
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	12th March 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	RC/09/03/03/SJ/ WW
Contact Officer:	Head of Economic and Social Regeneration	Contact No:	01475 715555
Subject:	External Funding Seminar on local Fund Raising awareness initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Committee to approve a report on the outcome of the Scottish External Funding Seminar on Friday 5th December 2008 (Committee Report No. RC/CS/033/SJ/WW – 4th September 2008).
- 1.2 The report will also recommend options to promote and develop the maximisation of external funding into the local Inverclyde economy.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Seminar was organised by the Scottish Local Authority External Funding Officers Group (SLOG), of which Inverclyde Council is a member. The Seminar brought together SLOG representatives from all of the Scottish Local Authorities; representatives from all Scottish CVS's; and was facilitated by representatives from a wide range of Scottish funding bodies (Scottish Funders Forum).
- 2.2 The event had a "Speed Networking" structure, where groups were set up representing regions/areas, e.g., Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, etc, were visited on a 15 minute rotational cycle. This gave SLOG and CVS representatives the opportunity to be aware of various external funding streams and for funders to meet local representatives.
- 2.3 The event was successful in terms of allowing external funding bodies to inform the Inverclyde representative of external funding opportunities. All external funders intimated that Inverclyde is a 'cold spot', and would welcome the opportunity to engage directly in Inverclyde to encourage more grant applications from the area.
- 2.4 The SLOG Annual General Meeting was held in the afternoon. At the AGM, SLOG representatives thanked Inverclyde Council for their hospitality in facilitating their Speed Networking and AGM (see Appendix One).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Committee approves the report.
- 3.2 That Committee remits it to the Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources to consider a range of opportunities to raise awareness of external funding to the wider Inverclyde community and voluntary sector.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Local Authority External Funding Officers Group (SLOG) comprises one representative from each of Scotland's thirty-two local authorities. The group meets quarterly, with the venues rotating within the member local authority areas. SLOG has representatives on COSLA and the Scottish Funders Forum and has liaison group meetings with the Big Lottery and other funding bodies.
- 4.2 A member of Inverclyde Council's Community Work Team is the SLOG representative for Inverclyde. The information gained through SLOG is shared with the Community Work team, CVS Inverclyde and the Inverclyde External Funding Hub, to raise awareness locally of national funding opportunities for the community and voluntary sector.
- 4.3 A report on the SLOG Speed networking was given to the Inverclyde External Funding Hub. Our Hub has agreed to consider a similar 'Speed networking' initiative for the community and voluntary sector groups in Inverclyde. This initiative would give a wide range of local groups an increased awareness of external funding opportunities. The event would introduce external funding information to local groups. One to one contacts can then be made with funders in the days/weeks after the event. It may be that adjoining neighbourhoods, could work together to deliver local services to their wider areas.
- 4.4 Community Work staff and CVS Inverclyde staff, are working jointly to raise awareness across Inverclyde of individual funding initiatives, meeting the needs of individual neighbourhoods and communities.
- 4.5 Historically a dependency culture has grown around the Inverclyde Council's Grants To Voluntary Organisations. Local groups will automatically apply to the Vol Org grants scheme, without considering external funding options. Through Speed Networking and other initiatives we seek to maximise the income into the Inverclyde economy. These external funding initiatives will go some way to offset some of the pressure placed on the local Grants To Voluntary Organisations budget.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None

- 5.2 Human Resources, Legal Services and Equalities: None

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

APPENDIX ONE

Mr Tommy Rodger
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15th January 2009

Dear Tommy,

Scotland Funders Speed Networking Event – 5th December 2008 – Port Glasgow

On behalf of SLOG, I would like to thank Inverclyde Council for its support and hospitality for the event we have organised on 5th December 2009.

It was a very successful event with 11 Council of Voluntary services, 17 local authorities from all other Scotland including Shetland, Western Isles or Aberdeen and 10 funders including the Big Lottery Fund, BBC Children in Need, Heritage Lottery Fund or the Robertson Trust. The feedback from participants has been very positive.

We would like to thank the local facility manager and team, and the local catering company to help us to run the event smoothly.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your help.

Best Regards

Serge Merone

Serge Merone
Chair