



MINUTES

Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10.00am

Friday 19 September 2018

Held at: Arden House Hotel, Kirkcudbright

Attendees: Alastair McNeill (AM) Chair
Harry Harbottle (HH)
Sean McGuire (SM)

Peter Ross (PR)
Pam Taylor (PT)
Grant Course (GC)

Staff: Nicola Hill (NH)
Rowan Lloyd (RL)

Jessie Mason (JM)

Apologies: Debbie Park (DP)
Jonathon Warren (JW)

June Lochhead (JL)
Caroline Graham Brown (CGB)

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome

AM opened the meeting and welcomed all members. He thanked PR for attending the meeting to make it quorate.

Apologies

Were received from DP, CGB, JW, and JL.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any of the applications being considered for funding.

SM noted that if the Expression of Interest submitted by the Galloway Static Gear Association (GSGA) were to progress to the assessment for funding stage then as chair of the GSGA he would declare his interest and exclude himself from the assessment of this project.

2 Minutes of Meeting of 15 June 2018

Minutes of the previous meeting had amendments made as per comments from DP, they were then accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting on 15 June and proposed by SM and seconded by PT.

3 FLAG Project Officer update

RL provided an update on the progress of the previous applications and expressions of interest considered by the FLAG at the June meeting, and the current finances of the FLAG.

4 Consideration of Full Applications

4.1 Applicant: Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT). Project title: Galloway Rivers Salmon Habitat Enhancement Project. Application reference: SCO2441. Funding request: £65,814.14 (at an intervention rate of 100%).

Prior to discussion taking place the group were updated on the concern raised at the previous June FLAG meeting that the nature of the work undertaken as part of this project could be considered as the core activity of GFT and thus be ineligible for EMFF sponsorship, as EMFF criteria states that core business running costs are not eligible. The group were informed that GFT had provided a response in page 11 of their business case highlighting that GFT do not receive

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core funding and are primarily reliant upon grants to run short-term projects, and therefore this project should be considered eligible for funding.

The group were informed that since the application has been submitted, and shared with the group, the applicant had provided a total of 10 letters of support (a summary of the letters was read out).

Comments provided by JW were read out and a discussion subsequently followed.

The group requested an explanation as to what measures the applicant had taken in their revised application to address the feedback they had previously received regarding a need to provide a clear list of outputs they envisage this project would generate. The group were informed that page 11 of the business case provided a list of perceived project outputs, as did the job description of the project officer the applicant wished to employ. However the group were informed that the applicant was keen to highlight that the project aimed to identify the priority area for conservation, and until this work had been undertaken and priority areas undertaken it was not possible to list the measures that would be taken forward as a result of this project. The group unanimously accepted this point.

The group discussed the reach the project would have across the region. It was highlighted that the application focused on rivers in the west of the region and did not make mention of rivers in the Nithsdale area. However, it was unanimously agreed by the group that this may be due to the fact that Nith river fisheries trust focus on the rivers in the East and GFT focus on the West.

The group queried the applicants claim that salmon numbers will remain low if this project does not go ahead. It was noted that retreating salmon stock numbers was a global issue and it was unlikely this project would have an impact on the global scale. A member of the group noted that Salmon conservation was a national obligation and queried whether Marine Scotland or perhaps SEPA should instead fund this project. However, it was unanimously agreed that this global issue must be tackled at a local level and this project will ensure Dumfries and Galloway are doing their bit.

The group queried why this project was requesting 100% funding. There was a unanimous agreement that riparian owners would benefit as a result of this project if salmon stocks were to improve, and therefore it would have been nice if the riparian owners had provided some level of match funding. However, the point was highlighted that the FLAG have been provided with multiple opportunities to provide the applicant with this feedback, and it would be unfair to hold a lack of match funding against the application at such a late stage.

The group discussed the sustainability of this post. The group queried how GFT would fund this post after the two year EMFF funding period expired. The applicant's proposal of accessing windfarm money was considered as laudable, although it was noted that this must not be considered a guaranteed source of income. However, in conclusion the group unanimously agreed that this project was a development post to test the concept of a catchment wide approach to conservation. It would be much easier for GFT to obtain funding in the future if they have two years worth of results to verify the validity of the post to future funders.

A member of the group queried the statement in the application that the project would directly benefit 50 businesses. The group were informed that since the application was submitted an explanation had been provided. In short, if salmon stocks were to recover as a result of conservation measures then it would be expected that roughly 50 local businesses would benefit as a result of the increased tourism that a healthy salmon stock would generate.

The validity of this explanation was queried, and it was noted that a recent economic report highlighted that 60% of income from salmon fishing is from local anglers and therefore there are no associated accommodation benefits.

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A member of the group queried whether it was appropriate for the FLAG to focus their funds on a salmon conservation project, when there is a need to provide support to the local inland fishing community. However, it was highlighted that the reason the FLAG have not supported more projects which directly link to the inland fishing industry is because members of the inland fishing industry have not been proactive in submitting applications to the FLAG.

After a lengthy discussion the group scored the application as follows:

Application group score: 24/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 5

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

Please see copy of scoring sheet in the Appendix.

4.2 Applicant: Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society. Project Title: Portpatrick harbour Quayside Buildings Renovation. Applicant Reference: SCO2422. Funding Request: £135,493.20 (at an intervention rate of 100%)

The group were informed that planning permission had not yet been granted, and if the group were of a mind to recommend this project to Marine Scotland for sponsorship then they would need to provide the applicant with a grace period to obtain planning permission, and issue the applicant an approval in principle subject to planning permission being obtained.

Comments from JW were read out and discussion followed.

It was noted that there was an increase in the application costs from the original EOI.

A member of the group noted that the facilities were in dire need of updating and thought it was highly likely the council would approve planning permission.

A member of the group queries why the current balance sheet read £101,000.00 and the expected balance sheet is £1,400,000.00. The group unanimously agreed the applicant must provide an explanation for why the expected balance is 1,286% greater than the balance.

Several members of the FLAG noted they had viewed the planning proposal for the sheds on the Council's planning portal and raised concern that the plans did not show any provision for running water or electricity. As it was noted in the application that the facility would be used potentially as an office/washing and drying room, then such facilities are essential. A member of the group also noted that the application included no detail of the intended finish for the interior of the sheds. The group were informed that additional costs for furnishing the interior of the building would need to be covered by the applicant and could not be included now that the application had been submitted. The group unanimously agreed that the applicant should provide more information regarding the issue around interior finishings and provision of water and electricity before the application can be considered for funding.

The group discussed the proposed uses of the premises and noted the application contained a business case. However, the group unanimously agreed that the business case was lacking in detail and requested further information regarding the proposed use of the premises, demand within the community for proposed uses, and intended method to manage proposed uses be included in the business case prior to the application being considered for funding.

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The group acknowledged that the applicant had included a 5 year action plan for the harbour, however, the group noted the applicants were already 2 years into their action plan and that the action plan was not specific to the project in discussion.

After lengthy discussion the group scored the application as follows:

Application group score: 18/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 0

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **DEFER** this project with 4 members electing to make an electronic decision and 1 asking for the application to come back to the next meeting.

4.3 Applicant: Barony Country Foods Ltd. Project title: Upgrade of Lochengower Website and Online Shop. Applicant Reference: SCO2387. Funding request: £3,095.00 (at an intervention rate of 50%)

Comments from JW were read out and discussion followed.

A member of the group queried the link a website building project had to the fishing industry. However, in light of the information provided regarding the applicants accounts in the application the group agreed that the company did not have sufficient funds, as stated in the application, to finance this project without EMFF support.

A member of the group raised concern that the application claimed to support the sale of local seafood, however there was limited local seafood available on their website.

The question posed if this would have a detrimental impact on businesses in the region, it was felt it would not.

A member of the group noted that the applicant business is currently based in Edinburgh and queried whether the benefit of this project would be felt in Edinburgh or in Dumfries and Galloway. The group were informed that the application clearly noted that the applicant intends to relocate the business from Edinburgh to Dumfries and Galloway over the course of several years.

The group concluded that this project would increase employment in the smokehouse industry in Dumfries and Galloway with the relocation of jobs from Edinburgh to Lochmaben.

After discussion, the group scored the application.

Application group score: 29/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 5

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project

4.4 Applicant: R McMillan Welding. Project title: Expansion to Existing Business. Application reference: SCO2396. Funding request: £18,847.12 (at an intervention rate of 50%).

Comments from JW were read out and a discussion followed.

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The group were asked if they were comfortable that the organisation had sufficient link to the commercial fishing industry. A reference to a document attached to their application highlighting that 30% of their turnover was related to the commercial fishing/marine industry was made. The group unanimously highlighted the breadth of local marine/fishing organisations the applicant worked for and highlighted the importance of supporting a local organisation to service the local fishing and marine sector.

The group were informed that since submitting the application the applicant had provided a letter from the College noting that they would include the applicant's proposed apprenticeship opportunity into their bid to Skills Scotland. It was highlighted to the group that this letter demonstrated that the applicant had not yet secured the apprenticeship scheme aspect of the project. However, the group unanimously agreed that they were content that the applicant had done all within their means to secure an apprenticeship element to their application.

The group were informed that this application was submitted without the required number of quotations being provided, however the applicant had subsequently provided almost all the required documentation prior to the FLAG meeting. RL highlighted that although the content of the application had not changed, the additional quotations provided had reduced the amount the applicant was seeking from the FLAG from £21,044.87 to £18,847.12. All FLAG members were happy with this development.

The group were informed that if they were of a mind to support this project then the applicant would need to provide a further two quotes for the electrician cost associated with this project before the application could be sent to Marine Scotland with recommendation for funding. The group unanimously agreed that they were happy for the FLAG project officer to assess any future quote from an electrician for the project on their behalf.

After discussion, the group scored the application as follows

Application group score: 31/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 5

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project

4.5 Applicant: Dumfries and Galloway College. Project title: Cooking Masterclasses Project. Application reference: SCO2428. Funding request: 6,463.88 (at an intervention rate of 100%).

Comments provided by JW were read out and discussion followed.

The group unanimously agreed that a detailed application had been returned based on their previous feedback.

A member of the group highlighted that uptake would likely be more inland restaurants rather than the ports as most ports have very good fish restaurants already.

The group were informed that since the application was submitted the applicant had received further quotations for the costs associated with the project and subsequently several of the proposed suppliers had been replaced with cheaper options and as a result the overall project had reduced in price by £556.36. The group were happy to proceed.

It was unanimously accepted by the group that there was no financial benefit to the applicant for delivering this project. It was highlighted that the applicant was supporting the FLAG in delivery of their objective to support the presence of

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local seafood in the region by delivering this project. In summary the group were happy for this project to be considered for 100% funding.

After discussion, the group scored the application as follows

Application group score: 27/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 5

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

4.6 Applicant: PIRSAC. Project title: Development Officer and YESS + course. Funding request: £31,194.93 (at an intervention rate of 96.89%).

Comments provided by JW were read out and a discussion followed.

The group unanimously agreed that the application read as two separate projects and would have been better submitted as two separate applications. The group were informed that the applicant was requested to separate the application into two projects, they chose not to do so.

A member of the group noted that the course could potentially be a good money spinner for the organisation if they were willing to offer this course more widely across the region. It was unanimously agreed by the group that the applicant should make a link with the Stranraer Coastal Rowing Project. A member of the Group requested the applicant consider getting their course accredited.

A member of the group queried whether the applicant intended to store the Yess+ course items they intend to purchase as part of this project on the harbour? And, if so, do they have permission from the Dumfries and Galloway Council to do so?

A member of the group enquired as to whether there was a job description attached to the application for the project officer the applicant intended to employ. The group were advised that a job description and business case had been attached to the application. It was unanimously accepted by the group that the role of the proposed project officer was a development role to look at how the applicant could use the neighbouring building to support their current business. A member of the group highlighted their disappointment that the job description did not consist of quantifiable outputs/targets for the successful contractor who is awarded the post. The group unanimously agreed that the business case and job description contained limited information and the application would have been greatly strengthened if further detail was provided.

After discussion, the group scored the project as follows.

Application group score: 24/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 5

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

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5 EOI's received

5.1: Galloway Static Gear Association £20,328.00

Several members of the group who were familiar with the life jacket device the applicant intended to purchase highlighted the significance these jackets have had at saving lives at sea. Specific reference was made to the locating device built into the fabric of the jacket.

The group were informed that similar projects have been supported by other FLAG's across the country. An example from Dunbar FLAG was discussed and a similar project in Wales was highlighted.

A member of the group noted that the applicant could probably get a reduction in price if they were to shop around.

The Group were informed that Marine Scotland are likely to only fund 80% of this project. However, it was highlighted that that Seafarers UK may be able to provide the additional 20% match funding for this project as they have done so with similar projects.

The group unanimously agreed that the applicant should be encouraged to come forward with a full application for consideration in December.

Cockles

Update from RL, it has been submitted to the Marine Scotland Central Fund, hopefully it will be successful and they will look favourably on it.

Outreach Support – AMcN come through IFG.

AOB

Fergus Ewing – post Brexit, Child of EMFF, it will lie with Westminster. Meeting with Michael Gove, they are working behind the scenes. AMcN to write letter for him, highlighting projects etc.

Meeting closed at 2.00pm

Next Meeting is on 14 December at Arden House – start time of 10.00am

Appendix:

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Supporting communities across

Dumfries and Galloway



4.1 Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT). <i>Partnership Delivery of Prioritised Salmon Habitat Restoration in the Galloway River Catchments.</i>				TOTAL SCORE	24/33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
Strategic Fit:							
1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)				0	1	2	3
2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)				0	1	2	3
3. To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
Eligibility:							
5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?				0	1	2	3
6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?				0	1	2	3
7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?				0	1	2	3
8. Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) It is of collective interest (ii) It has a collective beneficiary (iii) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level				Yes (if so, why?)		No	
Competency:							
9. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?				0	1	2	3
10. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?				0	1	2	3
11. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?					1	2	3
12. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?				0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:		APPROVE 5	REJECT 0	DEFER 0			

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Chair Signature:	Council Signature:		
		TOTAL SCORE	31/33

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4.2 Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society. <i>Harbour buildings renovation project.</i>				TOTAL SCORE	18/33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
Strategic Fit:							
1	To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)			0	1	2	3
2	To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)			0	1	2	3
3	To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
4	To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
Eligibility:							
5	Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?			0	1	2	3
6	Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?			0	1	2	3
7	Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?			0	1	2	3
8	Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) It is of collective interest (ii) It has a collective beneficiary (iii) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level			Yes (if so, why?)		No	
Competency:							
9	Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?			0	1	2	3
10	Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?			0	1	2	3
11	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?			0	1	2	3
12	Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?			0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:				APPROVE 0	REJECT 0	DEFER 5	

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Chair Signature:

Council Signature:

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4.3 Barony Country Foods Ltd. <i>Upgrade of Lochengower Website and Online Shop</i>				TOTAL SCORE	29/33	
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided			
Strategic Fit:						
1	To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)		0	1	2	3
2	To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)		0	1	2	3
3	To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)		0	1	2	3
4	To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)		0	1	2	3
Eligibility:						
5	Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?		0	1	2	3
6	Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?		0	1	2	3
7	Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?		0	1	2	3
Competency:						
8	Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?		0	1	2	3
9	Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?		0	1	2	3
10	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?		0	1	2	3
11	Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?		0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:		APPROVE 5	REJECT 0	DEFER 0		
Chair Signature:		Council Signature:				

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4.4 R McMillan Welding. <i>Marine fabrication apprenticeship workshop expansion.</i>				TOTAL SCORE	31/33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
Strategic Fit:							
1 To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)				0	1	2	3
2 To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)				0	1	2	3
3 To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
4 To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
Eligibility:							
5 Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?				0	1	2	3
6 Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?				0	1	2	3
7 Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?				0	1	2	3
Competency:							
8 Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?				0	1	2	3
9 Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?				0	1	2	3
10 Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?					1	2	3
11 Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?				0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:		APPROVE 5	REJECT 0	DEFER 0			
Chair Signature:		Council Signature:					

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4.5 Dumfries and Galloway College. <i>Cooking Masterclasses Project.</i>				TOTAL SCORE	27/33
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided		
Strategic Fit:					
1	To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)		0	1	2
2	To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)		0	1	2
3	To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)		0	1	2
4	To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)		0	1	2
Eligibility:					
5	Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?		0	1	2
6	Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?		0	1	2
7	Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?		0	1	2
8	Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) It is of collective interest (ii) It has a collective beneficiary (iii) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level		Yes (if so, why?)		No
Competency:					
9	Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?		0	1	2
10	Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?		0	1	2
11	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?		0	1	2
12	Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?		0	1	2
Recommendation for funding:		APPROVE 0	REJECT 0	DEFER	
Chair Signature:		Council Signature:			

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4.6PIRSAC. Development Officer and YESS + course				TOTAL SCORE	24/33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
Strategic Fit:							
1	To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)			0	1	2	3
2	To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)			0	1	2	3
3	To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
4	To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
Eligibility:							
5	Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?			0	1	2	3
6	Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?			0	1	2	3
7	Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?			0	1	2	3
8	Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (iv) It is of collective interest (v) It has a collective beneficiary (vi) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level			Yes (if so, why?)		No	
Competency:							
9	Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?			0	1	2	3
10	Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?			0	1	2	3
11	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?			0	1	2	3
12	Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?			0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:		APPROVE 5	REJECT 0	DEFER 6			
Chair Signature:		Council Signature:					

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