered into the process of registering a community interest in the site through the Community Right to Buy (CRtB) legislation. This process requires a number of activities to be carried out such as the establishment of an eligible applicant organisation and payment of incorporation fees, conducting a title search and demonstration of a high level of community support.

The start-up grant can help to meet the costs of these activities, which can be difficult for a new group to cover, and provide funding for GHCT to undertake study visits, produce marketing materials, hire venues for meetings as required.

HIE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

We provided the group with initial support to begin their CRtB application, including a template Articles of Association. Their initial start-up costs were covered by a grant of £2000. We have continued to work with the group to develop their feasibility study and further community consultation. They plan to apply to the Scottish Land Fund for support towards acquisition costs.

OUTCOMES

HIE support helped to:

- Support the establishment of GHCT as an eligible entity for CRtB.
- Build community capacity and cohesion through additional local community engagement.
- Develop a robust feasibility study and ensure GHCT have a sound business plan on which to base their acquisition and ownership proposals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Contact

Gallan Head Community Trust

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