

## **Argyll & Bute Funding Hub Progress Report November 2006**

### **Introduction**

The Corporate Funding Officer submitted a paper to the CPP September 2006 to inform the CPP of the proposed Big Lottery Fund Local Partnership Hub. The CPP was supportive of the development as described in the paper and requested an update of progress for the December 2006 meeting. This paper therefore updates the CPP on progress and in particular recommends that the management committee consider the proposal below.

### **Background**

The Big Lottery Fund has asked each local authority external funding officer to help facilitate a Local Partnership Hub which will primarily be a communication group for the BLF to interact with. As there is no specific external funding group in Argyll and Bute it is generally felt that such a grouping should encompass a wider spectrum of funders and functions to maximise the benefits of such a grouping. This group will be called the Argyll & Bute Funding Hub.

### **Aim**

The aim of the Argyll and Bute Funding Hub is to help develop or maintain sustainable projects in the area by maximising the amount of funding and support to these projects through improved quality of bids and closer links with local priorities.

### **Outcomes**

- Better quality bids
- Higher bid success rate
- Successful bids help deliver local priorities
- Projects are knowledgeable about the sources of funding and support available to them

### **What?**

The Funding Hub will be action based and offer information and feedback to projects both in development and existing. The Funding Hub will offer feedback on outline ideas rather than a final project assessment.

Projects will be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel made up of a mix of people from both the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee and the wider Partnership and will include organisations with expertise in a given field.

It would be useful for the Funding Hub to be aware of any feedback from the BLF to projects who have submitted an outline application to ensure continuity of advice and this should be developed with BLF.

In addition the Big Lottery Fund will communicate electronically with members of the Funding Hub to update them on BLF funding developments and events and will organise an annual meeting. The Funding Hub will have the opportunity to invite BLF to a Funding Hub meeting if there are particular areas of concern or success that the Funding Hub wishes to highlight.

There is also scope for the Funding Hub to discuss any other matters regarding funding which require attention, such as an update on a new funding stream or potential for supporting a project which has been unsuccessful with a BLF bid. In particular the Funding Hub may consider encouraging development of a project where a need has been identified.

### **How?**

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The invitation to pitch will be advertised through existing newsletters, media releases and personal invitation. The project will receive information on what will be required of them and this will be returned prior to their pitch day and appear on the previous agenda of the CPP Management Committee and through the Funding Hub network. The project will have 30 minutes to pitch to the Funding Hub and will immediately receive feedback, followed up by a written feedback report. An indepth project scoring framework will be offered to projects to take away and help develop their bids. Projects who cannot attend in person will have the opportunity to video conference.

A minimum project size will need to be established, perhaps £10,000. This would follow the BLF grant levels which only considers projects above £10,000 to the main programmes.

For communication with the BLF the Corporate Funding Officer will need to pass contact details of Funding Hub members to BLF.

### **Why?**

The reasons for choosing the format of pitching ideas are

- Core idea rather than detail
- Saves detailed process of looking through bids
- Forces people to think about their project critically
- Allows passion and energy to come through

### **Who?**

Members of the Funding Hub will include both operational and managerial officers. Attendance at meetings is not expected by all and the wider membership will communicate by email.

### **Future Development**

There are longer term goals of the Funding Hub which include streamlining funding deadlines and information required by funders and the potential for a relationship with other funders which reflects that of BLF. This would be particularly useful for the developing Scottish Rural Development Fund programme which may sit within the Community Planning Partnership and have a remit to disperse funding.

### **Costs**

Running the Funding Hub will have a cost relating to Officer time and administration. This will be undertaken by the Corporate Funding Officer with input from the Community Planning Partnership Manager.

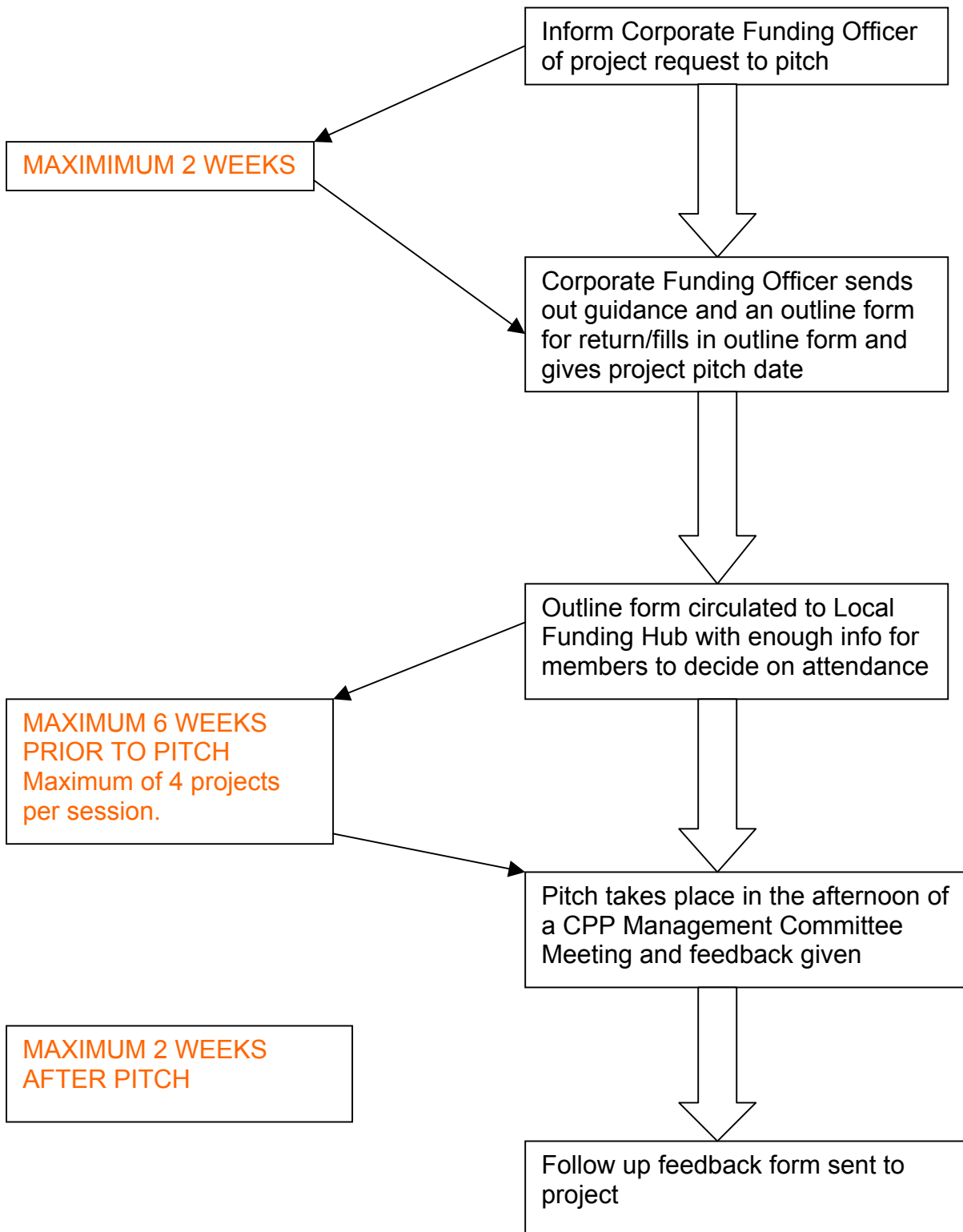
### **Ethos**

The pitching sessions will be designed to be inviting rather than intimidating and so the environment will be encouraging and supportive.

### **Timescale**

The Funding Hub will be established in early 2007 with a six weekly running programme as per CPP Management Committee meetings.

## PROJECT PITCH



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### INTRODUCTION

We look forward to hearing about your project. Please fill out the form below to give us an overview of your project. This will help us try to ensure the most relevant Funding Hub members attend.

I have also included a prompt sheet for you. You may find it helpful to consider these questions when you are putting your presentation together. Your allocated time is 30 minutes so please allow for time during and after your presentations for the Funding Hub to give feedback.

If you have any questions contact Arlene Cullum on 07979 214501

[arlene.cullum@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:arlene.cullum@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	
<b>What geographic area does the project cover?</b>	
<b>What's the total project cost?</b>	
<b>Please describe your project in no more than 200 words.</b>	

### PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS

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- What's the name of your project, what geographic area does it cover?
- Who is the project aimed at? Eg. young people
- Do you know of any strategies the project addresses and if so how does it address them?
- How do you know there is a need for your project?
- How will you address this need?
- What outcomes are you hoping to achieve?
- Have you considered any other ways of achieving these outcomes?
- What's the total project cost?
- How are you going to raise the money to cover costs ?
- What are the management arrangements for the project?
- Are you working with any other organisations to develop and deliver this project?
- What happens if your project doesn't go ahead?
- How will the project be sustainable in the long term or is it short –lived?