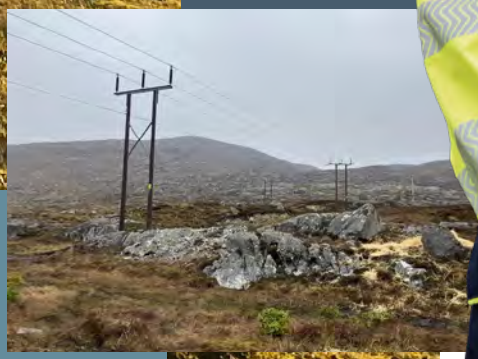
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Lewis Hub Local Fund

Consultation Report

October 2026



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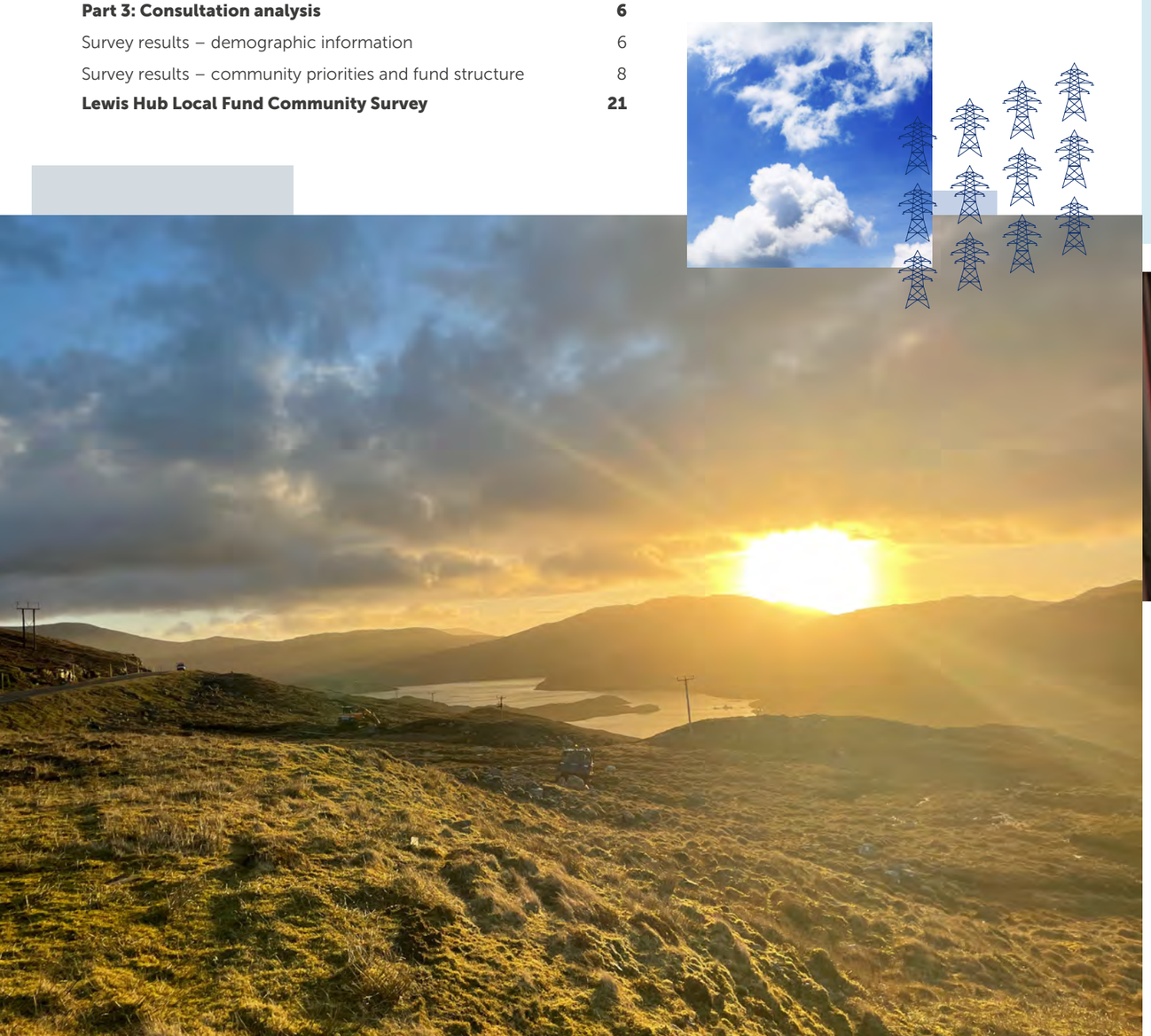


Part 1: Consultation summary

About the fund

The Lewis Hub Local Fund is made up of community benefit funding associated with the infrastructure of the following projects:

- A High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Converter Station
- An Alternating Current (AC) Substation

As per UK Government guidance on Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure, and the SSEN Transmission community benefit approach, the total lifetime value of the fund is £1,060,000.

Further information on who should be consulted can be found in the UK Government guidance above and on SSEN's 'Our approach to funding' web page.

Consultation overview

Consultation for this fund took place in May and June 2026, with the key aims of:

- Maximising reach and inclusivity for different stakeholders and reaching a wide range of community members / representatives.
- Increasing local awareness of community benefit funding from transmission infrastructure and how this funding works.
- Identifying local priorities by engaging with relevant organisations, groups and community members to understand key local priorities.
- Identifying community preferences for the fund's structure, including the area of benefit, priorities of the fund, and any specific community needs.
- Mapping community capacity and identifying where support may be required for local communities in developing their local plans or capacity to spend available funding.

To achieve these aims, local area research and stakeholder mapping was carried out ahead of the consultation period. All identified key stakeholders were contacted to notify them of the upcoming consultation. In addition, the consultation was publicised using a wide range of channels including social media, mailing lists, posters and local newspaper articles.

The consultation consisted of:

Two in-person events (in Stornoway and North Lochs)

One online event

An online survey (also made available in multiple other formats for accessibility)

Consultation response

Approximately 92 people attended either an in-person or online event. 158 people completed the survey, of which 108 lived in the proposed area of benefit of North Lochs, Laxdale and Stornoway. The remainder were mainly representatives of organisations that support communities in the proposed area of benefit.

A total of 54 different organisations and groups were represented in the survey responses.

The key outcomes of the consultation are detailed below, with more detailed analysis in Part 3 of this report.

Key Priorities

The following key community priorities were highlighted by survey respondents:

1. Health and wellbeing, including tackling social isolation and intergenerational projects
2. Accessible / affordable activities for children and young people (including activities, equipment and travel)
3. Community-led facilities and amenities (including community centres and leisure/gym/sports venues)
4. Capacity building of community bodies (including funding for skills development and people)

This reflects the priorities that were raised during discussions at the consultation events in May 2026.

Area of benefit

Based on consultation responses, the area of benefit will be slightly extended and will include: North Lochs, Laxdale, Stornoway and Sandwick Community Council areas

Amount of funding available per application

Survey responses indicated a clear overall preference for funding both small-scale projects and activities (up to £10,000) and medium-scale projects and activities (up to £100,000). A smaller number of respondents indicated a preference for microgrants and large-scale projects (up to £500,000).

Type of funding

There was a clear preference for both capital and revenue funding to be included.

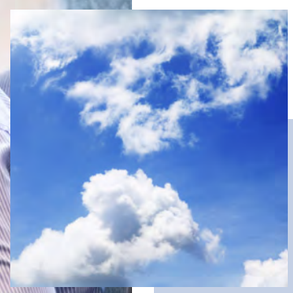
Duration of fund

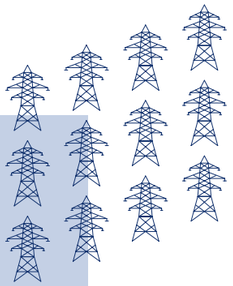
There was a clear preference for the fund to run for between three and five years.

Community Capacity

Around two thirds of respondents stated that their local area has the appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects, although some felt that the organisations didn't have sufficient funding to be as impactful as they could be and that there was pressure on volunteers.

Only around one in seven respondents didn't think that their area had appropriate organisations, with most of the remainder ticking the 'maybe' option.





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Part 2: Consultation planning and delivery

Local area research

Local area research, including stakeholder mapping and some initial engagement, was carried out from February to April 2026 and informed the planning for the consultation. Desk-based research was also conducted to gather information on the aims and ambitions of the communities across the area. One Local Place Plan was in development during the research period and we were able to access data through local community development workers, which was very helpful.

Stakeholder engagement and publicity

We undertook initial stakeholder engagement work to help us plan the consultation. This included mapping community organisations and getting a sense of the support and funding landscape available in the area. During this period, we met with several organisations representing communities in North Lochs and Laxdale along with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Third Sector Hebrides and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

This early research was then used to create 13 options for the fund priorities that appeared in the online survey.

All identified key stakeholders were emailed to notify them of the upcoming consultation. All stakeholders and event attendees were encouraged to spread the word about the consultation with their networks.

The consultation events and online survey were publicised using social media, direct mail, SSEN social media and an SSEN press release. A range of organisations including Third Sector Hebrides, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Pointers Youth Centre and local community associations also shared details of the consultation with their networks, which was very helpful. In addition, we spoke to both Pointers Youth Centre and The Shed Project during the consultation period to get a better understanding of the needs of young people.

Consultation events

Overview

Two in-person sessions were held - in the Cabarfeidh Hotel in Stornoway and North Lochs Community Centre - on the 18th and 19th May 2026. The first ran from 3.30pm to 7pm and the second from 3pm to 7pm, giving people the opportunity to attend either during - or after - normal working hours.

The Community Investment Manager gave two presentations about the consultation and the fund at each event. The presentation content covered: the background to the consultation and the UK Government Guidance on Community Funds from Transmission Infrastructure; SSEN Transmission's approach to developing community benefit funds; the purpose and scope of the consultation; the approximate timeline of fund development and information about the online survey. Contact information for the Community Investment Manager was provided, along with a link to the online survey. Each presentation ended with an open question and answer session with the Community Investment Manager. During the in-person events, there were also opportunities to discuss the consultation with SSE / SSEN staff members one-to-one.

The Community Liaison Manager for the Lewis Hub also attended both events to answer any questions about the infrastructure itself.

Display boards were presented at the in-person events, with information about the UK Government Guidance on Community Funds from Transmission Infrastructure; SSEN Transmission's approach to developing community benefit funds and the approximate timeline of fund development. There were also QR codes on display, with links to the Government Guidance, the online survey and the SSEN Transmission Community Benefit Mailing List.

The in-person events were followed by an online consultation webinar, in week two of the consultation period.

Consultation Activity	Participation
Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, 18th May	50
North Lochs Hotel, Leurbost 19th May	25
Online consultation event, 25th May	17
Survey	158

Part 3: Consultation analysis

Survey results – demographic information

The survey was completed by 158 individuals in total, of whom 108 were resident in the proposed area of benefit. Responses were received from members / trustees / staff of at least 54 different organisations and groups across the area. The key demographic characteristics of these individuals are indicated below. (Note: not all individuals provided a response to each of these questions).

Gender	
Man	**46**
Woman	**106**
Non-binary	**0**
Prefer not to say	**1**

Age	
Under 16	**3**
16 - 24	**8**
25 – 34	**17**
35 – 44	**24**
45 – 54	**35**
55 – 64	**36**
65+	**31**
Prefer not to say	**1**

What is your connection to the area of benefit? Please tick all that apply	
I live in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas	**110**
I work in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas	**49**
My work involves supporting communities in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas	**56**
I represent North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas as a Councillor, MSP or MP	**4**
I am a Community Councillor in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas	**4**
Other	**2**

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If you live in the area, please tick which Community Council area you live in	
North Lochs	**40**
Stornoway	**45**
Laxdale	**28**
Not sure	**5**
Does not live in any of these areas but would like to share views	**40**
Other	**2**

How did you hear about the survey?	
By email from Third Sector Hebrides	**45**
Social Media (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn)	**39**
By email from a Community Association, village hall or community centre	**34**
Word of mouth	**34**
Local Media (Stornoway Gazette or We Love Stornoway)	**13**
By email from the Community Investment Manager (Linsay Chalmers)	**12**
Through the SSEN e-newsletter	**11**
By email from a Community Council	**11**
Pointers Youth Centre	**10**
Other	**9**
On my local community web site	**6**
SSEN Transmission web site	**5**
Poster	**2**

Are you a member of, or involved in, running any community organisations or groups in the area?	
Yes - a local community-based organisation/group	**109**
No - I am not involved in any local organisations/groups	**19**

Survey results – community priorities and fund structure

The survey (see Appendix 1) asked a series of multiple choice and open questions regarding community priorities and views of fund structure. The results are detailed below.

What do you like most about your community? (open question)

We analysed the responses to this question to pull out the themes. Community spirit was a recurring theme in responses, as can be seen in the word cloud below and it came out top, by a significant margin, in terms of what people like about their community.

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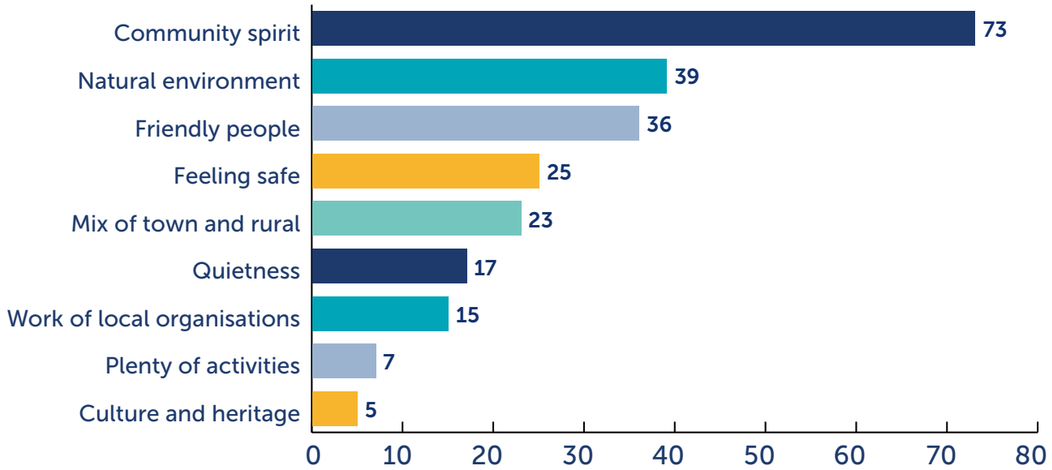
In total, respondents identified 14 different themes in this category. We have included the top nine themes in the chart below. The other five themes were selected by one person each. In addition to community spirit, respondents highly valued the natural environment, the friendliness of people and feeling safe. Many respondents from North Lochs commented on how they like being able to live in a rural area but have access to the services of a town while those living in town liked being close to rural areas.

Young people in particular appreciated growing up in a safe community.

What do you like most about your community?



Comments included:

- People care and go above and beyond to help others
- Having lived on the Isle of Lewis for coming up to 63 years, with around 45 of those in and around Stornoway, what stands out most to me is the strong sense of community and the willingness of people to support one another
- As a young crofter, the landscape and stunning views and the people in the community. The people here often try and help folk, especially old teaching young. We all try and look out for and help each other
- People care and want to provide solutions for local issues, at community level
- Friendliest, helpful people

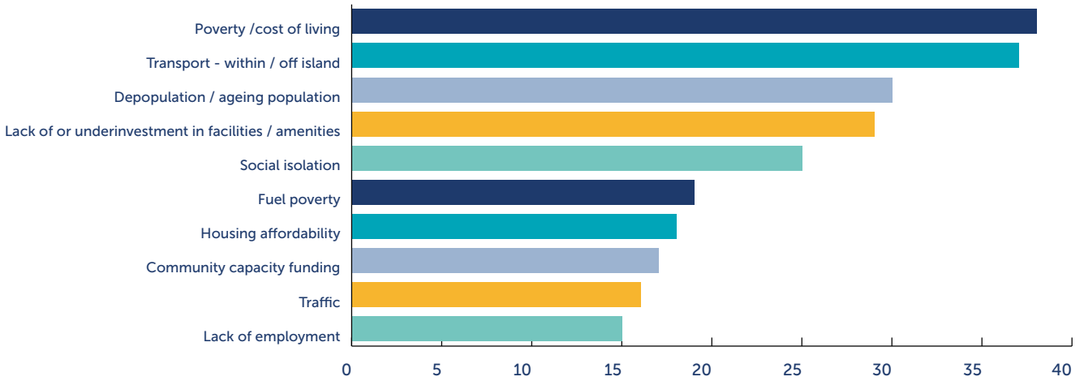
Comments from young people about what they like:

- Feeling safe while walking in the streets
- I like the fact that you know a lot of others who live here and that there are good facilities for most age groups
- The open spaces and community activities available

What do you think are the main challenges facing your community? (open question)

We analysed the responses to find common themes. In total, respondents identified 33 different challenges. We have shown the top ten challenges in the chart below. The main concern was around the cost of living – both generally, and around the additional costs that come with living in an island community. There were also concerns in the comments around the level of hidden poverty and the difficult choices parents were having to make, meaning some could no longer afford for their children to take part in activities.

Main challenges



Many of the other 23 challenges named by respondents intersected with these, including public sector cuts, the high cost of childcare and finding the right balance between creating employment for young people and maintaining the island's character and sense of place.

Young people were particularly concerned about the lack of places for them to hang out, the lack of transport to get to activities and the high cost of childcare.

Answers included:

- No 'third spaces' locally, poor public transport, difficulty getting funding for projects for long term, volunteer fatigue
- Everyone knows the main issues - depopulation, aging population, lack of good quality housing stock, fuel poverty, mental health, and the town centre is desperately needing a facelift
- I think that one of the main challenges facing communities across the Isle of Lewis, including Stornoway and the smaller surrounding villages, is maintaining sustainable and resilient communities in the face of ongoing economic pressures and population change.
- Depopulation. We need to encourage more young families to the area to ensure our schools and communities thrive well into the future. We need more housing for young families. We need to create more job opportunities for young people so they stay on our island or can move back once they have completed their education.
- Accessibility. Our access to healthcare is at the discretion of the weather, transport and available funding. Infrastructure is not particularly accessible, and we are at a financial disadvantage if we ever have medical needs and need to travel for them. Services are constantly being reduced and becoming less accessible. And the lack of housing and childcare are turbo charging depopulation
- Fundraising amongst the community is challenging, incomes are low and there are many young families in the area. Fundraising events typically raise between £600 - £800 clear after costs. This is sufficient to buy toys for the kids, and food and drinks for the groups but it doesn't cover major capital works required or utilities.

Responses from young people included:

- Having nowhere to hang out on a normal day to day or weekends. Bad transport (buses)
- Nowhere to hang out

In your view, what are the key priorities for your community? Please select your top 5 priorities.

Respondents were able to choose up to five options from a list of 13 or add their own suggestion if they felt there was an option missing. The order of the top priorities did not change when respondents from outside the proposed area of benefit were removed.

Lewis has a strong culture of people and communities working together, but responses to this question suggested that this was becoming increasingly fragile. Many respondents flagged concerns about increasing social isolation and people who were 'below the radar' of both public services and the community. Both young and older respondents highlighted the value of intergenerational work to keep the community spirit strong.

There were concerns around a risk of depopulation due to a lack of activities and facilities for young people. This was particularly acute in communities outside of Stornoway. Similarly, organisations in Stornoway were concerned about how difficult it was for young people in rural areas to access town-based services due to limited public transport. There were worries that if young people don't have positive experiences, they will leave the island and not come back. We also heard that there was an aspiration to make activities more accessible and affordable, meaning that more young people and children can take part.

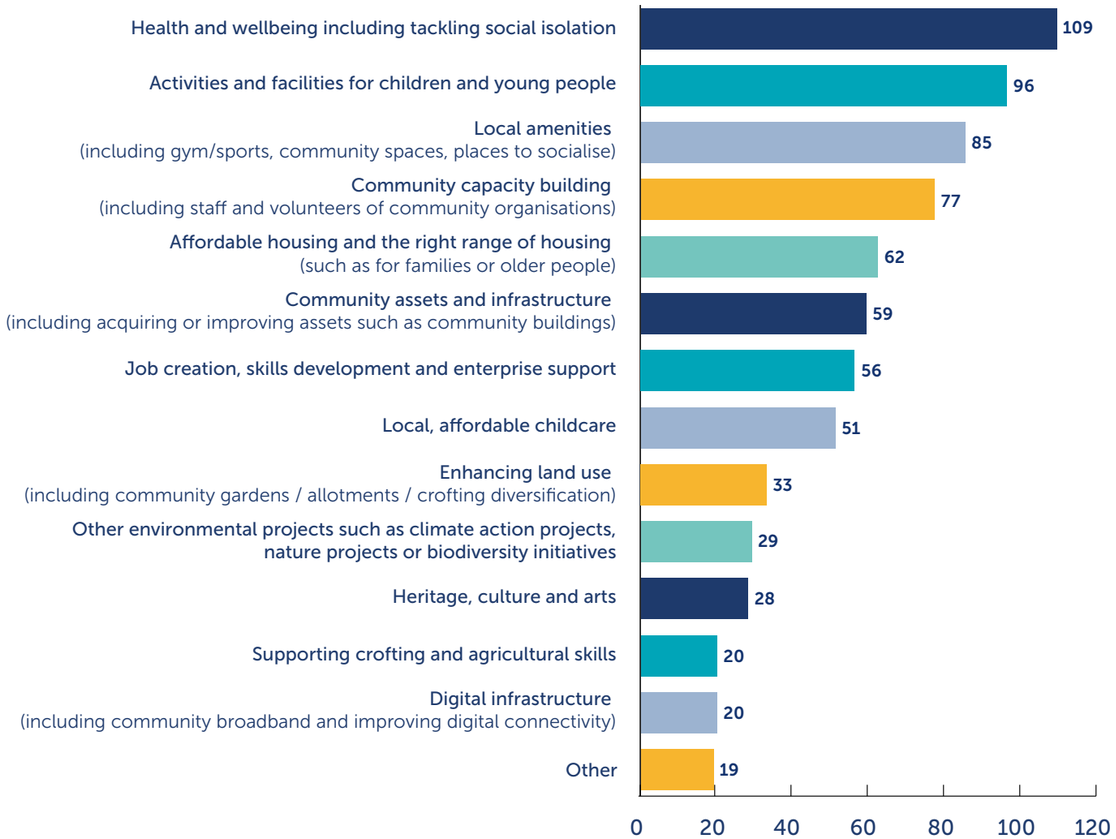
Investment in amenities was a priority for many although it was clear from the comments that the investment should be in facilities run by grassroots organisations rather than those owned by statutory or private sector providers. The importance of community halls and sporting facilities was highlighted and there were concerns that underinvestment in their upkeep meant that these facilities may be at risk.

The importance of funding for development staff in communities also came up repeatedly. Respondents were concerned that, where communities can access funding for staff, it tends to be short-term. A need for longer term investment that would allow communities to plan and implement positive change, was highlighted, although that may be challenging given the size of the fund.

Comments from the survey include:

- Mental health problems in the islands aren't spoken about enough which is why I've selected health/wellbeing
- We desperately need more creative learning and outward initiatives to promote learning, social inclusion and health and wellbeing
- People of different ages and different stages in life are facing a variety of challenges. We need to create spaces for contact and engagement so a deeper sense of community can be formed.
- There is also a fair amount of disadvantages we face living on an island where youth development funding and opportunities are not easy to access and not prioritised enough.
- With an aging population we need to try and keep the younger generation on the island, by offering things for them to do. We also ensure that the older generation are not forgotten and are left isolated by doing bi-annual meals, day trips etc.
- Charities struggle to get funding to stay open and they offer the most help
- Having a hub that accommodates the needs of the community in the 21st Century is imperative.

What are the key priorities for your community?



Access to childcare and housing were not in the top four priorities by number but came through more in the comments.

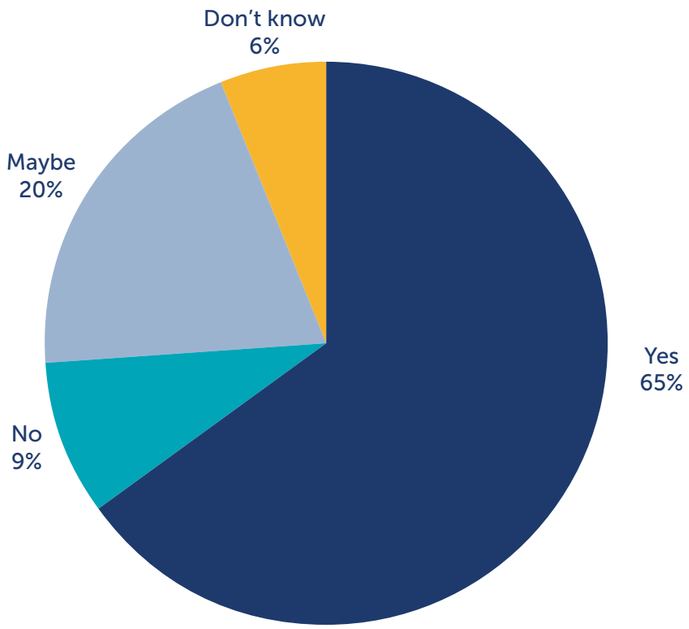
- There is a huge lack of any childcare, let alone affordable childcare on the island. The local primary school used to provide an after-school club and wraparound care, but this has stopped due to lack of staff and volunteers. There is a lack of outdoor spaces for children to safely play in too, the school kindly allow the use of the school pitch but this is not always feasible.
- Affordable housing is a priority because many people are struggling to secure stable, suitable homes due to rising rents, increasing house prices, and limited availability. Without affordable housing, families face financial pressure, overcrowding, or the risk of having to move away from their community or even the Island. Ensuring access to affordable homes supports long-term stability, local employment, and community cohesion.

Just under one in ten respondents ticked 'other' and entered a fund priority that wasn't on the existing list. Funding for the local hospice came up most often, being suggested by three respondents.

In your view, does the local area have the relevant organisations to support in progressing community projects?

E.g. Community Councils, Community Trusts, local charities.
If you answered 'no', please describe the key challenges faced and what support is needed.

Around two thirds of respondents stated that their local area has the appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects, although some felt that these organisations could be more impactful with more funding. The increasing pressure on volunteers was also highlighted.



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Where do you think Community Benefit Funding for the Lewis Hub Local Fund should be made available? This is described as the area of benefit.

Please give your reasoning. (open question)

The 'area of benefit' is the geographic area where benefits from the fund should be delivered. The Lewis Hub site sits within North Lochs Community Council area and is within 500 metres of the boundaries of Stornoway and Laxdale Community Council areas. The nearest settlement to the site is Marybank and Maryhill on the edge of Stornoway and in Laxdale Community Council area.

The UK Government Guidance encourages the use of existing administrative boundaries when deciding the area of benefit and in most cases, SSEN uses Community Council boundaries for this purpose.

The original proposed area of benefit was North Lochs, Stornoway and Laxdale Community Council areas. Respondents were able to provide feedback on whether they thought this was the most appropriate area.

Respondents were also asked if proximity to the site should be considered when funding decisions are made.

Respondents were asked "Where do you think Community Benefit Funding for the Lewis Hub Local Fund should be available? (This is defined as the area of benefit)".

The three areas flagged most often in the consultation were:

- **North Lochs - 25 respondents**
- **Laxdale - 24 respondents of which 16 specifically named Marybank (part of Laxdale Community Council area)**
- **Stornoway - 21 respondents, although many commented that his was a practical decision because so many services for the rest of Lewis are based in Stornoway**

A small but significant number of respondents felt that the area should be extended to Sandwick, which is 3.4km from the site as the crow flies (or approximately 6km by road) – with some highlighting that Sandwick is closer to the Lewis Hub than some areas in North Lochs. A small number felt that the area of benefit should be extended to the whole east of Lewis from Tolsta to Kinloch.

Elected Members at Comhaire nan Eilean Siar highlighted the need for investment that delivers lasting value across the whole of the Outer Hebrides given there will be impact across the island chain.

Proximity. The consultation also asked, 'Do you think that physical proximity to the Lewis Hub should be taken into account when making decisions on funding applications?'

The responses to this were split, reflecting the complexity of the issue, with some respondents feeling that physical proximity should be an important factor when awarding funding while others felt that this was approach was too rudimentary given the location of the site.

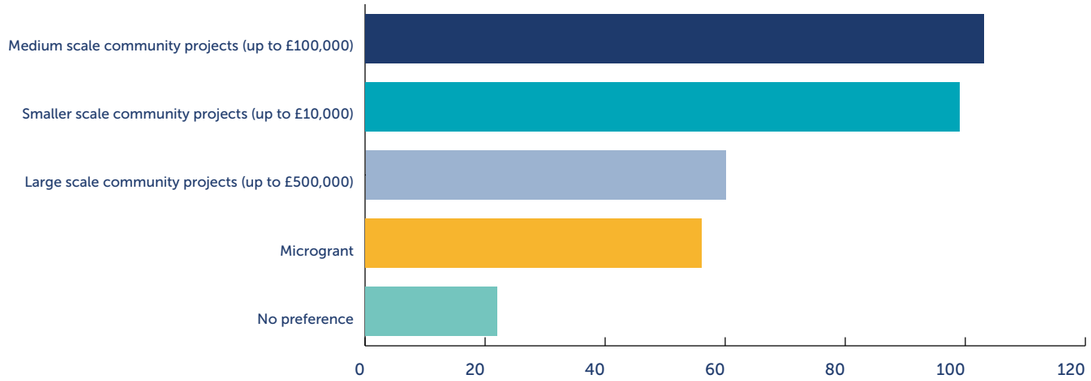
Comments on proximity	
For this approach	**Against this approach**
• Yes and those impacted the most by it. • YES. This community is at the centre of the Lewis Hub transmission project and will suffer the greatest negative impact as a result. • I think that there is a definite argument/ case, for physical proximity to be taken into account. Although over all community benefit is equally important. Some organisations may have the capability of being of benefit to a far wider area through the services they provide, regardless of where based and distance from the Hub. • Yes, those closest to the hub should come first.	• The switching station (sic) is of significant size but is now located on a less impactful site for visual amenity - given it will sit well off the Lochs road and down towards Arnish. I'd suggest a crude distance from the station is not appropriate- there may be remoter parts of North Lochs which require greater support but would be adversely affected by such a crude metric. • The fund should not be weighted to the largest population area. North Lochs although smaller has suffered for a lack of investment in the last 30 years. • No, it should be based on communities' identified priority needs. • The Lewis Hub is being built in the North Lochs Community Council area, and therefore this should be of paramount importance when decisions are being made with respect to funding applications. • No, I don't think the closest area should get the most. • No, where would the line be?

Taking the feedback on the area of benefit and proximity into account, we are taking a pragmatic approach to ensure that even the most distant communities within the North Lochs Community Council, where the Lewis Hub is located, will be able to apply along with other communities that are physically closer to the site. We are therefore proposing that the area of benefit is the North Lochs, Stornoway, Laxdale and Sandwick Community Council areas.

Multiple Choice Question: How much money do you believe should be available for individual projects / activities?

Survey responses indicated a clear overall preference for funding small-scale projects and activities (up to £10,000) and medium-scale projects and activities (up to £100,000). A smaller, but significant number of respondents indicated a preference for large scale projects (up to £500,000) and microgrants.

How much money should be available for individual projects?



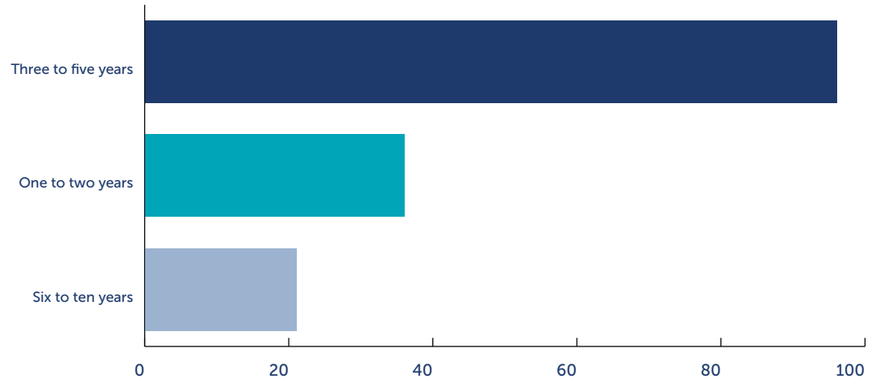
Reasons provided for the responses include:

- I don't think it's feasible to award £500000 out of a £1million fund. And £500 is too small.
- Funding community initiatives and enterprise is getting tighter. Having larger scale projects means local people can be employed to develop self-sustaining enterprises, which means a longer-term benefit for the community and for those employed.
- This (small to medium grants) will encourage the largest participation from community groups and be the most inclusive.
- I think it depends on what the grant payments will be available for. I also think the £100,000, limit, with organisations being allowed to reapply annually is much better and allows a much better spread of funds throughout the community.

The total value of the Fund is £1,060,000. Over what period should this funding be delivered?

The responses showed a clear preference for the Fund to be delivered over 3-5 years.

How long should funding be available for?



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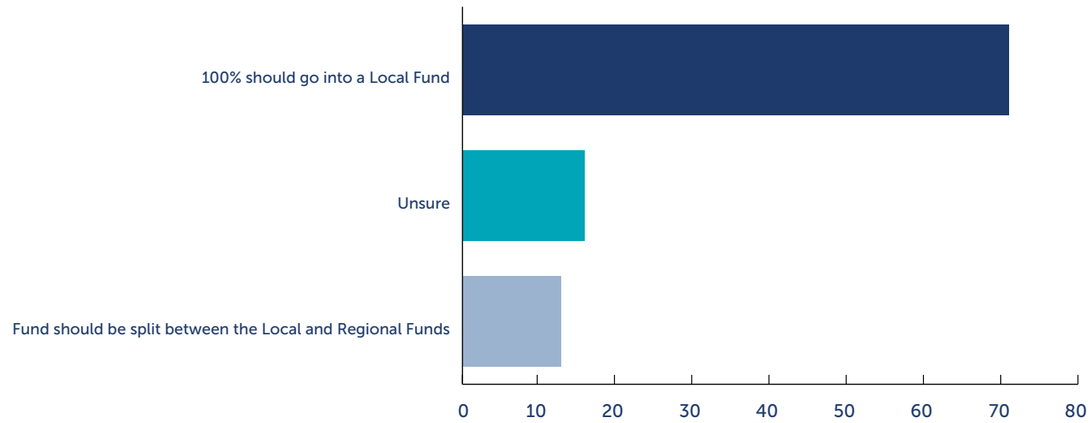
Would you prefer that all the funding associated with the Lewis Hub goes into a Local Fund?

For infrastructure with a value of under £1.1 million, communities can choose to keep the total value of the fund in the Local Fund. In this case, there was a clear preference for all of the funding to go into a Local Fund.

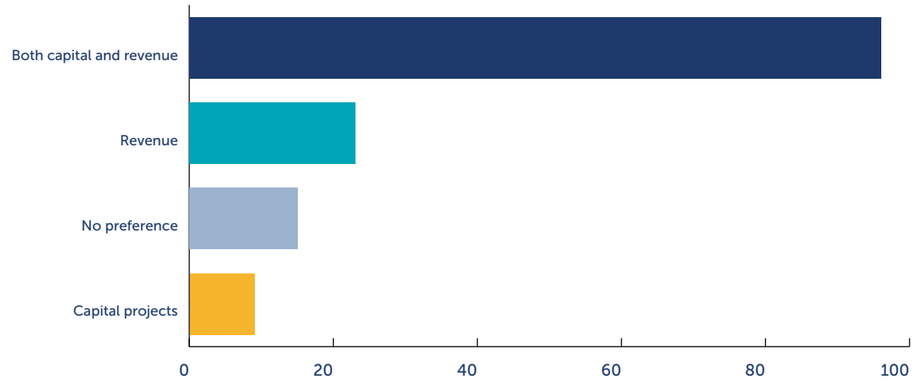
Should 100% of funding go into Local Fund (% respondents)?



Multiple Choice Question: What types of projects should be prioritised for funding?

The responses showed a clear preference for the fund to provide both capital and revenue grants.

Type of funding preferred



Reasons included:

- Revenue is usually much harder to obtain for community organisations yet many volunteer led groups require capital - so both should be considered.
- Lots of different ideas so different funding options would be good.
- It is relatively easy to find capital funding, but revenue?
  Many, many groups chasing a tiny amount!
- Funding support should include both revenue and capital investment. While capital funding is essential for developing and improving community assets, facilities, and infrastructure, revenue funding is equally important to support the people and organisations that make these projects successful.

Lewis Hub Local Fund Community Survey

About your relationship to the area

By answering these questions, you will help us better understand the needs of different communities near the Lewis Hub, so that we can ensure the new Community Benefit Fund best supports your community.

Q1. What is your connection to the area of benefit? Please tick all that apply.

If your connection to the area is not listed, please tick the 'other' option and provide more information below.

- ☐ I live in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas
- ☐ I work in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas
- ☐ My work involves supporting communities in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas
- ☐ I represent North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas as a Councillor, MSP or MP
- ☐ I am a Community Councillor in North Lochs / Stornoway / Laxdale Community Council areas
- ☐ Other

Q2. If you live in the area, please tick which Community Council area you live in.

If you are unsure which Community Council area you live in, please select 'Other' and provide your postcode.

- ☐ North Lochs
- ☐ Laxdale (includes Marybank)
- ☐ Stornoway
- ☐ I don't live in any of these areas but I would like to share my views
- ☐ Other - please write your postcode

Q3. Are you a member of or involved in running any community organisations or groups in the area?

If yes, please provide the name of the organisation you are involved with and how you are involved (i.e. member, staff, Trustee/Director, volunteer etc)

Priorities

By answering these questions, you will shape what sorts of projects/activities the new Community Benefit Fund will prioritise.

Q4. What do you like most about your community?

For example, what is good about living / working in the area?

Q5. What do you think are the main challenges facing your community?

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Q6. In your view, what are the key priorities for your community? Please tick your top 5 priorities

- ☐ Activities and facilities for young people
- ☐ Community capacity building (including more staff or more skills)
- ☐ Local amenities (including gym/sports, community spaces, places to socialise, shops, medical facilities)
- ☐ Affordable & housing and the right range of housing (such as for families or older people)
- ☐ Health and wellbeing including tackling social isolation
- ☐ Digital infrastructure (including community broadband and improving digital connectivity)
- ☐ Community assets and infrastructure (including acquiring or improving community assets such as village halls)
- ☐ Enhancing land use including community gardens / crofting diversification / allotments
- ☐ Local, affordable childcare
- ☐ Heritage, culture and arts
- ☐ Supporting crofting and agricultural skills
- ☐ Other environmental projects such as climate action projects, nature projects or marine / aquatic restoration projects
- ☐ Job creation, skills development and enterprise support
- ☐ Other (see box below)

Q7. If you have selected 'Other', please provide further details of what you believe the key community priorities are.

Q8. Why have you chosen these as your priorities?

By sharing your reasons for prioritising certain community activities / projects, you will help ensure the new Community Benefit Fund accurately reflects your community's needs.

Community Capacity

By answering these questions, you will help us identify and better understand any additional support communities may need. This will help to ensure that the new Community Benefit Fund is accessible to all communities in the area of benefit.

Q9. In your view, does the local area have the relevant organisations to progress community projects.

E.g. Community Councils, Community Trusts, local charities.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please provide reasons where possible

Q10. If you answered yes to the question above, can you provide the names of the organisations, to help us make sure we are in touch with them?

If you answered no, in which of the following areas is there a shortfall in capacity: a lack of organisations, a lack of staff and volunteer time in community organisations, or a lack of skills in the community?

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Fund Structure

By answering these questions, you will shape what the new Community Benefit Fund will look like and how funding will be allocated.

Q11. Would you prefer that all the funding associated with the Lewis Hub goes into a Local Fund?

Communities have the option to put 100% of the funding into the Local Fund, or split it 50:50 between the Local Fund and SSEN's Regional Fund

Q12. Where do you think Community Benefit Funding for the Lewis Hub Local Fund should be available? (This is defined as the area of benefit).

All the communities in North Lochs, Laxdale and Stornoway Community Councils will be included unless the communities have a strong preference otherwise. You may feel there are good reasons for extending the area of benefit, for instance if your community relies on services based in a neighbouring area.

Q13. Do you think that physical proximity to the Lewis Hub should be taken into account when making decisions on funding applications?

For example, if lots of applications come into the Fund, should there be a weighting for communities that are physically closest to the Hub?

Q14. How much money do you believe should be available for individual projects / activities (tick as many as appropriate)

Please bear in mind that the application process for the fund will reflect the size of grant being distributed (i.e. the application process for a larger grant will involve providing more detail and evidence than will be the case for a microgrant.)

- [ ] Microgrants (up to £500)
- [ ] Small scale community projects (up to £10,000)
- [ ] Medium scale community projects (up to £100,000)
- [ ] Large scale community projects, e.g. capital redevelopment (up to £500,000)
- [ ] No preference

Q15. Please share the reasons for your answer above.

Q16. The total value of the Fund is £1,060,000. Over what period of time should this funding be delivered?

By answering this question, you will help shape how long the fund will run for.

- [ ] 1-2 years (funding larger scale projects)
- [ ] 3-5 years
- [ ] 6-10 years (funding smaller projects over a longer period)
- [ ] No preference

Q17. What types of projects should be prioritised for funding?

- [ ] Capital projects (e.g. the purchasing or renovation of a community building)
- [ ] Revenue (e.g. community group staff costs, events and activities)
- [ ] Both
- [ ] No preference

Q18. Please share the reasons for your answer.

Additional Comments

Q.19 Please provide any additional comments you may have on the Local Fund, that has not been covered in previous questions.

Personal Information

Your answers to the following questions will help us understand the view of different groups of people so that we can ensure a wide range of perspectives are included. You do not need to provide any personal details that could identify you if you do not wish. In that case, please select the "Prefer not to say" option, or leave the box blank. (All personal information will be treated in accordance with SSEN Transmission's Privacy Notice, which you can find on our website).

Q20. Which age band are you in?

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q21. How do you describe your gender?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q22. Are you happy for us to contact you again to further discuss your answers?
(If you leave this question blank we will not contact you.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q23. Would you like to be added to our community benefit mailing list to be kept updated on the Lewis Hub Local Fund?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered yes to either of the questions above, please provide your name & email address.

Full name: .....

Email: .....

Q24. How did you hear about this consultation/survey?
(Please tick as many as apply. If it does not appear in the list, please write your answer at the bottom).

By sharing how you learned about this consultation you will help us get better at reaching a wide range of people when developing and distributing Community Benefit Funds.

- ☐ Through the SSEN e-newsletter
- ☐ By email from the Community Investment Manager (Linsay Chalmers)
- ☐ By email from Third Sector Hebrides
- ☐ By email from a Community Council
- ☐ By email from a Community Association, village hall or community centre
- ☐ Local Media (i.e. Stornoway Gazette or We Love Stornoway)
- ☐ Social Media (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn)
- ☐ On my local community website
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ SSEN Transmission's website
- ☐ Other

ELECTRICITY

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