Social Impact Report

A Report to Point and Sandwick Trust
by Impact Hub Inverness
June 2020



"PST Grant funding support has been invaluable to our organisation in respect of both sustaining existing service, staff posts and allowing us to grow and develop to enable us to provide targeted services for our service-user demographic."

"PST support has allowed us to improve our facilities significantly and its continued encouragement has given us confidence in the future of our organisation."

Table of Contents

Executive Summary **3**

1. Introduction **6**

2. Methodology **6**

4. Impact insights of PST's funding **8**

4.1 Meeting our Objects *9*

4.2 Geographical Reach *11*

4.4 Leverage of Additional Income *13*

4.5 Community and Social Impact *14*

4.8 Indirect benefits *22*

5. Conclusions and Recommendations **23**

5. Conclusions and Recommendations *23*

Appendix One - Grant Recipient Survey **26**

Appendix Two - Community Survey **33**

Appendix Three - Woodland Croft Survey **38**

Appendix Four - Grants from November 2016 to August 2020 ..... **42**



Executive Summary

The Task

- Review of last 5 years' grant-making (the original development plan)
- Assess social, environmental and economic impact of above – especially jobs created and £ leveraged

The Review

- Has the funding from PST has made a difference to the organisations and communities in receipt of grants?
- If so, what difference has it made?
- Has the funding added value to those organisations and communities that have been supported?
- Where specific deliverables were detailed for the investment in a number of core organisations, have these been met?

What we Did

- Initial and follow-up session with the whole board
- Interviews with board members and selected staff
- Survey and follow-up interviews with grant recipients
- Community survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- Woodland Croft grant recipient surveys

Surveys and Interviews

- 55% of grant recipients responded to the survey
- Interviews with all core funded organisations (and some others)
- 42% of Woodland Croft grant recipients responded to the survey
- 34 responses to the community survey
- 9 stakeholder interviews
- The Board and Staff interviews

What we Found

- £2,389,000 spend over 5 years, including £639,299 to 6 core-funded organisations and a further £756,722 invested in 61 community-based organisations
- Leverage-in of over £1million and a further £1,249,075 leveraged in by TIG in home energy grants etc.
- Created or sustained 32 full time posts and 25 part time ones, plus enabled establishment of private nursery businesses
- Over 40% of investment in P&S area, 25%+ in P&S and Lewis, and 30%+ in P&S and islands-wide

Which of the following PST priorities did you use the funding from PST for? Please tick all that apply	
Answer Choices	Responses
Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development;	35.14%
Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage;	51.35%
Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills;	43.24%
Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance;	27.03%
Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled;	48.65%
Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment;	13.51%
The relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit.	16.22%

Indicator	Extent to which met
Meeting PST's objects	Met - Wide coverage across all PST objects, confirmed by grant recipients and perception of community
Geographical reach	Met – focus on Point and Sandwick communities but also benefits across whole of Western Isles
Number of jobs created or sustained	Largely met – 15 FT, 10 PT, and 61 volunteers positions created and 17 FT, 15 PT, and 33 volunteer positions sustained. Also - Establishment of several new tree nursery businesses to supply the demand from the Woodland Croft Scheme. This will have created additional jobs, for which data are not available.
Additional money leveraged	Met - for the total of £1,396,021 that PST has invested, an additional £1,011,200 is known to have been leveraged based on a 55% response rate to the survey. 90% of woodland croft grant recipients also used their own money as well. LED project brought an additional £1,249,075 into the community via home insulation grants etc.
Community and social impact	Met – wide evidence from survey and the 6 core-funded organisations. For example, in the case of the LED project, additional benefits in terms of energy saving, home insulation, and two other communities adopting the same approach elsewhere on island. Wider benefits felt by: 59 Staff, 327 Volunteers, and 8,638 Beneficiaries.
Environmental impact	Met - the Beinn Ghrideag wind farm will reduce annual CO2 emissions by between 12,000 and 25,000 tonnes The LED lights installed provide energy savings of £253,000 for the people of Point and Sandwick Woodland crofts – 100,000 trees planted. In the longer term, there will be a considerable economic benefit to this as the value of the trees increases as they grow. There will also be an environmental benefit beyond the actual trees themselves (shelter, increased biodiversity, and additional trees through of the spread of seed as the trees mature).

Indirect benefits	Met – extensive evidence from testimony of grant recipients and beneficiaries – for instance Innovation Centre projects, PPE supply, community minibus, to mention a few. There are many intangible values that were reported – more informal social interaction, increased community and individual beneficiary confidence, improved health, reduced social isolation, and so on.

Recommendations

- Recognise and celebrate the impact that PST's investment has had. PST has received local and national recognition for its work, and should consider how it can raise its profile even further on an international level.
- Continue flexibility around the investments, from the criteria for applications to the process in place to apply.
- Continue to place trust in grant recipients to use the investment in the best way possible - enabled them to target resources where needed, and in some cases be more ambitious and adventurous to try things out.
- All grant holders should be required to acknowledge support from PST publicly.
- Continue the blend of local and Western Isles-wide approach to investment.
- Continue the blend of having a good mix of large and small investments, and also short term, one-off awards and longer term, ongoing awards.
- Encourage projects to monitor and evaluate the outcomes from their activities and build this into the reporting requirements. Reporting requirements need to be appropriate and proportionate to the level of funding provided.

1. Introduction

This report sets out the findings of an evaluation of the social impact of Point and Sandwick Trust's grant making activity over the past 5 years against targets that were set out in the Trust's Business and Community Development Plan, written in March 2013. It also sets out to evidence the difference the funding has made to groups and organisations that have received grants. Point and Sandwick Trust commissioned Impact Hub Inverness to conduct this independent evaluation of projects funded through its grants programme. The grants programme, which was launched in 2016, provides three tiers of funding:

- Small Grants Fund - up to £1,000
- Community Grant Fund - from £1,000 up to £10,000
- Community Development Fund - from £10,000

In the same plan, PST also committed 5 years' of annual funding to 6 organisations, which were identified as priority organisations following extensive community consultation carried out between 2005 and 2012. The organisations are: Bethesda Hospice; Western Isles Foyer; Hebrides Alpha; An Lanntair; the Woodland Croft Scheme in association with the Woodland Trust; and a LED Fuel Poverty Project run by Tighean Innse Gall.

The purpose of this social impact report is to provide evidence in answer to four questions:

i) Has the funding from PST has made a difference to the organisations and communities in receipt of grants?
ii) What difference has it made?
iii) Has the funding added value to those organisations and communities that have been supported?
iv) Where specific deliverables were detailed for the investment in a number of core organisations, have these been met?

Furthermore, the findings of this report will help shape and inform PST's future investment decisions and feed into an updated community and development plan covering the next 5 years. This new 5-year plan has been produced as a separate document.

2. Methodology

The methodology used to undertake the review comprised of the following key activities:

- Interviews with members of the PST board, as well as two facilitated discussions with the Board as a whole.
- An online survey of the 67 organisations and community groups that have received funding under the PST community grants programme. The survey attracted 37 individual responses, a response rate of 55%. Some follow-up interviews were also carried out with a sample of grant recipients, as well as additional investigation done via phone interviews with 5 out of the 6 core-funded organisations. In spite of extensive efforts, the sixth organisation did not respond to opportunities to take part in the consultation.

- An online survey with recipients of funding and support through the Croft Woodlands Scheme. The survey attracted 34 responses out of 80 crofters – a response rate of 42.5%.
- An online community survey which attracted 34 responses.
- Interviews with a wide range of key stakeholders and local bodies. A total of 23 people were approached to get their views on PST investments. Contact was made a minimum of 3 times, after which we had spoken to 9 of the stakeholders. It should be borne in mind that this stage of the review took place after the start of the coronavirus lockdown, and some of the stakeholders would have been caught up in the emergency response to the situation.

The results of the three surveys are presented in the appendices. The appendices include the free text comments as well as graphs and charts on closed questions, and give the rich data from which this review has been drawn.

3. Overview of current PST funding programme

With the income generated from the wind farm at Beinn Ghrideag, the Trust has established a long-term source of funding with nearly £1.4 million having been given in community grant funding and donations since the wind farm began operating in 2016. In addition to this, a further £1million has been invested in the community through payments to the Grazings Committees, through the Joint Project Fund with the Stornoway Trust and the Western Isles Development Trust, and in the wages and associated costs of PST itself. The total invested to May 2020 is therefore £2,389,000.

Applications for funding is open to all voluntary groups or community organisations, and project specific partnerships that meet the objects set out in the Trusts' governing documents. Funding is also available for projects outwith the Point and Sandwick area provided the application meets the criteria and provides benefit both to the Point and Sandwick area and the wider Western Isles area.

The objects set out in the Trust's governing documents are: 'to promote the social, educational, cultural and environmental well-being of the people of the Western Isles with a focus on the communities of Point and Sandwick. This is delivered through seven identified means to promote community well-being:

- Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development
- Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage;
- Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills;
- Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance;
- Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled;
- Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment;

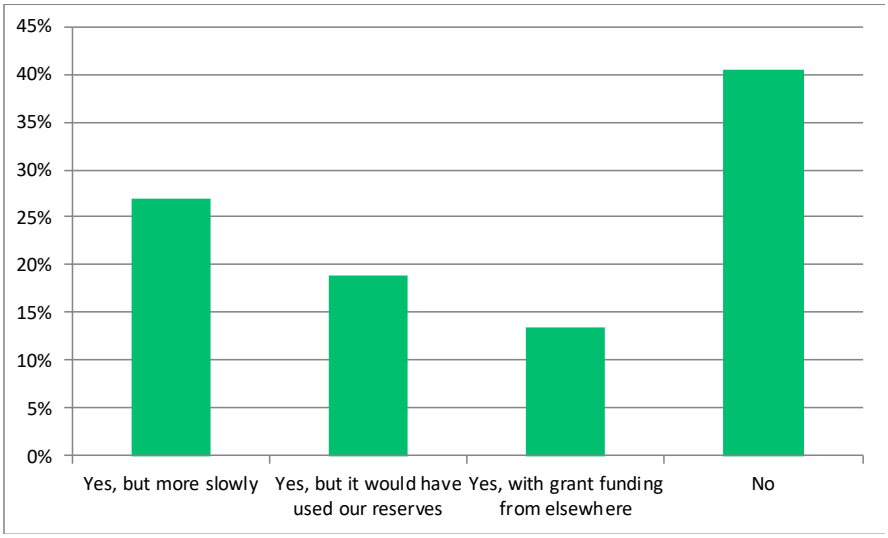
- Through the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit.'

All grant applications are considered and scored by a PST Grant Subcommittee which then makes recommendations to the full Board.

4. Impact insights of PST's funding

PST investment has been an important factor for many of the projects funded actually going ahead. While projects often require a mix of funding, consultation with grant recipients showed that more than 40% of the projects PST has funded would not have been able to go ahead without PST's investment. Furthermore, more than 25% would have gone ahead but more slowly and almost 19% would have had to dip into their reserves to make the project happen.

Table 1: Impact of PST funding on project progress - Would the project have gone ahead without PST funding?



Many grant recipients were in agreement that the funding they received from PST created security for their organisation and allowed them to continue their services and plan for the future:

> *"A very appreciated local source of funding to help us carry on developing our recreational facilities."*
>
> *"The funding will allow us to plan ahead with certainty and continue to organise this popular event for years to come."*
>
> *"Grant has allowed us to continue to assist many events and groups in our community."*

Findings from the survey and interviews with grant recipients show that the flexibility of the funding has been appreciated. In addition, applicants surveyed reported that the

application process is relatively easy. The funding decisions have also, in some instances, challenged boundaries and embraced a wide diversity of good causes, such as providing funding for the Pride March and for the restoration of the stained-glass windows in St Columba Church. The open and flexible approach taken by PST has also meant that the Board has been able to respond rapidly to changing needs such as diverting funds to meet the needs of the community during the coronavirus pandemic.



Bayview

We identified eight key performance indicators to provide some specific measures to evidence the impact of PST's investment programme. These were used to inform the questions asked in surveys with grant recipients, the online community survey and the conversations with key stakeholders. The key performance indicators were:

i. Meeting PST's objects
ii. Geographical reach
iii. Number of jobs created
iv. Number of jobs sustained
v. Additional money leveraged
vi. Community and social impact
vii. Environmental impact
viii. Indirect benefits

4.1 Meeting our Objects

By providing funding to local organisations, the Trust aims to improve the social, educational, cultural and environmental well-being of the people of the Western Isles with a particular focus on the communities of Point and Sandwick.

The table below shows that over 50% of grant recipients used the funding they received from PST to provide assistance to people who are disadvantaged within the local communities. Just under 50% used the funding to provide and support recreational activities for the community particularly targeted at disadvantaged or vulnerable groups such as young people or people with disabilities. A further 43% used the funding to provide and promote education to those on the island.

Table 2: Use of funding for PST priorities

Which of the following PST priorities did you use the funding from PST for? Please tick all that apply	
Answer Choices	Responses
Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development;	35.14%
Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage;	51.35%
Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills;	43.24%
Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance;	27.03%
Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled;	48.65%
Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment;	13.51%
The relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit.	16.22%

The community survey shows that the perception of how the money had been invested was slightly different, with almost 70% stating that they thought it had been used for each of: Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development; Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled; and Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment.

Table 3: Community perception of focus of PST investment

Which of the following PST priorities do you think funding from PST has covered? Please tick all that apply	
Answer Choices	Responses
Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development	68%
Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage;	47%
Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills;	41%
Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance;	59%
Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled;	68%
Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment;	68%
The relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit.	26%



4.2 Geographical Reach

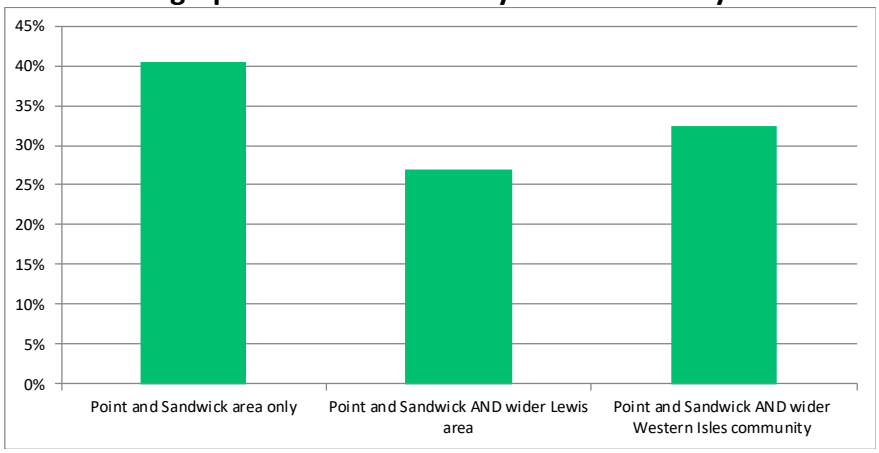
Many respondents commented positively on the fact that PST allocated funding to help people in the Western Isles in general, and did not restrict support to only Point and Sandwick residents. However, some respondents to the survey did say that more of the funding should have been used to benefit the Point and Sandwick area specifically.

> *"PST funding to WI wide projects has made a huge difference, to Bethesda Hospice, to the Foyer Project, HebAlpha and especially to the Croft Woodlands Project. PST have been extremely generous in taking a WI wide view."*
>
> *"Very good but imagine the huge impact on P & S area if funding wasn't diluted over the entire Western Isles."*

4.2.1 Funding which benefits the Point and Sandwick area

The results of the survey of grant recipients show that 40% has exclusively benefited the Point and Sandwick area only while 60% has provided benefit both to Point and Sandwick and the wider islands community. It should be noted that this figure is drawn only from those who responded to the survey and evidence from elsewhere which might alter this. That said, the survey results are statistically reliable because of the high response rate.

Table 4: Geographical area covered by work funded by PST

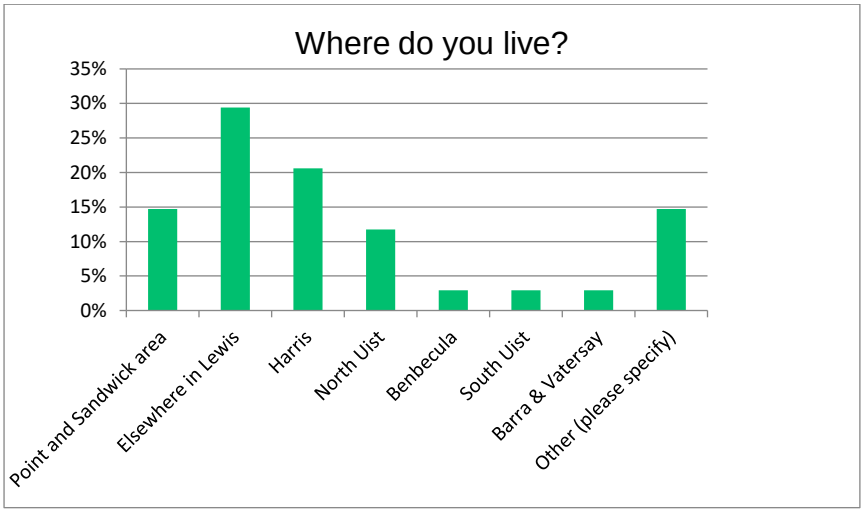


4.2.2 Core funded organisations

Of the 6 core funded organisations, the LED Community Project run by Tighean Innse Gall is the only one to have a particular focus on the Point and Sandwick area. The others benefit the wider geographical area of the Western Isles.

Of the 34 respondents to the Woodland Croft Scheme survey, 14% live in the Point and Sandwick area with almost 30% living elsewhere in Lewis, and the rest living across all the other islands of the Western Isles.

Table 5: Geographical area of respondents to Woodland Croft survey



4.3 Job Creation and number of jobs sustained

The 2013 Business and Community Development Plan projected that 8 new FTE posts would be created through the reinvestment of windfarm income into local projects and 57 existing FTEs would be sustained.

Through the investments made by PST to date, it is estimated that a minimum of 15 full time and 10 part time posts have been created. A further 61 volunteer opportunities have also been created, as shown in the table below. This is likely an underestimate of the jobs created, as not all grant recipients responded to the survey.

In addition to new jobs created, there have been an additional 17 full time posts sustained as a result of PST funding, and a further 15 part time posts sustained.

Overall then, the target for full new posts being created has been far exceeded (15 full time and 10 part time posts, against a target of 8 FTEs). On the other hand, the number of posts sustained is below the target that was set (17 full time and 15 part time posts sustained, against a target of 57 FTEs). Again, this is likely to be an under-reporting of the impact of the funding, given that not all grant recipients completed the survey.

Funding towards new jobs, and in particular jobs and learning opportunities for young people, was deemed very important by the community and something they would have liked to have seen prioritised more.

Table 6: Number of jobs created and sustained through PST funding

Organisation	Number of job created			Number of jobs sustained		
	Full time	Part time	Volunteer	Full time	Part time	Volunteer
PST	4					
Woodland Project	1		1	1		1
Foyer	1	2		3	2	
An Lanntair		2		1	2	
Hebridean Alpha				4		
TIG	1	1				
Other respondents to the survey	4	5	60	8	11	32
Core PST staff	4					
Total *	**15**	**10**	**61**	**17**	**15**	**33**

* these figures do not match the survey results in the appendix as some grant recipients fed in this information during interviews and did not complete the survey.

Volunteers undertake a huge range of tasks associated with delivering activities and are often critical to the success of projects. The recruitment of volunteers involved in management, implementation and delivery is clearly key to the majority of projects PST has supported over the years.

In addition to the posts above, a number of privately-run small tree nurseries have been established across the islands, due to the demand created by the woodland croft project. We do not have figures on how many actual jobs this equates to.

In addition to jobs created and sustained, grant recipients were also asked how many staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries had benefitted from the PST investment. The results will include those staff and volunteers already reported above, but the results show that the impact was much wider:

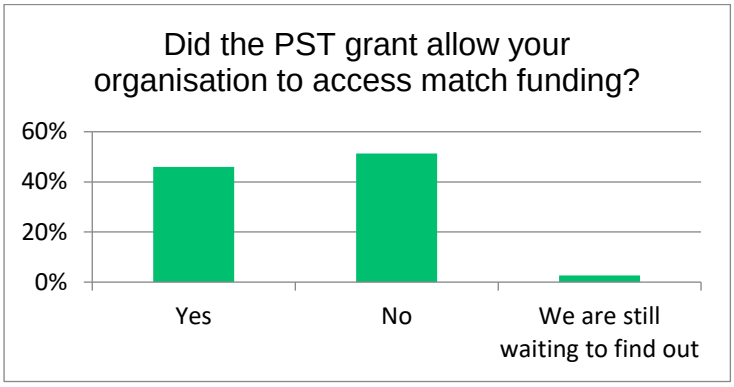
Staff - 59
Volunteers - 327
Beneficiaries – 8,638

4.4 Leverage of Additional Income

Data from the survey of grant recipients shows that between November 2016 and October 2019, 37 organisations received total grant funding of £550,311. 46% of the respondents to the survey stated that the funding from PST enabled them to leverage a further £430,600 in additional funds. Given that this does not represent all grant recipients (only those that replied to the survey), it is likely that the additional monies leveraged in has been somewhat higher. If the level of leverage is scaled up proportionately in line with the total value of grants awarded, it would be expected to be in the region of £600,000.

Having a fund-raising consultant, provided by PST, to help with additional fundraising and grant applications was also reported to have been a useful resource. This is perhaps reflected in the level of leverage that was secured.

Table 8: Leverage of match funding



In addition, the 6 core funded organisations have received a total of £639,299 and, as a result of the funding from PST, were able to secure £580,600 of additional funds. All six stated that without the funding from PST, they wouldn't have been able to go ahead with their project.

That is, for the total of that PST invested, an additional £1,011,200 is known to have been leveraged based on a 55% response rate to the survey. This represents an almost doubling of the investment from PST. It would be reasonable to assume that those who didn't complete the survey had also leveraged in additional monies, and that PST's investment had been more than doubled by what had been leveraged in (see above).

In addition to the above match funding that has been leveraged in, the Woodland Croft Scheme has also resulted in additional investment by the grant recipients. 90% of those that received a Woodland Croft grant put additional money of their own into the cost of the work carried out. An additional £1,249,075 was able to be drawn down by TIG through the Home Energy and Efficiency and Energy Company Obligation schemes for home insulation.

4.5 Community and Social Impact

As stated above, the Trust's Business and Community Development Plan, written in March 2013, gave six organisations the commitment of core funding for a minimum of 5 years. Details of the difference the funding has made to these organisations is provided below along with where specific deliverables were agreed at the start of the investment, achievements to date.

4.5.1 Project 1: Reducing Fuel Poverty and Increasing Energy Efficiency in Point and Sandwick

ORGANISATION: Tighean Innes Gall

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. 700 homes will receive a home energy advice visit and energy survey.

2. 250 homes will receive insulation improvements including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and tank insulation.
3. A home energy information pack delivered to 200 homes a year in Point and Sandwick.
4. Creation of 1.07 FTE jobs.
5. Total energy savings over 5 years were estimated at 652,556 kWh.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
668 home visits (it is expected that by the end of the project this will have reached the 700 target)
245 homes receiving insulation improvements (target expected to be reached by the end of the project)
110 homes signposted to other agencies
6500 low energy bulbs installed
1.07 FTE created
£253,000 saving in lighting so far for the people of Point and Sandwick

IMPACTS

- An additional £1,249,075 was able to be drawn down through the Home Energy and Efficiency and Energy Company Obligation schemes for home insulation of the 235 homes. This is not exactly money that has been leveraged in to match the PST investment, but it is additional investment that has largely been as a result of the TIG project.
- The village of Portnaguran is 1st LED village in the UK.
- On top of this people are living in warmer and healthier conditions.
- As a result of this project, it's estimated that 20% of the available support from the Climate Challenge Fund is now going into the PST area.

The funding from PST has helped people with a range of needs, especially those in fuel poverty, to clear debt and by insulating their homes, help them to save on their future energy bills. TIG found the funding from PST to be particularly useful as it gave them total flexibility in how to use the monies to best achieve the stated aims. They were trusted to deliver, and to ensure that those in greatest need were helped through the project.

Some examples of the impact on households in the Point and Sandwick area are given below:

Client's Situation	Client was finding it hard to heat their home to the required temperature. Her brother who lives with her is in poor health and needs to have a warm environment. However, they were unable to maintain comfortable and affordable heating regime. The brother is in receipt of DLA, which makes the case a higher priority.
What	• Home visits to complete survey and assess needs • EPC survey carried out • Room in roof insulation installed • Warm Works referral successful for new heating – upgrade to storage heaters

	• Is now on a lower tariff. Debt clearance of £300 • LED light bulbs installed: 16 - Saving of 511w

Client's situation	Client has disabilities due to an accident, so found it particularly difficult managing the steps at the front and the back of the property. Client was in real need of ramp access to the property, so made a referral to the OTs as a priority. She also spent in excess of £1,800 on her heating to stay comfortably warm.
What	• Home visits to complete survey and assess needs • Referred her to Home Energy Scotland and assisted with application for a new heating system. Tariff checks are done annually, which has helped the client reduce bills even further. Her annual consumption of oil and electricity has reduced by more than £400. LED light bulbs installed throughout.

An indirect benefit but nonetheless just as important is that as a result of the funding from PST, TIG has been able to refer vulnerable people onto other organisations such as Home Energy Scotland (HES) for new heating systems, and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for debt relief and benefit checks.

This project magnifies the environmental benefits already being delivered by the wind farm and represents genuine sustainable development. Furthermore, the project has been a catalyst for other Trusts launching similar projects for example in Carloway, Barvas and Galson.

4.5.2 Project 2: Helping Young People with Special Needs

ORGANISATION: Western Isles Foyer

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES
1. To help 100 young islanders with special needs over 5 years build the skills they need to increase their chances of getting a job, staying in work and progressing further in work through a life and skills training program.
2. Support 3.5FTE

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
Provided services to 150 young people aged between 16 – 26 which exceeds the original target of 100.

IMPACTS
1 FT job created
2 PT jobs sustained
10 volunteers
150 young people benefitted from the service

The funding was particularly useful as a means of getting match funding, and also because it gave The Foyer freedom to try things out, and to work with other groups they might not

have previously been able to. They made extensive use of the fundraising consultant's support, which was almost as crucial as the money they got from PST directly. One of the indirect results of PST's funding has been the ability to work with harder to reach groups, and the 'harder to engage with' service users. It enabled them to do meaningful work with getting into independent accommodation people who might have otherwise not been considered as being able to live independently. Being able to take this 'risk' has really paid off for the individuals concerned.

'Having guaranteed money for 5 years has been fantastic. We've been able to be more ambitious.'

4.5.3 Project 3: Helping adults with drug and alcohol dependency through Hebrides Alpha

ORGANISATION: Hebrides Alpha

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES
Sustain 3.5 FTEs in the new supported accommodation unit
Provide rehabilitative accommodation, therapeutic employment and skills training for 75 individuals over 5 years.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
Created and sustained 5 FTE posts
40 people supported so far

IMPACT
Increased staffing has helped provide cover over weekends, which has made a safer environment for staff because it's an addiction recovery project and client/staff ratio issues are a big factor.

'For us the PST funding has made a significant difference in terms of us being sustained to continue to provide a residential recovery service for individuals whose lives have been seriously damaged by substance misuse. We are very grateful indeed to PST.'

4.5.4 Project 4: Promoting Native Woodland on Crofts

ORGANISATION: Woodland Trust

PROJECT: Promoting native woodland on crofts

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES
Support a new Western Isles Forestry Advisory Service, operated by a partnership between PST, the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust.
Fund 1 FTE plus travel costs and publicity material targeted at Western Isles crofters.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Employment of a dedicated Croft Woodland Adviser for the Western Isles



IMPACT
100,000 trees over 28 hectares have been planted in the Western Isles under the project, helping to meet the Scottish Governments annual target for tree planting in the fight against climate change. As a result of a guaranteed market for their product, 3 tree nurseries have been established on the islands, which should be able to supply 30,000 saplings next year. Most of the seed has been collected from the islands or Skye and Sutherland, so has local provenance.

413 enquiries into tree planting through the project, since it was set up in 2016, with 73 of them from Point and Sandwick townships – making up 18% of those interested.

This is a first step in restoring the missing habitat of woodland and scrub, with its associated wildlife and benefits for people such as:

- Increased biodiversity & wildlife habitat
- Carbon sequestration
- Shelter for livestock, which increases health and welfare and reduces feed bills
- Shelter for homes and workplaces
- Landscape and amenity value
- Helping crofters and others to identify additional grants and fitting with current national policy.

Longer term, there is likely to be a greater economic impact of this project as the value of the trees planted increases over time. There are a number of potential business opportunities that may arise as the trees mature, from firewood businesses, through timber processing, to furniture and flooring production.

4.5.5 Project 5: Supporting Islanders with Terminal Illness through Bethesda Hospice

ORGANISATION: Bethesda Hospice

Bethesda Care Home & Hospice

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES:
Provide end-of-life care and support to island families

IMPACT
The funding from PST helps the Hospice with the stability and sustainability it needs to be able to provide palliative care to the community when such care is needed. Bethesda is the only hospice in the Western Isles.

Financial support for Bethesda is the only 25-year grant commitment made by Point and Sandwick Trust, in recognition of the service it provides in the islands and the long-term costs of providing it. This support was pledged to Bethesda six years before the wind farm became a reality with the signing of a memorandum.

Bethesda needs to raise nearly £400,000 a year to keep the hospice open so that it's free for patients and their families to use. Getting £55,000 a year is a significant boost to the funds. The four-bed hospice is of high standard, devoted to the care of those in the community requiring palliative and terminal care. People using the services of the hospice had an average of four admissions before they stayed in the hospice or before choosing to die at home.

'The funds from PST to the Bethesda Hospice means a magnificent start to our fundraising each year. As raising funds has become more difficult over the last number of years, if we did not receive these funds it may mean we would have to reduce the service we offer to the communities of the Western Isles.'

4.5.6 Project 6: Supporting Local Arts and Culture in An Lanntair and elsewhere

ORGANISATION: An Lanntair

ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES
The funding was to be used by An Lanntair to attract other commercial and local sponsors.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
An Lanntair welcomed the flexibility as to how they used the funding as it meant that rather than be tied to one activity they were able to target it where it was needed most. A decision was made early on to target it towards outreach and education. Not having this flexibility would probably have led to a loss of a job, and also the loss of freelance people.

IMPACT
The funding was used to fund staff and freelance artists to deliver the outreach programme in community spaces in Point and all over Lewis and Harris as well as workshops in An Lanntair. In a single year, 9,500 people participated in the education programme. The work has had an impact on the creative skills, self-esteem, and confidence of those that have taken part, and helped them to develop skills to then go on into employment. They have teamed up with The Foyer, another core-funded organisation, to bring added benefits to their client group. As well as working with individuals in the community, they have also worked with schools and school teachers, providing opportunities for CPD.

4.5.7 Project 7: Creating Local Jobs by Investing in Renewables

PST also made a commitment in 2013 to look at opportunities in other forms of renewable energy such as wood fuel domestic heating as a way of helping reduce fuel poverty while at the same time create local jobs.

By 2016, when PST was in a position to pay out its first grants, biomass domestic boilers were commercially available and being installed in the Western Isles. It was decided, therefore, that the aim of "creating local jobs through investment in renewables" would be best met by investing in renewable energy projects that were not yet commercially viable but which, if developed, could produce long-term job and climate-change benefit to the islands. PST has invested in a number of such projects including a project to develop a hydrogen economy in the Western Isles and a project to install large, grid-scale battery storage in the Western Isles. Four core staff have also been appointed by PST itself, partly linked to renewables.

4.5.8 Other community organisations



In addition to the projects above, PST also made a commitment in the 2013 Development Plan to set up a Small Grants Fund of at least £30,000 a year to focus on providing help to local smaller projects. To date, a total of £756,722 has been invested in local projects, over and above the six core-funded activity detailed above.

The consultation and survey responses provide a healthy bank of evidence of other community organisations for whom PST funding has brought tangible benefits including being able to develop and continue services, launch new products and benefitting young people. Investments have also been important for bringing the community together, at events, gatherings, and social activities. Some examples are provided below.

> Lewis Castle College secured funding to set up an Innovation Hub with a 3D printer to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and high technology. To date this has resulted in 4 new products brought to market by entrepreneurs and around 150 people receiving accredited training, upskilling the island workforce for an IT-led knowledge

economy. The Innovation Hub was central to the local response to the Coronavirus pandemic, enabling Point and Sandwick Trust to supply PPE equipment to every hospital and care home in the Western Isles.



Many grantees commented that the funding from PST enabled them to continue or develop their services. For example, Crossroads commented that the funding enabled them to continue to support carers in the Island of Lewis, to enable them to have time away from their caring role, and as a result become better carers.

Funding from PST enables the local population in the Point and Sandwick area to access a defibrillator within about 4 minutes of cardiac arrest, with volunteer delivery available via a dedicated phone number.

A grant to a local football club to purchase equipment or offer coaching sessions delivers far reaching benefits such as an opportunity to get together with friends and improved health and wellbeing.

For some grantees funding from PST opened up further funding opportunities i.e. through match funding, improved credibility etc.

Over the years, The Trust has also made several donations to local causes. In April 2018 the Trust donated £250 to Sandwick Learning Centre to help buy specialised cycling equipment for children with additional support needs. The trike went to a pupil at Sgoil an Rubha whose teacher said that:

"We wouldn't have had it if it wasn't for the Point and Sandwick Trust. It's great to see things going directly back to the local community and to young people – especially those who are disadvantaged."

4.6 Environmental Impact

In terms of environmental impact, it is important to note that by supplying the domestic energy needs of 6,700 households, the Beinn Ghrideag wind farm will reduce annual **CO2** emissions by between 12,000 and 25,000 tonnes so helping to meet national and international climate change targets.

4.7 Legacies

Projects involving physical or capital work have generated legacies such as the restoration of the coastal path and making the pier more accessible which will result in those sites being preserved for future generations to gain access to and enjoy.

Other projects have included gathering and digitisation of a rich Gaelic audio archive which would otherwise have been lost and is now being made available online, sustaining learning and knowledge about heritage beyond the project period. An additional benefit is that specialist equipment and other assets purchased by groups will continue to be utilised by their members for years to come.



One of the other key outcomes of the Trust's investment has been the purchase of a vehicle for community use. This vehicle is available for local groups to use to transport beneficiaries to events, sport competitions, and so on, and it is provided free of charge. The vehicle chosen was designed to make it accessible without the need for special MiDAS minibus driver training.

4.8 Indirect benefits

As part of this review it is also important to consider the indirect benefits of PST's investments.

> *'Arriving at a door with free lightbulbs made it easy to gain access. Got to meet people, some of whom were in a desperate state and needed much more help in dealing with fuel poverty and were able to get them the support they needed such as fitting of ramps, smoke alarms, etc'.*

'The grant paid for our Parent and Toddler Christmas party. As parents did not have to pay for the party, they were invited to bring something for the foodbank. A large amount was donated, so the PST grant had a knock-on benefit for poor families in Lewis.'

There are also some good examples of where funding from PST has acted as a catalyst for new developments.

The success of the LED Community Project has led to an exciting new joint project between TIG and Galson Estate Trust and Carloway Estate Trust which like the project funded by PST, will help households across both estates reduce carbon emissions.

A student used the 3D printer at the Innovation Centre, purchased using funds from PST to develop a plastic end cone for airplanes which led to his paper being published in a respected journal. While another student recently won the Best Engineer Award and Best Design Award for a new design concept of boat trailer and made a model of it using the same 3D printer.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

This social impact report shows that funding from Point and Sandwick Trust has had a significant impact on the economic, physical, mental and social health of residents of the local Point and Sandwick area, but has also provided benefits across the Western Isles.

The key performance indicators used to assess the impact of PST's investment, and the extent to which they have been met, are shown in the table below. The evidence which relates to the survey element of the review is based on around half of the grant recipients, and so is an under-reporting of the impact.

Indicator	**Extent to which met**
Meeting PST's objects	Met - Wide coverage across all PST objects, confirmed by grant recipients and perception of community
Geographical reach	Met – focus on Point and Sandwick communities but also benefits across whole of Western Isles
Number of jobs created or sustained	Largely met – 15 FT, 10 PT, and 61 volunteers positions created and 17 FT, 15 PT, and 33 volunteer positions sustained.

	Also - Establishment of several new tree nursery businesses to supply the demand from the Woodland Croft Scheme. This will have created additional jobs, for which data are not available.
Additional money leveraged	Met - for the total of £1,396,021 that PST has invested, an additional £1,011,200 is known to have been leveraged based on a 55% response rate to the survey. 90% of woodland croft grant recipients also used their own money as well. LED project brought an additional £1,249,075 into the community via home insulation grants etc.
Community and social impact	Met – wide evidence from survey and the 6 core-funded organisations. For example, in the case of the LED project, additional benefits in terms of energy saving, home insulation, and two other communities adopting the same approach elsewhere on island. Wider benefits felt by: 59 Staff, 327 Volunteers, and 8,638 Beneficiaries.
Environmental impact	Met - the Beinn Ghrideag wind farm will reduce annual CO2 emissions by between 12,000 and 25,000 tonnes The LED lights installed provide energy savings of £253,000 for the people of Point and Sandwick Woodland crofts – 100,000 trees planted. In the longer term, there will be a considerable economic benefit to this as the value of the trees increases as they grow. There will also be an environmental benefit beyond the actual trees themselves (shelter, increased biodiversity, and additional trees through of the spread of seed as the trees mature).
Indirect benefits	Met – extensive evidence from testimony of grant recipients and beneficiaries – for instance Innovation Centre projects, PPE supply, community minibus, to mention a few. There are many intangible values that were reported – more informal social interaction, increased community and individual beneficiary confidence, improved health, reduced social isolation, and so on.

It should be highlighted that the evaluation isn't as robust as it could have been due to the lack of indicators and data built into the application and reporting process. This illustrates the importance of embedding outcome measurement into the application process as well as providing support to grant recipients to build this into their reporting. If this is to be done, it

needs to be done in a way that is commensurate with the level of grant given – having the same reporting for £200 for some football strips as £30,000 for a member of staff wouldn't make any sense.

Recommendations:

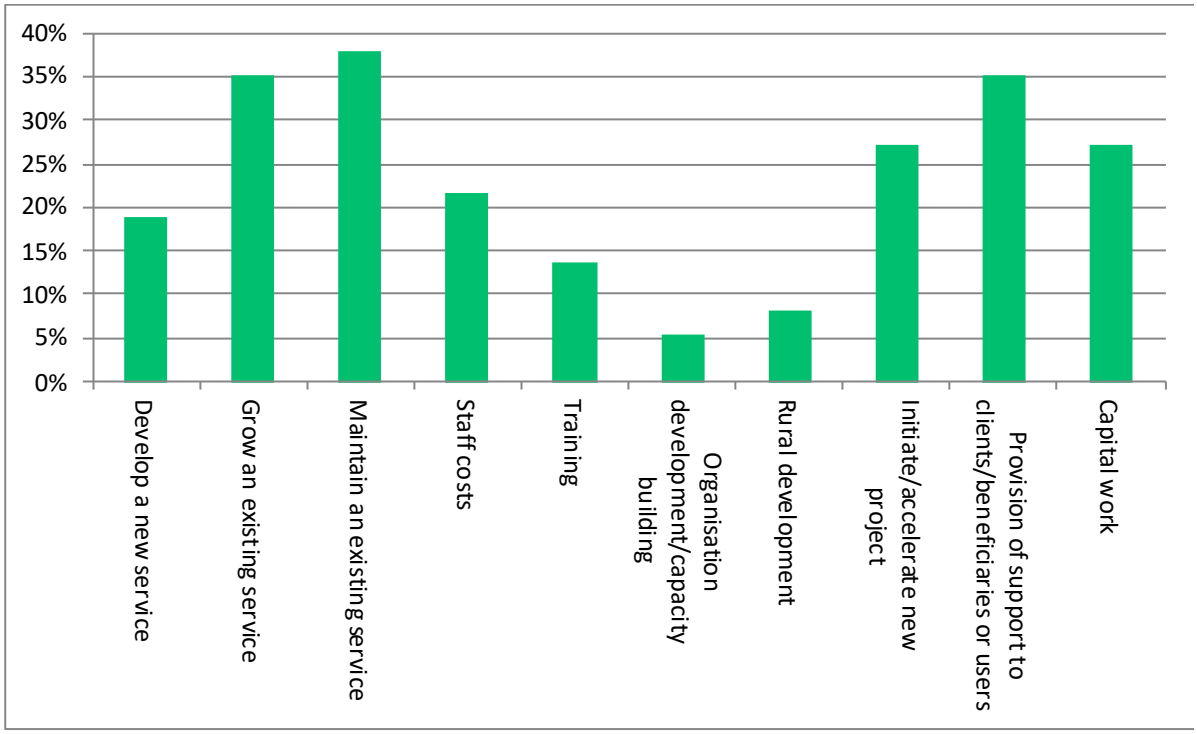
- There has been great value in the flexibility around the investments made, from the criteria for applications to the process in place to apply, and also flexibility in how investments are used. This was widely appreciated by recipients, and should continue into the future.
- The approach of placing trust in grant recipients to use the investment in the best way possible has been appreciated and enabled them to target resources where needed, and in some cases be more ambitious and adventurous to try things out. Giving grant recipients this freedom should continue to be part of the ethos of the Trust.
- Recognise and celebrate the impact that PST's investment has had, as demonstrated by the findings of this review.
- PST has received local and national recognition for its work, and should consider how it can raise its profile even further on an international level.
- All grant holders should be required to acknowledge support from PST publicly.
- Continue the blend of local and Western Isles-wide approach to investment.
- Continue the blend of having a good mix of large and small investments, and also short term, one-off awards and longer term, ongoing awards.
- Encourage projects to monitor and evaluate the outcomes from their activities and build this into the reporting requirements. Reporting requirements need to be appropriate and proportionate to the level of funding provided.
- Ask projects to identify legacies from the PST funded activity.
- Consider embedding social impact assessments in the PST culture by producing an updated report in another 5 years.
- The response of PST to the coronavirus pandemic was possible because of a flexibility in their approach to investment, and this has been of great benefit to the local and wider community. Future plans for management of investments should ensure this approach continues to be at the heart of PST's work.

Appendix One - Grant Recipient Survey

Funding

1. How much funding did you receive from PST?
   Total £800,311

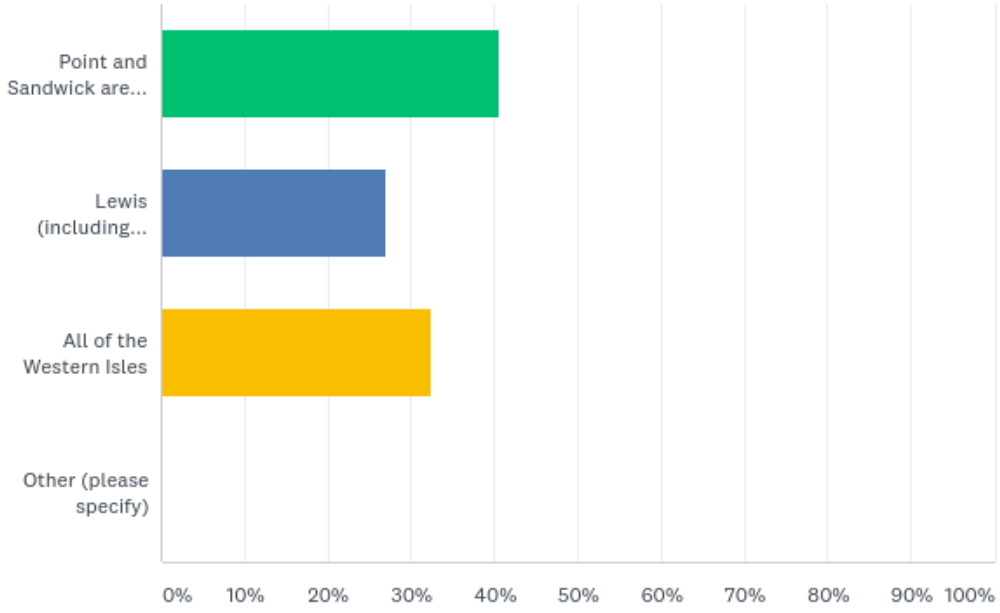
2. What did you use the grant funding from PST for? Please tick all that apply.



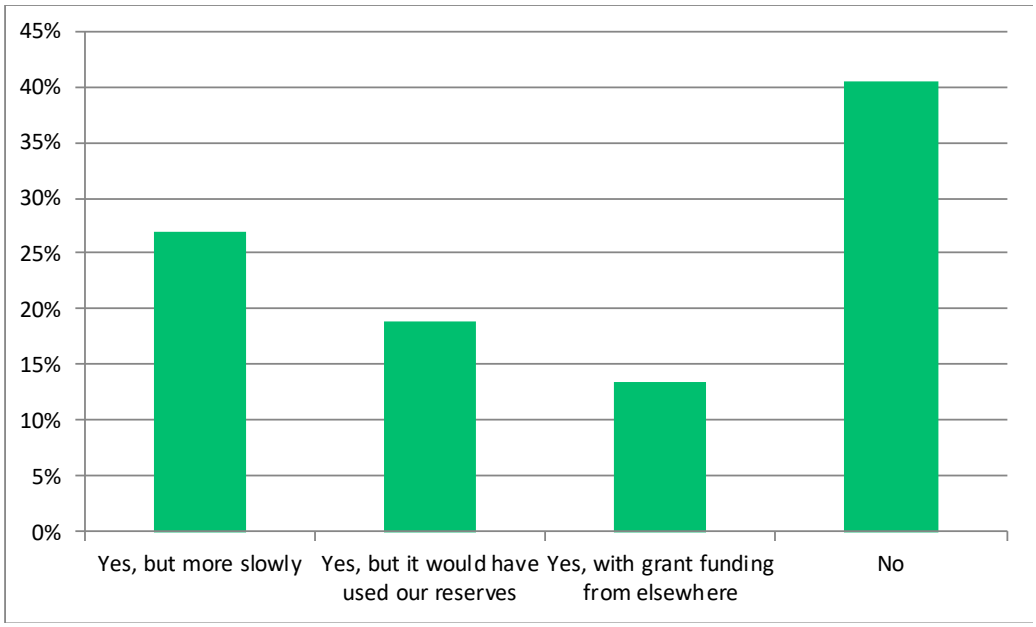
'Other' responses

To enable all pupils in Primary 7 to go on their school trip to mainland. Lowering the cost of payment to parents
An event.
Various merchandise & equipment for Hebridean Pride event 2019
Pensioners Christmas lunch
Towards defibrillator provision
Equipment
Publishing Costs and sponsorship of our annual public lectures.
Marine Safety Equipment
Enhance the experience of our younger members and help raise the profile of the club.

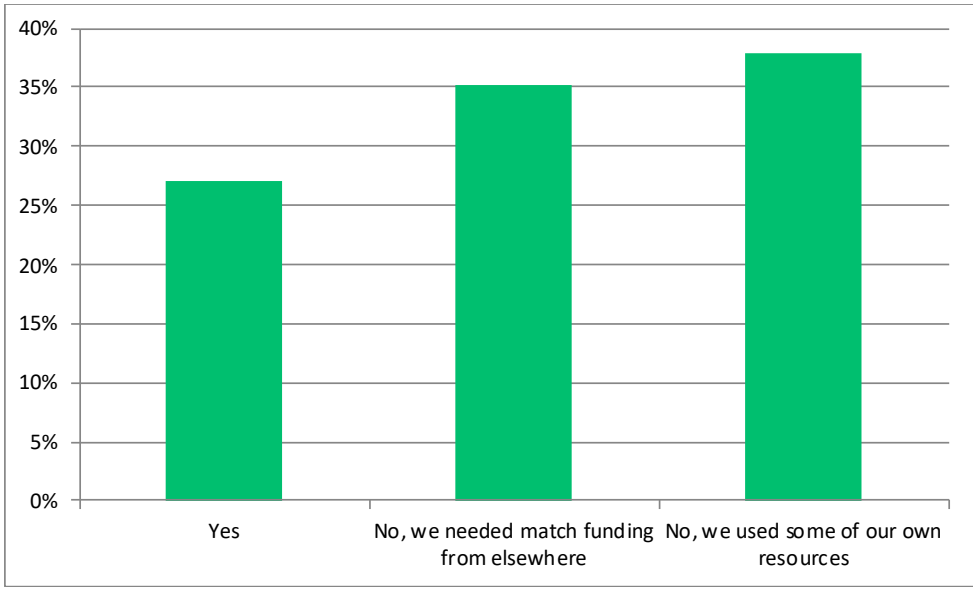
3. What geographical area is covered by the work you are doing that has been funded by PST?



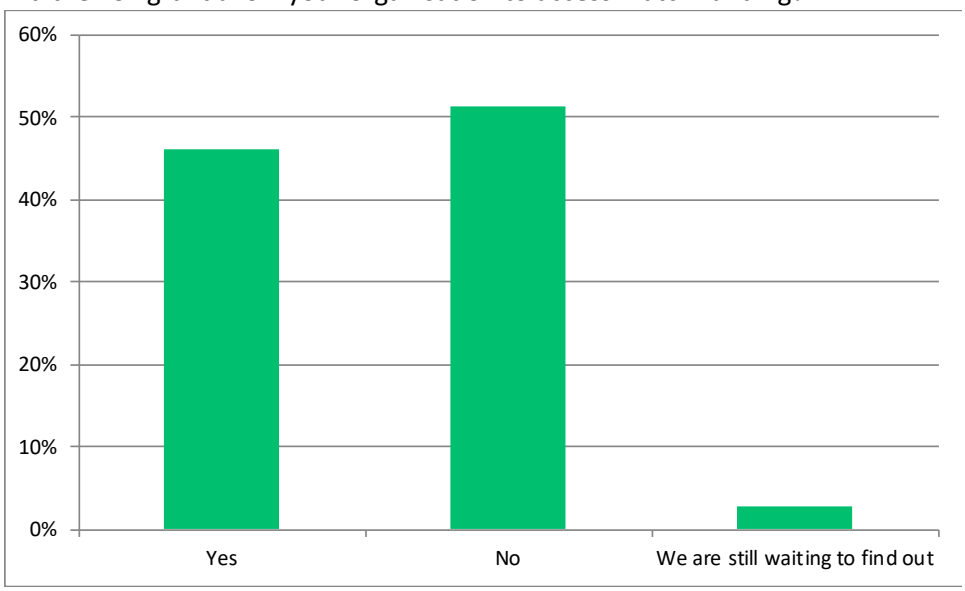
4. If you hadn't received the funding from PST, would you have been able to go ahead anyway?



5. Did the PST grant cover 100% of the costs of your project?



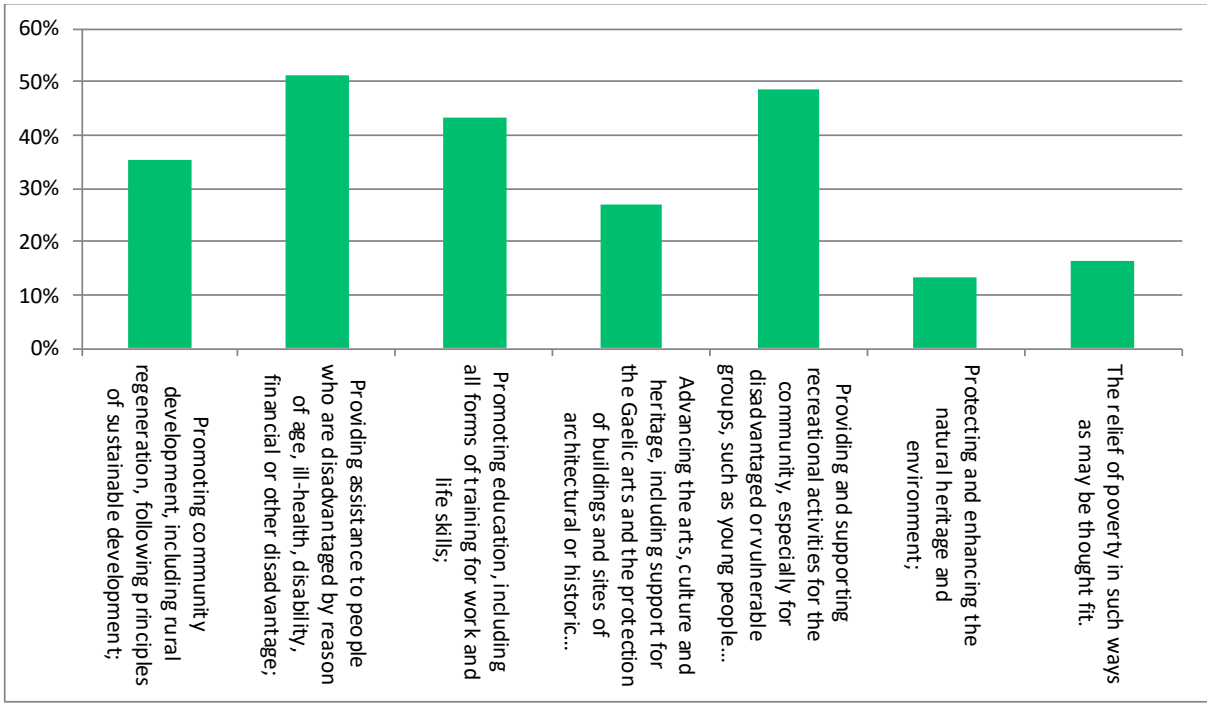
6. Did the PST grant allow your organisation to access match funding?



7. If you have received match funding, what was the value of this?

Total - £430,600

8. Which of the following PST priorities did the funding from PST address? Please tick all that apply



Job creation

9. How many of the following positions have been **created** by the PST grant?
10. How many of the following positions have been **continued/ sustained** by the PST grant?

Reported on above in body of report.

11. In your estimation, how many people have directly benefited from the grant your organisation received from PST? Please detail the numbers of each as relevant

Staff - 59
Volunteers - 327
Beneficiaries – 8,638

12. Please write a few words describing the difference that PST grant funding has made to your staff/volunteers/beneficiaries/organisation, and/or the wider community.

The funding we have received from the Point and Sandwick Trust to run the LED Energy Community Project has been invaluable to Tighean Innse Gall, enabling us to reach upward of 597 people so far. We have been enabled to help people with a range of needs, especially those in fuel poverty to clear debt, save on their energy bills, and insulate their homes. We have been able to refer vulnerable people onto other organisations such as Home Energy Scotland (HES) for new heating systems, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for debt relief and benefit checks, Western Isles Occupational health etc. During the project 652 Home visits have been carried out leading to the installation of 7000 low energy light bulbs and 235 homes receiving insulation measures. Approximately 110 homes have been signposted to other agencies.
The monetary value that the project has achieved is impressive, with the LED bulbs installs alone saving people throughout Point and Sandwick up to £252,000 on lighting so far. If each house that has received an insulation measure saved on average £200 the

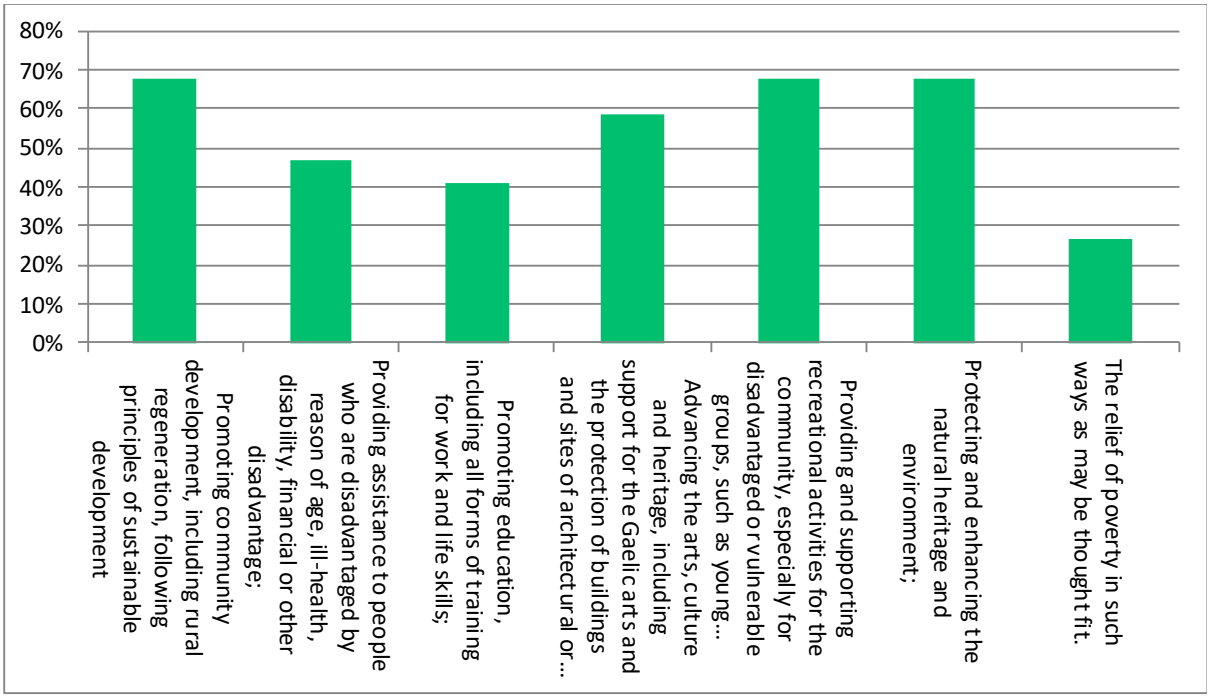
savings made would amount to £47,000. On top of this people are living in warmer and healthier conditions. Through insulating 235 properties around £1,249,075 was pulled down by TIG through the HEEPS and ECO schemes. Carbon savings from bulb installs and insulation measures will be considerable, they are yet to be worked out in full.
It allowed us to purchase additional materials and equipment to make Point Beavers and Cubs better equipped to provide exciting and educational activities. In addition, it allowed the purchase of a section flag.
A very appreciated local source of funding to help us carry on developing our recreational facilities
we have been able to continue our annual heating grant to our 12 haemodialysis patients and also assisted 4 with expenses out with that which NHS Western Isles gives for mainland travel to hospital.
It meant that we could make our pier more accessible to all boat users and helped towards painting our sea wall - making the place more attractive.
The pupils of Sgoil an Rubha would have had to have paid £250 to attend their school trip to the mainland. This is a substantial amount. With the grant, pupils had to still contribute in fundraising activities for the community but it eased parents financially.
Without PST funding our digitisation project would not have gone ahead and a rich Gaelic audio archive would have likely been lost.
We are very grateful to Point and Sandwick Trust for this significant sponsorship which will support the Point 5k and events in the future. The funding will allow us to plan ahead with certainty and continue to organise this popular event for years to come.
It has allowed a coastal path to be protected from storms and a greater number of people to enjoy the benefits of walking around our part of the Islands
Helped the organisation to maintain a service
We were able to make the event more colourful
PST Grant funding and support has allowed our organisation to grow and develop our place in the community and beyond. Also encouraging new members to join our group.
Providing a core stability on base costs
we were in process of establishing a new Cancer care charity in the Western Isles with support from Macmillan cancer support. PST support assisted us to purchase and set up appropriate IT equipment for our charity
Take the Project to fruition Used by Volunteer Groups
Visibly makes a difference to the elderly in the community.
PST funding has enabled the employment of a dedicated Croft Woodland Adviser for the Western Isles who supports crofters, common grazing, communities and schools to plant and care for trees and woodlands. These woodlands bring multiple benefits to the islands including shelter, biodiversity and amenity.
PST grant funding has enabled WIAMH to continue to provide and sustain existing service provision and also provided us with capacity to develop and deliver new projects to enhance and benefit our service-users, adults with mental health issues, identified needs.

PST Grant funding support has been invaluable to our organisation in respect of both sustaining existing service, staff posts and allowing us to grow and develop to enable us to provide targeted services for our service-user demographic, vulnerable young people aged 16-26. It has also enabled us to take more 'positive risks' with working with young people with high support needs and to work with families as well as individuals.
Our village population is able to access a defibrillator within about 4 minutes of cardiac arrest, with volunteer delivery available via a dedicated phone number.
Grant has allowed us to continue to assist many events and groups in our community
Enabled us to start a monthly cafe which has become a regular attraction for local people and visitors to the area. Smaller grants assisted us with continuing to provide a free Christmas dinner and entertainment for the Over 60s in the area.
We had tried fundraising in various ways for appropriate mats for our cheerleading and dance club, but it was proving to be a long and slow process. The cost of the mats would have wiped out all of our fundraising for a couple of years meaning we couldn't attend mainland competitions. The funding enabled us to buy new mats, which helped us created a safer and more efficient club, with better facilities and able to work with more kids. It has also helped our competitive groups to have a floor like the one they compete on at competition and we believe this has helped us grow as a squad
The sponsorship of our annual lectures enables us to inform and educate the public and promote Eaglais na h-Aoidhe and Point without dipping into our reserves. The cost of publishing the Graveyard Records means that we are able to sell them at a very affordable price. A huge amount of voluntary work went into mapping, collating and researching everyone recorded as being buried in the church and graveyard. This is of considerable local, national and international interest, but especially so to older local people, many of whom contributed to the research through our Oral History Project. The grant towards the cost of purchasing and fencing a triangle of land immediately out with the graveyard means that we can build an Interpretation Centre. It added to our Land Acquisition Appeal Fund which again meant that we could buy and fence the land without dipping into our reserves.
the funding gave the club vital safety equipment needed to be able to take to the water safely, in the knowledge that if something went wrong we would be able to attract attention and call for help out on the water
The Grant funding has enabled the organisation to become a more comfortable environment for both volunteers and visitors to the Branch.
It has made such a great impact on our charity, given us the resource to expand our specialist equipment and travel around the island to bring our service to everyone that can benefit.
Has allowed forward planning, consistency and ability to source funding elsewhere
Without PST grant money we would not have been able to fund purchases - (garden equipment and materials)
It has made it easier to take Brownies on their annual Scaladale sleepover and activities weekend.
For us the PST funding has made a significant difference in terms of us being sustained to continue to provide a residential recovery service for individuals whose lives have been seriously damaged by substance misuse. They have been able to become abstinent for a period of time at least, and have had the opportunity to heal physically and mentally, to access work or voluntary work and to have self respect and self esteem restored in their

lives. It has been a joy to see this happening for a number of individuals. We are very grateful indeed to PST.
the PST funding allowed us to produce an affordable product that was accessible to everyone
This funding has enabled us to continue to support carers in the Island of Lewis, to enable them to have time away from their caring role. Our recent annual Service Users Questionnaire showed that the work of Crossroads has a positive impact in various aspects of their lives, enabling and allowing them to be better carers. It has enabled us along with other funding to keep staff on the pay roll, to support the continuation of the charity.
The grant paid for our Parent and Toddler Christmas party, including gifts and food. As parents did not have to pay for the party, they were invited to bring something for the foodbank. A large amount was donated, so the PST grant had a knock-on benefit for poor families in Lewis.
PST support has allowed us to improve our facilities significantly and its continued encouragement has given us confidence in the future of our organisation.
We would not have been able to carry out the project without the support from PST. The project has had the necessary effect of providing some protection from the elements to our young members in an equitable way, and helping promote the club (and PST) on island and on away trips. We would like to repeat the project to maintain the support.
It allowed us to set up a hub at the local college to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and high technology. This has, so far, resulted in 4 new products brought to market by entrepreneurs and around 150 people receiving accredited training and advice. Our training is also sought after by local business and upskills the island workforce for an IT lead knowledge economy.

Appendix Two - Community Survey

1. Which of the following PST priorities do you think has been the focus of the funding from PST address? Please tick all that apply



2. Do you think there are other priorities that PST should have included for their funding priorities? If so, please specify here.

real fuel poverty measures contact/support for the elderly
Employment and training for local employment. Continue support for people suffering fuel poverty as a specific priority.
Inclusive initiatives that benefit everyone. Initiatives that keep people in Point and Sandwick safe e.g. High vis armbands. One other area in Lewis offer free driving lessons. Something that has an impact
Pavements throughout the Point area. Having pavements put throughout the area will enable children to safely cycle to school, to see their friends. It'll enable adults to walk safely to visit people. More walking/cycling will mean better health and less car emissions. It'll make it easier for the community to access each other safely.
local elderly care better organised community support for people
The existing priorities are sufficient
More activities for young people and children.
I think they are doing a great job. Maybe building a community hall for concerts. The Aird one is very small and isn't good for concerts
Sustainable job opportunities in the area. So far, none; except their own 'unaccounted' management and 'consultants'.
LOTS
Supporting young students school leavers, funds to do courses for them

Assistance with setting up not for profit community businesses in point and sandwick. An example would be similar work to "the Staran" project. Also capital works such as the improvement of historic buildings in the Point. The Knock school desperately needs modernised and is not fit for purpose. Could be used as a museum, or sold for housing a much needed moderately priced hotel or self catering accommodation .
PST should have included capital projects in their plans, there is a danger that all the money is given out in revenue grants and there will be little to show for all that investment in future.PST should not however abandon those small organisations in the Point and Sandwick area who rely on annual revenue grants.
All important, however in comparison with the turbines in Tolsta I think the impact in the local community is minimal. I only know of small donations to the football team, school and youth club, while all excellent causes the small amount limits any real potential of any noticeable value.
Sports and leisure
Don’t know enough of their funding properties.
Promoting carbon divesting activities
More funding toward youth sport.
Transportation Cycle path to Stornoway
Funding club and organizations that are trying to make a difference to the community
Equipment for the Isle Of Lewis Gymnastics Club
Making point look attractive with viewing points and car parks
Developing tourism sites and facilities!!!!
Job creation, capital legacy projects, closer cooperation with CNES
IMPROVEMENTS TO SEA DEFENCES AT THE BRAIGH SO THAT WE DON'T GET CUT OFF SO OFTEN IF AT ALL
Help the people of the area more by giving those who are going to further education more help by way of grants
Their priorities are well-suited to the needs of the community.

3. Please write a few words describing the difference that you think PST grant funding has made to the communities of **Point and Sandwick**.

good projects that have assisted the community groups
Funding community projects. helping to reforest the island. communicating and collaborating with organisations.
Allowing small projects which make a big difference to go ahead.
PST have helped many groups do things they previously couldn't
I think it has helped children to access recreational activities in Point. Our Cubs group in Point have really benefited from a PST grant
PST funding has done a huge amount for the local area. Investing in the children, the environment and nature of Point. The community do look at them as a committee that helps and makes a difference.
Brilliant use of the Cash derived from the power generated

Community paths, Grants to Bethesda, pipe band, etc. I think there is great potential but the general opinion of people in our community is that the community does not hugely benefit from PST. It is seen as a small group that mainly support projects out with our community. The potential to really help our community and help the genuine problems facing people in the area is there, but so far, this is not happening.
Community groups and charities.
Thanks to PST: the football club is being kept going. 2. knock school building which they are using has the comun eachdraidh exhibition and the local shop, which are very popular and wouldn't be possible without PST. The local hospice is being funded mostly by PST, which is great that they have the ability to support them, but ridiculous that the nhs and council have cut its funding
Not enough. Far too much focus on large grants spent outside the area.
Funding currently tends to be directed towards specific community groups where only those directly involved can see the benefits of the funding (most grants are less than £1000). Not all residents are involved in community groups and i feel they are missing out on the wind farms benefits. I also feel that as a result p&st are not getting the full credit they deserve for their work locally. They need to have a big 'hit' something tangible everyone can utilise. P&st should consider funding a newbuild community hub at seaview with a space possibly including a hall for events, bar, cafe and leisure activities such as a small community cinema, bowling etc. The shop should be based in the building , and the building should include rooms let out for itinerant hairdressers, barbers, beauticians etc. Possibly include a meeting room for clubs, office space for nhs/dwp/cab etc information days, a laundry, small library with access to wifi etc. P&st offices should be in the building. Rooms hired out to community groups such as the rubach newspaper. A petrol station in Point would be a major asset. A community garden with a polycrub and a community shed /workspace for evening classes, building a skiff etc
PST funding has enabled community organisations to grow and prosper against a background of diminishing opportunities for securing external grants, eg Lottery, local authority and European.
The plans for Regeneration of the steps in point which will be a safe area for walkers. Will connect communities.
Bethesda has been helped by them a great deal.
Given hope and encouragement.
Opportunities have arisen, in the area, which previously would not have been available.
I think it's making a difference, although it some residents in point/sandwick are unaware of the good that has come of it. Maybe a monthly/quarterly newsletter drop would be an idea especially to older folk who may not have internet.
Point and Sandwick Trust are having a massive impact on many groups within these areas. Their funding has had many benefits and make a difference to so many different types of groups covering all ages
Boosting the profile of historical sites Supporting activities for the young and old

We can get new equipment for our gymnastics club, which is run by volunteers
A massive difference to the community
Homes more energy efficient
The coastal path is coming but it is happening very very slowly. Even then there are no facilities for tourists like a cafe to use while walking.
Created jobs, helped retain jobs, secured community organisations, enhanced the local environment, supported the historic environment and associated arts projects, created a very real sense of community well- being
IT HAS HELPED TO FINANCE THE REPAIR OF WALKING PATHWAYS AND THE PUTTING ON OF THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND THE RENOVATION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
Very good but imagine the huge impact on P & S area if funding wasn't diluted over the entire Western Isles.
As well as the obvious benefits brought about by funding and support to various groups and initiatives, it has engendered a sense of pride that an enterprise in our own community has achieved so much.

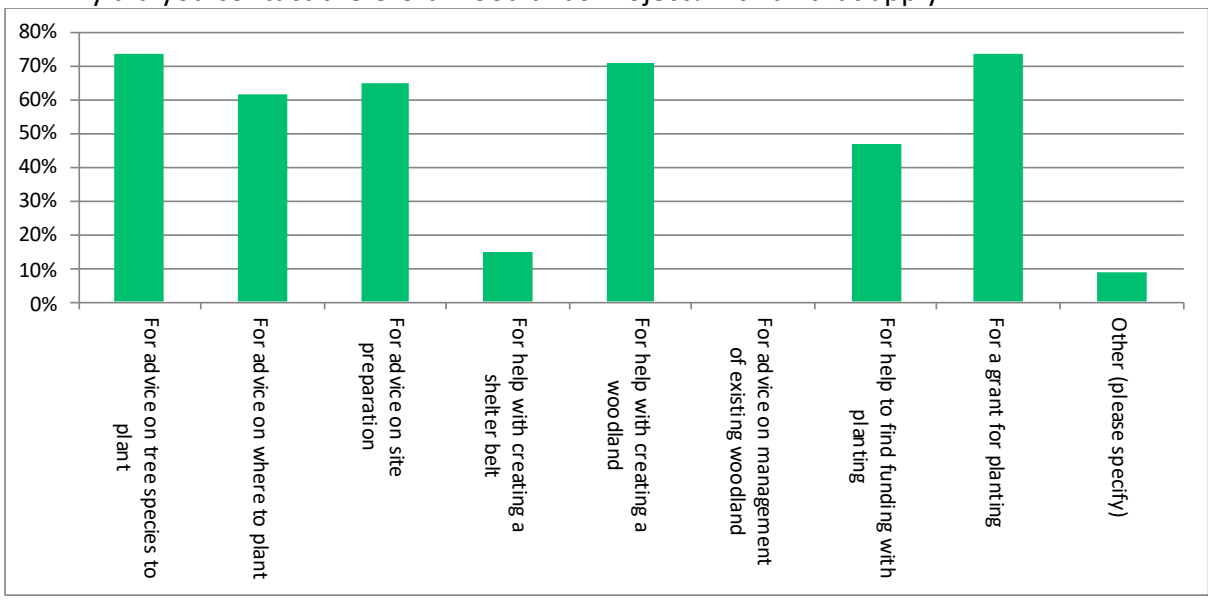
4. Please write a few words describing the difference that you think PST grant funding has made to the communities of the **Western Isles**.

Made projects possible.
Seed corn funding
they have provided support where it wasn't previously available
I feel that a lot of the funding has gone to staffing and not capital projects. Although I maybe need to know more before commenting. The point and Sandwick community bus is an excellent resource
PST, while predominantly focusing on the local Point and Sandwick communities, offers groups to seek support and help, where often there isn't anywhere to turn too.
It is brilliant that those deciding on distribution are not being parochial in their thinking
I know there have been large donations to the local hospice and to other organisations.
Limited. Potential for much wider impact.
Good to see Bethesda and Heb Alpha benefitting.
Local hospice is being funded. Stornoway rowing club is being funded which is bringing people from all over the island together, out on the water and getting healthier.
Too little. Too interested in self-promotion and the vested interests of its manager.
FINANCIALLY MORE SECURE DUE TO INVESTMENTS
Benefited Bethesda Point p7 trip costs have lessoned
Bethesda hospice are now very reliant on PST funding, disappointingly i don't feel the trust are given enough recognition of their generosity by bethesda. I fail to see what an lanntair have done with their funding. I feel that PST are spending to much money on funding community projects which were previously paid for by the council. They do not receive the recognition they deserve for their grants, as many groups don't really care where the money comes from and have no appreciation for the Trusts hard work.

Back filling comhairle cuts has a negative effect by buffering steep comhairle cuts and not holding politicians to account. This has a negative effect on local democracy, and encourages ineffective local authority representation.
PST funding to WI wide projects has made a huge difference, to Bethesda Hospice, to the Foyer Project, HebAlpha and especially to the Croft Woodlands Project. PST have been extremely generous in taking a WI wide view, and it is time other community windfarms joined in with supporting these projects, especially croft woodland, which will be a legacy project of great importance in the future.
As the fund appears to be available for all charities to apply to and not just those in point and Sandwick there is dilution of the fund available so while I'm sure there has been impact across the island I think there needs to be more focus on the needs of the local communities it was designed to help.
Regeneration projects
It has help us with small grants to enable us to have parties for the kids at Christmas and Halloween.
Given smiles
Projects which were previously thought to be almost impossible to achieve, are now a reality. In addition to this, existing organisations, which have in the past struggled to operate from year to year, are now not only able to operate efficiently, but to thrive with a view to the future.
Communities have benefited in many ways and more than I probably know. I only know about the clubs etc that I'm involved in.
Massive impact to Bethesda, sports and arts groups
Has provided some funding toward community projects, charities etc.
Supported community project and schools
It will make the kids progress in life skills
Very very helpful
House more energy efficient
Other than some funding of Bethesda hospice I don't know.
IT HAS ALLOWED ACTIVITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN FINANCIALLY VIABLE
It has taken over funding from the council. Which is great for those that need it
Excellent efforts
By supporting Western Isles wide groups and needs it has been shown that we are not (pen)insular in our concern but are alive to ways of enhancing the well-being of all Western Isles residents.

Appendix Three - Woodland Croft Survey

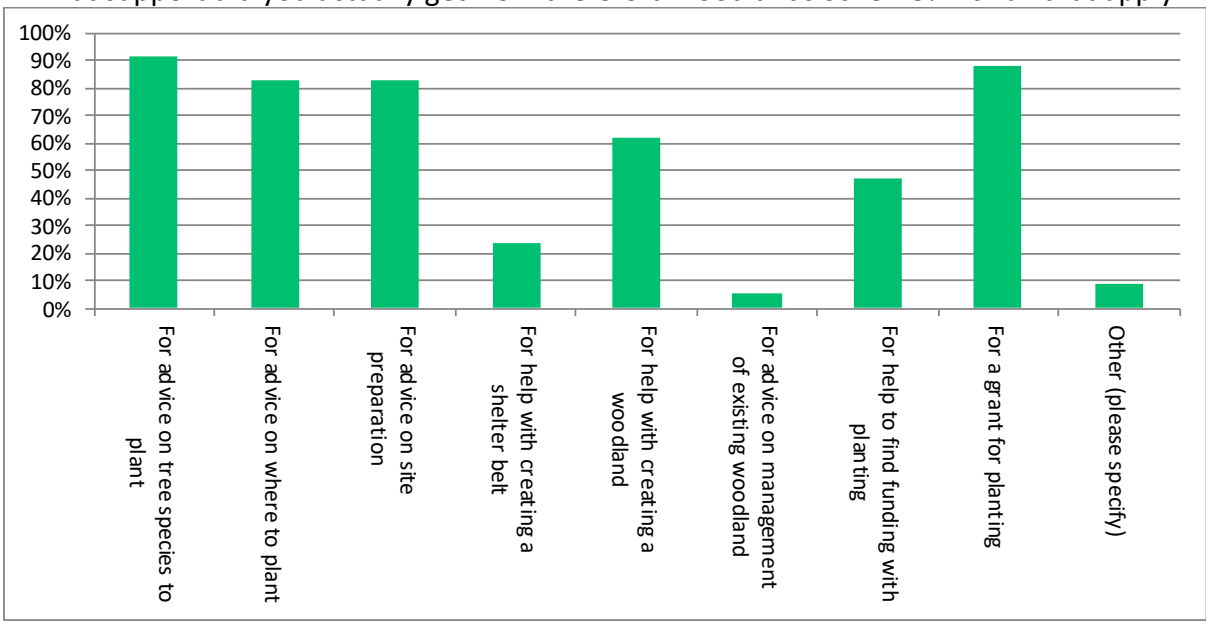
1. Why did you contact the Croft Woodlands Project? Tick all that apply



'Other' replies

For a shoulder to lean on when I hadn't a clue what I was doing, and for moral encouragement.
As I was planning larger scale plantation (over 500 trees)
Advice on delivery issues, manpower requirements and land viability

2. What support did you actually get from the Croft Woodlands Scheme? Tick all that apply

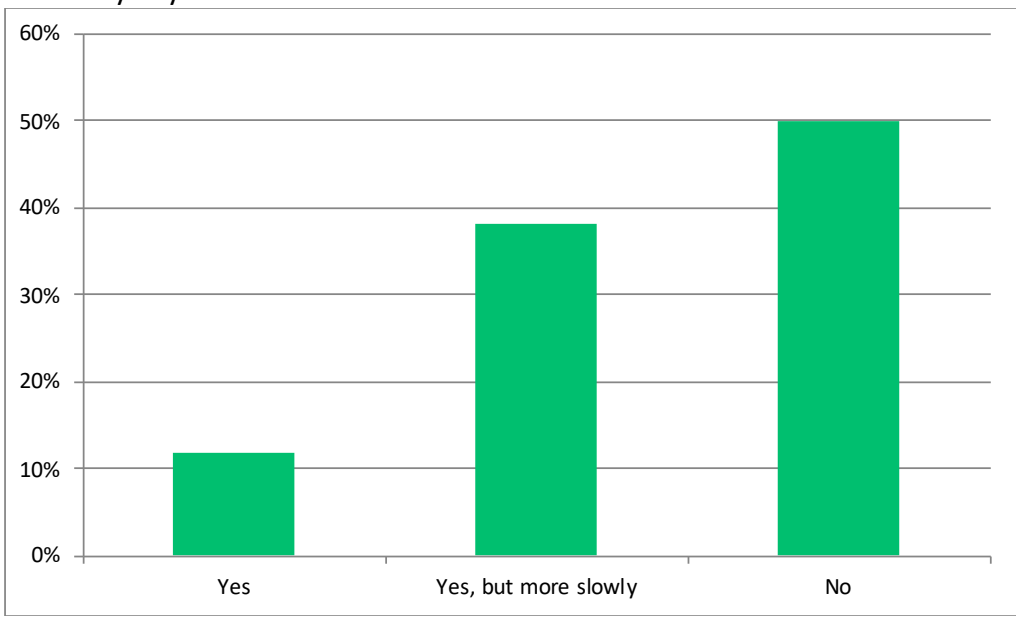


'Other' replies

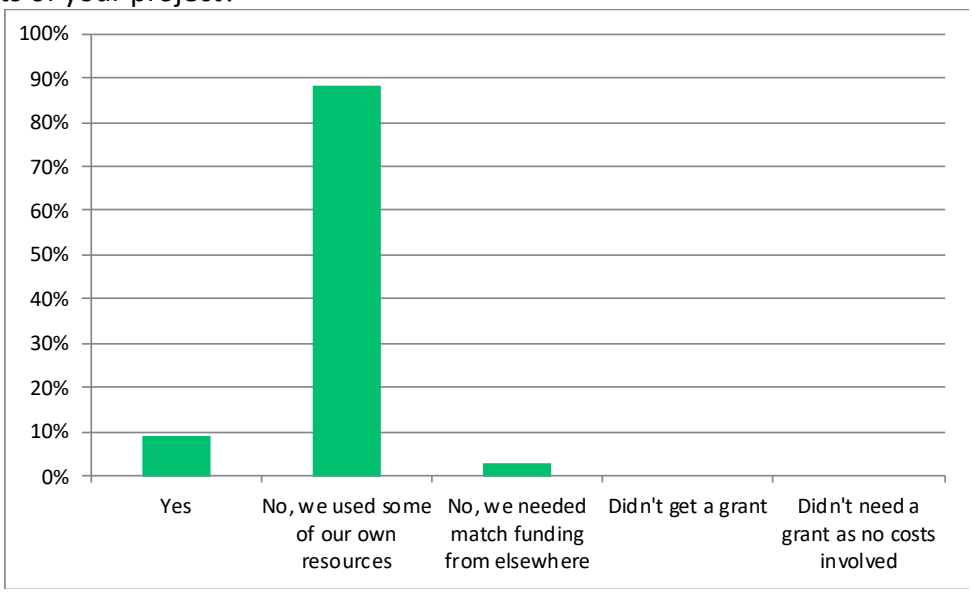
A shoulder to lean AND CRY on when I hadn't a clue what I was doing, and unstinting moral encouragement.
Many aspects of support was received and in detail. Representative Viv Halcrow went the extra mile to help and was extremely knowledgeable when asked questions.

Helped with all my questions

3. If you hadn't received support from the Croft Woodlands scheme, would you have gone ahead anyway?



4. If you received a grant towards the cost of trees/shelter, did the grant cover 100% of the costs of your project?



5. If you have received match funding, what was the value of this?
Generally wasn't match funding – was more own resources.

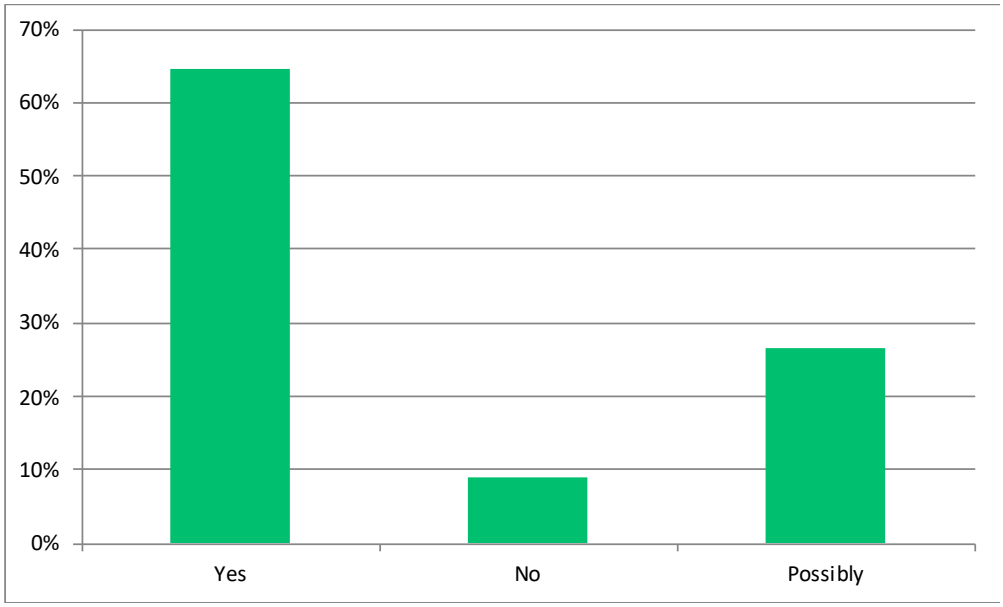
Grant covered was not adequate for planting in the western isles where costs for fencing etc is much higher
Cannot remember
about 200-300 pounds !
Think was approx 50%

6. Please tell us what difference being able to contact the Croft Woodlands Project made to you.

It enabled me to achieve my ambition to create woodlands that were appropriate to the terrain and reintroduce species that had long since diminished
The project would simply not have happened without Viv Halcrow's input.
It was helpful to have someone come and see the ground, and give advice.
Knowing that support was readily available allowed us to proceed confidently with establishing a small wood on our croft
I didn't feel lost when I would have done, and I felt that the support was there when otherwise I would probably have thrown in the towel. The circumstances were extreme and without the CWP the project would have failed.
Financial support also help and advice from the coordinator
Knowing what species to plant and where, ground preparation needed, correct time to plant and partial funding to cover some of the costs involved
The advice and financial support gave me the confidence to embark on a 350 tree shelter belt planting project, that I would not have otherwise considered.
Pretty much all the difference re suitability, species, support and advice. We have created a small but new and meaningful (in its context) woodland on a neglected croft.
Sound advice, help and direction which was much appreciated
It provided good advice to enable successful planting of appropriate species and organised orders of plants from appropriate sources
Guidance, viability of part of croft for planting trees, choice of trees, funding
Massive difference being able to contact. I'm not sure of the alternative but personally I learned alot from the process, especially considering being new to planting trees it was specifically helpful.
None
First hand on site information made all the difference
A big difference.
With zero forestry experience this has been invaluable to do our small bit in helping the environment restore its earlier state
SME advice made it so much easier
A big difference in terms if help and support, access to advice, trees and to get going
Helped a lot
It made a huge difference as I was able to obtain expert advice on what trees to plant, when to plant , where and how to plant and what funding was available.
Important information and contacts that put us in touch with other organisations in order to fund our projects. Useful advice and confirmation on the siting of potential native woodlands. Please get in touch to discuss further.
Very helpful and getting the officer on site
Was easy and straight forward and gave me confidence to proceed with my project.
We wouldn't have planted more than a few trees, but with the support and help of the trust, we took on the planting of 350, the most our site could manage.

It helped me decide where to plant the trees and the best trees to plant and fantastic advice around caring for my trees
It was an encouragement and support, as CWP provided the trees, vole guards, and fertilizer for planting. Also it helped to make links with the North Harris Trust and John Muir Trust, whose members helped with the planting and other work.
Confidence to plant trees, and being able to access funding without a hassle
Excellent point of contact for outline planning/advice on all aspects of woodland creation
Confidence. I had no idea about tree planting or care. I knew it was a good thing to be doing.
Good advice & support
Valuable advice in all aspects of the project and onsite inspection prior to starting saving time and money
Excellent advice on the best species to plant for the benefit of bees and birds. Also we received encouragement regarding the shelter belt we have planted so far.
It was great. It meant we did the project which we wouldn't have otherwise.

7. Will you plant more trees as a result of having contacted the Croft Woodlands Project?



Appendix Four - Grants from November 2016 to August 2020

NOVEMBER 2016

01	Point Show	Annual sponsorship until 2020	500.00
02	Urras Eaglais na H-Aoidhe	2016 Annual Colm Cille Lecture	300.00
03	Upper Bayble Community Trust	Start-up costs	250.00
04	**Bethesda –PRC**	**Priority Revenue Client – half year**	**25,000.00**
05	**Hebrides Alpha – PRC**	**Priority Revenue Client – half year**	**15,000.00**
06	**An Lanntair – PRC**	**Priority Revenue Client – half year**	**10,000.00**
07	**Western Isles Foyer – PRC**	**Priority Revenue Client – half year**	**15,000.00**
08	**Woodland Trust – PRC**	**Priority Revenue Client – half year**	**29,000.00**
09	Sheshader Grazings	Rent	2,500.00
10	Knock & Swordale Grazings	Rent	2,500.00
		Total	**£100,050.00**

DECEMBER 2016

11	Cairdean Og Allt na Gall	Assist with Mainland & Island visits	500.00
12	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Assist with outings, Christmas Dinner	500.00
13	Sandwick Hall Recreation Ent	Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner	500.00
		Total	**£1,500.00**

JANUARY 2017

14	Point Community Council	Special Projects	500.00
15	Point Sport & Recreation Cttee	Ionad Stoodie and football pitch upkeep	500.00
16	Advocacy Western Isles	Enhanced provision of advocacy	2,500.00
17	Association for Mental Health	Project Staff and Volunteer costs	2,500.00
18	Lewis/Harris Piping Society	Donald Macleod Memorial Piping Society	2,500.00
19	Garrabost Mill Steering Cttee	Valuation survey assistance with costs	500.00
20	Acair Limited	Publication of Iolaire Story	10,000.00
		Total	**£19,000.00**

MARCH 2017

21	Islands Games Association	Participation Costs Island Games 2017	1,000.00
22	Point Brownies	Visit to Scaladale and activities	200.00
		Total	**£1,200.00**

MAY 2017

23	Mossend Residents Association	Bayview garden enhancement	990.00
24	WI Transport Preservation Group	Improvements to existing building	4,750.00
25	Point Football Club	Purchase of Under 18s Football Strips	700.00
26	Sandwick Community Council	Assistance with Iolaire Exhibition costs	1,000.00
		Total	**£7,440.00**

JUNE 2017

27	Point Show	Annual sponsorship	£500.00
28	WI Cancer Care Initiative	Facilitate purchase of office equipment	£900.00
29	Stornoway Angling Association	Protection and conservation of Creed	£1,000.00
30	Point Sports & Recreation	Installation of Hydroboil Ionad Stoodie	£778.00
31	Sgoil an Rubha	Celebration for P7 pupils leaving	£150.00
32	Mossend Residents' Association	Various running expenses	£300.00
33	Lewis Pipe Band	Scottish Pipe Band Championship cost	£1,000.00
		Total	**£4,628.00**

JULY 2017

34	**Western Isles Foyer – PRC**	**Balance of annual grant**	**£15,000.00**
35	Aignish Cemetery Committee	Improvements and maintenance	£7,605.00
		Total	**£22,605.00**

SEPTEMBER 2017

36	Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall	Balance of grant	£500.00
37	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Balance of grant	£500.00
38	Urras Eaglais na H-Aoidhe	2017 annual Colm Cille Lectures	£300.00
39	Church of Scotland Garrabost	Disabled ramp and safety rail	£3,600.00
40	Crossroads Lewis	Continuity of services	£1,000.00
41	Rural Nations Stornoway	Touring play re WW1 Hebridean Life	£1,000.00
42	Portnaguran Amenity	Repairs/improvments to Pier	£5,000.00
43	WI Transport Preservation Group	Provison of fire alarms to building	£922.00
44	**Bethesda – PRC**	**Balance of annual grant**	**£30,000.00**
45	**Woodland Trust – PRC**	**Balance of annual grant**	**£29,259.00**
		Total	**£72,081.00**

OCTOBER 2017

46	Lewis & Harris Piping Society	Balance of Grant 2017	£2,500.00
47	WI Assoc for Mental Health	Balance of Grant 2017	£2,500.00
48	Advocacy Western Isles	Balance of Grant 2017	£2,500.00
		Total	**£7,500.00**

NOVEMBER 2017

49	**An Lanntair – PRC**	**Balance of Annual Grant**	**£10,000.00**
50	**Heb Alpha – PRC**	**Balance of Annual Grant**	**£15,000.00**
51	Lews Castle Innovation Centre	Creation of Innovation Centre	£19,994.00
52	North West Allstar Cheerleaders	Provision of larger, safer training mats to prepare for competitions	£3,970.00
53	Tiumpanhead Comm Assoc	Christmas Dinner for Elderly	£800.00

54	Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall	Christmas Dinner for Members	£1,000.00
55	Tiumpanhead Comm Assoc	Upgrade of kitchen equip facilities	£9,720.00
56	Sgoil an Rubha	Purchase football strips for P7	£700.00
57	Stornoway Primary	Provide Christmas lighting	£1,900.00
58	Aignish Cemetery Committee	Retain lair prices at current level	£3,500.00
		Total	**£66,584.00**

FEBRUARY 2018

59	**Western Isles Foyer – PRC**	**1st instalment 2018 Grant**	**£15,000.00**
60	Point Sport and Recreation	Fitness equipment	£1,000.00
61	Point Sport and Recreation	Fencing Ionad Stoodie	£2,000.00
62	Stornoway Rowing Club	Boat repairs	£1,000.00
63	**An Lanntair – PRC**	**1st instalment**	**£10,000.00**
64	Crossroads Grianan	Annual Grant (for five years)	£5,000.00
		Total	**£34,000.00**

MARCH 2018

65	Feis an Rubha	Assist with parental costs	£500.00
66	Stornoway Historical Society	Office equipment	£6,000.00
67	Goathill Park Amenity	Maintenance of ground	£7,500.00
68	Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall	Assistance with travel costs	£848.00
69	Stornoway Rugby club	Welfare of juniors	£3,000.00
70	Mossend Residents' Association	Maintenance of Garden	£940.00
71	WI Assoc for Mental Health	1st instal. Annual Grant (for five years)	£2,500.00
		Total	**£21,288.00**

APRIL 2018

72	Advocacy Western Isles	Training	£1,600.00
		Total	**£1,600.00**

MAY 2018

73	**Woodland Trust – PRC**	**1ST instalment 2018**	**£29,000.00**
74	Lewis Pipe Band	Travel to competitions	£1,000.00
75	WI Kidney Patients' Assoc	Assistance with fuel costs	£1,000.00
76	Point Football Under 13s	Purchase of equipment	£3,500.00
77	Eye Cemetery Headstones	Raising of headstones	£2,227.00
78	PS Coastal Path Project	Publicity Events	£1,000.00
79	**Hebrides Alpha – PRC**	**1st Instalment 2018**	**£15,000.00**
80	An Lanntair	Iolaire	£5,000.00
81	**Tighean Innse Gall – PRC**	**LED half yearly payment**	**£36,020.00**
		Total	**£93,747.00**

JUNE 2018

82	**Western Isles Foyer**	**Payment 2018**	**£15,000.00**
83	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Assistance with annual rent	£850.00
84	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Half yearly grant	£500.00
		Total	**£16,350.00**

SEPTEMBER 2018

85	**Woodland Trust – PRC**	**Half yearly grant**	**£29,020.00**
86	**Tighean Innse Gall – PRC**	**Half yearly grant**	**£36,000.00**
87	**Bethesda – PRC**	**Half yearly grant**	**£25,000.00**
		Total	**£90.020.00**

OCTOBER 2018

88	LCC Robotic Challenge	Purchase & build of robot kit by students	£2,000.00
89	Sheshader Amenities	Purchase of defibrillator	£885.00
90	WIAMH	5 yearly payment	£5,000.00
91	1st Point Beavers & Cubs	Purchase of equipment	£730.00
92	L&H Auction Mart	5 yearly payment	£5,000.00
		Total	**£13,615.00**

NOVEMBER 2018

93	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Christmas Dinner and Transport	£1,300.00
94	Tiumpanhead Community Centre	Christmas Dinner for over 60s	£800.00
95	Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall	Christmas Lunch for Members	£1,000.00
96	Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe	Colm Chille Lecture	£474.00
97	Samaritans Western Isles	Updating office equipment	£3,000.00
98	WI Community Care Forum	Training and Support for Carers	£3,000.00
99	Stornoway Amenity Association	Stage and Eagle Bench Perceval Sq	£2,000.00
100	Sandwick Community Council	Iolaire Project	£7,823.00
101	Plasterfield Recreation Assoc	Plasterfield Hub	£10,000.00
		Total	**£29,397.00**

FEBRUARY 2019

102	Point War Memorial	Granite Memorial Plaque - Iolaire	£2,200.00
103	Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe	Purchase land adjacent to graveyard	£5,000.00
104	Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe	Publishing graveyard records	£2,911.00
105	Urras Storas an Rubha	Supported employment Buth Rubha	£2,000.00
106	**Western Isles Foyer - PRC**	**Payment 2019**	**£15,000.00**
107	Advocacy WI	***2nd half 2018 grant***	**£2,500.00**
		Total	**£29,611.00**

MARCH 2019

108	St Columba's Old Parish Church	Specialist Restoration Works	£10,000.00
109	WI Hospital League of Friends	New chilled display cabinet	£2,191.00
110	UHI LCC	Innovation Centre	£20,000.00
111	**Bethesda - PRC**	**Half yearly grant**	**£30,000.00**
112	Stornoway Stramash	Tent area for back stage facility	£3,000.00
113	Lewis & Harris Piping Society	***Annual Payment for 2018***	£5,000.00
		Total	**£70,191.00**

APRIL 2019

114	Sandwick Youth Club	Initial set up and equipment costs	£1,000.00
115	Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall	Mainland trip costs for members	£1,000.00
116	Hebridean Pride	Assistance with costs of parade	£870.00
117	Bayview Community Garden	Purchase of equipment for upkeep	£2,239.00
118	The Leanne Fund	Photocopier and 5k run	£5,000.00
119	Sgoil an Rubha	Annual school trip	£5,000.00
		Total	**£15,109.00**

JUNE 2019

120	Lewis Pipe Band	Assistance for competitions	£1,000.00
121	ABC Club, Point	Challenger Bus	£1,000.00
122	Sandwick Hall & Recreation	Christmas Dinner 2018	£1,000.00
123	Point Football Club	Highland Amateur Cup	£3,000.00

124	Point Sport & Recreation	Upkeep of Ionad Stoodie and pitch	£3,000.00
125	Sandwick Hall & Recreation	Upgrade park at Sandwick Hall	£3,198.00
126	Autism Eileanan Siar	Purchase Tow a Van	£4,000.00
127	Tiumpan Young at Heart	Outing and concert for members	£3,000.00
128	Stornoway Rowing Club	Health & safety improvements	£2,052.00
120	Point Under 13s Football	Purchase of equipment	£1,502.00
130	Parkend & Holm Residents Ass	Purchase of Storage Container	£4,250.00
131	Aignish Cemetery	***Annual Payment 2019***	£3,500.00
132	Stornoway Stramash	Tent purchase and facilities	£3,000.00
		Total	**£33,002.00**

SEPTEMBER 2019

133	**Woodland Trust - PRC**	**Half yearly payment**	**£44,000.00**
134	St Columba's Parish Church	Annual Grant	£10,000.00
		Total	**£54,500.00**

OCTOBER 2019

135	Point Show	Assistance with costs	£1,000.00
136	Sgoil an Rubha	Annual Grant	£5,000.00
		Total	**£6,000.00**

NOVEMBER 2019

137	**Bethesda PRC**	**Final Payment 2019**	**£25,000.00**
138	**Tighean Innse Gall PRC**	**Payment 2018**	**£72,000.00**
139	**Hebrides Alpha PRC**	**Payment 2019**	**£30,000.00**
140	**An Lanntair PRC**	**Payment 2019**	**£20,000.00**
141	Aignish Cemetery	Payment 2019	£5,000.00
142	Crossroads Grianan	Payment 2019	£5,000.00
144	WI Assoc for Mental Health	Payment 2019	£5,000.00
145	L&H Piping Society	Payment 2019	£5,000.00
146	Advocacy WI	Payment 2019	£5,000.00
147	Point Sports & Recreation	New Football Stadium	£20,000.0000
		Total	**£192,000.00**

JANUARY 2020

148	Portnaguran Amenities	Village Amenity Works	£1,180.00
149	Sandwick Hall &Recreation Ctte	Christmas Dinner	£1,000.00
150	Garrabost Free Church	Gaelic recording of New Testament	£1,800.00
151	Coastal Path	Shulishader Phase	£16,992.00
		Total	**£21,512.00**

MARCH 2020

152	NHS Western Isles	Pandemic Assistance	£40,000.00
		Total	**£40,000.00**

AUGUST 2020

151	Urras Storas an Rubha	Knock Hub: Renovation	£300,000.00
152	Point Sport and Recreation	Football Stadium Installation	£25,000.00
		Total	**£325,000.00**

SMALL DONATIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

	2017/2018		
01	Sgoil an Rubha	Donation	£100.00

02	ABC Club, Point	Donation	£180.00
03	Men's Shed Stornoway	Donation	£200.00
04	2nd Stornoway Beavers	Lego based activities	£148.00
05	Point Football Club	Football strips for under 18s shortfall	£163.00
06	Point War Memorial	Running costs	£200.00
07	Melbost/Branahuie War Memorial	Maintenance assistance	£200.00
08	Stornoway Primary	P7 school trip	£100.00
09	Broken Ravens Band	Local band tour to America	£100.00
10	Sandwick Learning Centre & Point School	Special Needs Assistance	£250.00
11	Stornoway Primary	Christmas lighting	£100.00
12	Sgoil an Rubha Parents	P7 leavers' celebration party	£250.00
13	Friends of the Nicolson	Donation for Banner	£150.00
14	Point Funeral Services	Assistance with costs	£200.00
+15	Sgoil an Rubha	Bikes	£250.00
	2019		
16	Point Parent & Toddler Group	Christmas Party	£300.00
17	Portnaguran Amenity Committee	Payment essential maintenance	£300.00
18	Lewis & Harris Piping Society	Donation	£300.00
18	Island Showcase	Heb Cancer Group – Music showcase	£300.00
19	Chest Heart & Stroke Assoc	Donation	£300.00
20	Sgoil an Rubha	Assistance with garden party	£300.00
21	Sgoil an Rubha	Meal & Awards for leavers	£300.00
22	Point Youth Club	Assistance with club costs	£300.00
23	Stornoway Primary P7 trip	Assistance with costs	£300.00
24	Point Brownies	Assistance with club activities	£300.00
25	Point Youth Club & Cafe	Christmas Disco	£300.00
	2020		
25	Brownies	Assistance with club activities	£300.00
26	Sarah's Sanctuary	Set Up WI Branch	£300.00
		Total	**£6,491**

2016-2020 Grants Sub Committee Payments

2016	**101,550.00**
2017	**201,038.00**
2018	**300,017.00**
2019	**400,413.00**
2020	**386,512.00**
TOTAL GRANTS	**1,389,530.00**
SMALL DONATIONS PAID TO DATE	**£6,491.00**
TOTAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAID	**£1,396.021.00**