

# SOUTH ISLAY DEVELOPMENT

SLF and HIE acquisition funding (March 2014)



## WHAT

Grant towards the cost of purchase and the employment of a development officer to support the community ownership of Port Ellen Filling Station.

## HOW HIE HELPED

Acquisition funding: £17,500

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

Officer support:

- To complete a strong application to the Scottish Land Fund.

## OUTCOME

Community empowered to take forward ownership of a vital local service and explore further development of the site.



## BACKGROUND

South Islay Development (SID) was established in 2010 with the aim of stimulating local community development. The filling station in Port Ellen had been on the market for several years and there was a growing concern in the community that it would be closed, leaving residents in southern Islay with up to a 38 mile round trip to purchase fuel. Port Ellen is the main point of entry for tourists to Islay and marine tourism is a potential growth sector for the area. Keeping the Port Ellen filling station in operation was therefore deemed important to the economic and social prospects of South Islay.

## PROJECT DETAILS

Following extensive community consultation, SID decided to pursue community purchase of the filling station as an ongoing business, along with an area of adjoining land with development potential for the future. They secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF), as well as HIE, towards the costs of purchase. SLF also provided revenue funding to support the development of the asset. Acquiring the filling station has enabled the community to run the business according to its own needs, from the pragmatic considerations of opening hours and pricing to more strategic issues such as expanding the range of services available on site.

Community consultation suggested a range of uses for the development land including business creation, training opportunities and provision of services for the marine tourism sector.

## HIE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

We worked closely with SID throughout the development of the project, including support with the preparation of their SLF application which resulted in securing £40,000 from SLF. HIE also contributed £17,500 towards the cost of acquisition and associated legal fees.

## OUTCOMES

### HIE support helped to:

- Empower the community to take on ownership and control of a vital local service.
- Build confidence in the group and opportunities for the local community to generate additional economic activity on site.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### Contact

**E** [community.assets@hient.co.uk](mailto:community.assets@hient.co.uk)

**W** [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)

### Contact

South Islay Development

**T** 01496 300579

[www.facebook.com/SouthIslayDevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/SouthIslayDevelopment)