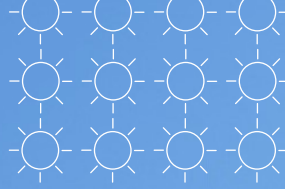




Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



Skye Reinforcement Local Fund – Consultation Report

Consultation Report

June 2026



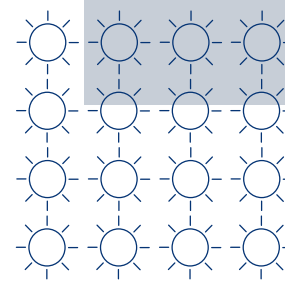


Table of Contents

Part 1: Consultation Summary	03
About the Fund	
Consultation Overview	
Consultation Response	
Part 2: Consultation Planning and Delivery	05
Local Area Research	
Stakeholder Engagement and Publicity	
Consultation Events	
Part 3: Consultation Analysis	07
Survey Results - Demographic Information	
Survey Results - Community Priorities and Fund Structure	
Appendix 1 - Community Plans	20
Appendix 2 - Survey	22



Part 1: Consultation summary

About the fund

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

- Broadford to Edinbane Overhead Line
- Invergarry to Quoich Switching Station Overhead Line
- Edinbane Substation extension
- Broadford Substation extension
- Fort Augustus Substation upgrade

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 **£5,455,000**.

Consultation overview

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

- Maximising reach and inclusivity for different stakeholders, 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, existing mailing lists, posters, local newspaper articles and a segment on BBC Alba's news programme An Là.

The consultation consisted of:



7 in-person events (in Broadford, Kyleakin, Portree, Dunvegan, Glenelg, Glengarry and Fort Augustus)



2 online events



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

Consultation response

Across all in-person and online events, approximately 194 people attended the consultation. In addition, 201 people completed the online survey, of whom 187 live in the area along the Skye Reinforcement Project route (Skye & Raasay, Glenelg & Arnisdale, Glengarry or Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston).

A total of 100 different organisations and groups across the area 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. Affordable & Diverse Housing Options (including a range of tenure options such as woodland crofts, rent-to-buy etc).
2. Community Assets and Infrastructure (including acquiring or improving community assets such as village halls).
3. Community Capacity Building (including supporting core costs for community organisations)
4. Local Amenities/Services (including facilities such as community shop, men's shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities).
5. Transport and Connectivity (including community transport, active travel paths and infrastructure improvements to enhance accessibility).

Each of these themes are highlighted as areas of action in the Community Action Plans and Local Place Plans of communities across the area of benefit.

Two additional overarching themes came through strongly in survey responses and during the consultation events. Firstly, respondents emphasised that activities and projects should take account of the need to retain and involve young people in community life. Secondly, the significance of Gaelic was underscored, with residents indicating that the language and associated cultural heritage is a valued yet fragile aspect of everyday life that underpins a sense of place and community for many people. This is reflected in a current community-led campaign to have Skye and Raasay designated as an 'Area of Linguistic Significance' under the Scottish Languages Act (2025).

Area of benefit

There was general agreement that funding should be made available across the whole area of the Skye Reinforcement Project route, including all community council areas in Skye & Raasay; Glenelg & Arnisdale; Glengarry; and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston.

Responses suggested that within the area of benefit, the fund should prioritise communities closest to infrastructure and highlighted the need to fund fragile, remote communities including those that can struggle to attract funding from other sources.

In addition, several respondents suggested the area of benefit should be extended, highlighting that some community councils in Lochalsh host services used by people living in Skye and Glenelg & Arnisdale and suggested that such projects/activities should also be able to access the funding.

Amount of funding available per application

Survey responses indicated a clear overall preference for funding both small-scale projects/activities (up to £10,000) and medium-scale projects/activities (up to £100,000). A smaller, but significant number of respondents indicated a preference for 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 3-5 years.

Community Capacity

The majority of respondents stated that their local area has the appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects, including submitting funding applications. At the same time, respondents highlighted the challenges faced by the organisations that do exist, including over reliance on volunteers; lack of revenue funding/core cost support; and inconsistent levels of skills and experience.

Approximately a third of respondents were either unsure or did not think that their local area has appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects. These respondents raised concerns about areas without development trusts or community councils; limitations on the capacity and sustainability of community organisations due to an over reliance on volunteers; and (in some areas) a lack of trust in or transparency around local organisations.

Part 2: Consultation planning and delivery

Local area research

Local area research, including stakeholder mapping and some initial engagement was carried out October 2025 – February 2026 and informed the planning for the consultation. Desk-based research was conducted to gather information on the aims and ambitions of the communities across the area. All available Community Action Plans and Local Place Plans were reviewed, along with relevant Local Authority documentation, e.g. Area Place Plans. Appendix 1 lists the existing community-led plans across the area and indicates whether each local area has a development trust, community company or other suitable local organisation currently taking forward projects.

For the purposes of this consultation, the priorities that appeared in these community plans and project lists were categorised into 15 broad types of project/activity. For instance: 'Affordable & Diverse Housing Options (including a range of tenure options such as woodland crofts, rent-to-buy etc)' and 'Local Amenities/Services (including facilities such as community shop, men's shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities)'.

These were listed in the online survey and community members were asked to select their top five priorities for the new Local Fund (see the survey in Appendix 2 for the full list). The survey also contained a free text space where community members could provide details of any priorities not covered under the 15 identified in the list.

Stakeholder engagement and publicity

Initial engagement focused on Elected Members and Officers in the Local Authority, some key stakeholders and relevant community support organisations (including the local Third Sector Interfaces, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, etc.). This engagement focused on developing an understanding of the relevant communities and their needs, identifying less heard ('hard to reach') stakeholders and barriers to engagement they may face. The Community Investment Manager also attended several Community Liaison Group meetings that were held during this period to help prime communities to take part in the consultation.

All identified key stakeholders (community councils, development trusts etc.) were emailed in advance 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, SSEN Transmission mailing lists, posters, local newspaper adverts (West Highland Free Press), radio adverts (BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and Skye Radio) and the BBC Alba news programme An Là. Community support organisations such as the local Third Sector Interfaces, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and the Community Planning Partnership also shared details of the consultation with their networks.

Reminder emails with a link to the online survey were sent to all identified key stakeholders (community councils, development trusts etc.) following the in-person events in March. An additional reminder email was sent to identified stakeholders in communities with low response rates the week the survey closed.



Consultation events

Overview

There were seven in-person drop-in events and two online events, each of which included a short presentation by the Community Investment Manager. In-person events were held in accessible locations across the area and were run as drop-in sessions between 3-7pm to enable a wide range of people to attend.

The Community Investment Manager gave a short presentation near the beginning of each event and repeated this later during the event where necessary. 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 staff members one-to-one.

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.

Event/Date & Time	~No. of Attendees
Broadford Village Hall, Tuesday 10 March, 3-7pm	40
Kyleakin Community Hall, Wednesday 11 March, 3-7pm	20
Fort Augustus Village Hall, Thursday 12 March, 3-7pm	15
Shepherd's Way Hall, Portree, Tuesday 17 March, 3.30-7pm	45
Dunvegan Community Hall, Wednesday 18 March, 3-7pm	12
Glenelg Village Hall, Tuesday 24 March, 3-7pm	25
Glengarry Community Hall, Wednesday 25 March, 3-7pm	25
Online Sessions, Tuesday 31 March, 10-11.30am; and Thursday 2 April, 6.30-8pm	12
Total	194

Part 3: Consultation analysis

Survey results – demographic information

The survey was completed by 201 individuals in total, of whom 187 are resident in the area along the Skye Reinforcement Project Route. Responses were received from members / trustees / staff of at least 100 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	90
Woman	100
Did not say	8

Age	
Under 16	1
16 - 24	5
25 – 34	14
35 – 44	22
45 – 54	42
55 – 64	44
65+	67
Did not say	5

Community Council Area	
Broadford and Strath	21
Dunvegan	10
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston	6
Glendale	1
Glenelg and Arnisdale	38
Glengarry	6
Kilmuir	4
Kyleakin and Kylerhea	7
Minginish	1
Portree and Braes	6
Raasay	5
Sconser	1
Skeabost	8
Sleat	10
Staffin	8
Struan	6
Uig	4
Waternish	44
Does not live in any of these areas (includes those who work in the area of benefit)	14

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

Yes - a local community-based organisation/group	125
No - I am not involved in any local organisations/groups	57
Yes - an organisation that supports community-based organisations/groups	17

The demographic data illustrates that responses were received from across the area, with at least one response from each community council area. Some areas had higher than average response rates, indicating a high level of engagement from community members in certain areas. These responses were checked as part of the data analysis to ensure that they were not identical 'stock' answers given on behalf of specific organisations or projects. This check found that answers were varied and clearly reflected individual viewpoints as well as wider community priorities.

While the response rates from individual areas varied, the large overall sample size offers confidence that the data is broadly reflective of the views of residents across the area and was not unduly influenced by any specific community. The results of this consultation broadly reflect the information contained in existing local plans. Additional engagement will be carried out in areas where the response rate was particularly low, to better understand the priorities of these communities and identify any capacity-building support required.



Survey results – community priorities and fund structure

The survey (see Appendix 2) asked a series of multiple choice and open questions regarding community priorities and views of fund structure.

The results are detailed below.



Question: What do you like most about your community?

Recurring themes in answers:

- **Strong sense of community and mutual support:** responses described high levels of volunteering, community action, clubs and groups, with residents giving time to run events, youth activities and essential services. Respondents highlighted the importance of community hubs such as village halls, community gardens, schools, shops and events.
- **The natural environment:** responses highlighted the beautiful landscapes, wildlife, clean air, peace and access to nature (coast, hills, lochs and paths)
- **Culture, heritage and language:** respondents emphasised the value they place on the Gaelic language, crofting traditions, local history, music and creative practices.
- **Rural and island lifestyle/quality of life:** respondents described valuing the area's tranquillity, low crime and sense of safety. Several mentioned this makes it a good place to raise children.
- **Strong local identity and pride in place** was a recurring theme across the responses.

Answers included:

- "The community itself is the best thing [...] Personally I love living somewhere where I have a long heritage and connection with. The natural environment - mountains, clear air, clean sea, wildlife, big old trees, empty spaces, wilderness, crofting, rivers. Mostly the people though."
- "Sense of community; people look out for their neighbours; low crime and feel safe; outstanding open space and landscape."
- "Living in an area where Gàidhlig is still spoken in the community and is culturally relevant. Developing connections with people in the community, particularly through shared language and culture. Being in such a spectacular and beautiful area with world-class opportunities for outdoor pursuits."





Question: What do you think are the main challenges facing your community?

Recurring themes in answers:

- **Lack of affordable housing:** responses highlighted shortages of affordable homes for locals, young people and key workers.
- **Depopulation and ageing population:** responses described people leaving due to lack of housing, jobs and facilities, leading to declining school rolls, loss of services and an increasingly elderly population.
- **Limited employment opportunities:** responses described a lack of secure, well-paid, year-round jobs; highlighting a heavy reliance on seasonal tourism, with limited opportunities for career progression and skills development.
- **Poor transport and connectivity:** responses highlighted sparse or non-existent public transport options, ferry reliability & timetabling issues (in Raasay), poor road conditions, high fuel costs, and long travel distances to services.
- **High cost of living and fuel poverty:** responses drew attention to the higher cost of living in remote and rural areas, with high prices for food, energy and transport; poorly insulated housing; power cuts and limited energy resilience.
- **Limited access to health, care and childcare services:** responses described difficulties in accessing medical care, dental care, mental health support, social care and childcare.
- **Inadequate facilities and infrastructure:** responses described aging or unsuitable village halls, lack of leisure, sports and cultural facilities, limited shops, toilets and community hubs.
- **Funding gaps and volunteer burnout:** responses described a reliance on small numbers of volunteers, limited or inconsistent availability of grants, difficulty sustaining existing community facilities and services without paid members of staff.
- **Increased tourism and development:** responses highlighted tensions around increased tourism and development, and lack of access to land due to concentrated land ownership.
- **Social isolation, inequality and cultural pressures:** responses described challenges around social isolation, loneliness and mental health; decline of Gaelic language and local culture; lack of representation in centralised decision-making.

Answers included:

- “Rural Poverty! Expense of transport; Lack of infrastructure: we are very short of affordable houses (build houses, you build the school; build the school you build community). We need safe routes to school - although we live in a quiet place, the roads have no width or pavement to support young cyclists or walkers. Even parents with pushchairs are on the road.”
- “Council services are reduced - play parks, playing fields toilets, street furniture, public landscaping, litter picking and planting, now often the responsibility of community development trusts or other voluntary groups operating on a shoestring and already juggling multiple priorities.”
- “Lack of facility for all ages. We need to invest in facilities in order to create opportunities to encourage people to live here. [...] Creating facilities that have long lasting benefits to rural communities is key to solving our ever aging population. We must encourage young adults to live here then we must provide things for them to do. e.g. sports, gyms, indoor and outdoors, village hall upgrades to cater for wider activities (pool halls, darts, keep fit classes)”



Multiple choice question:

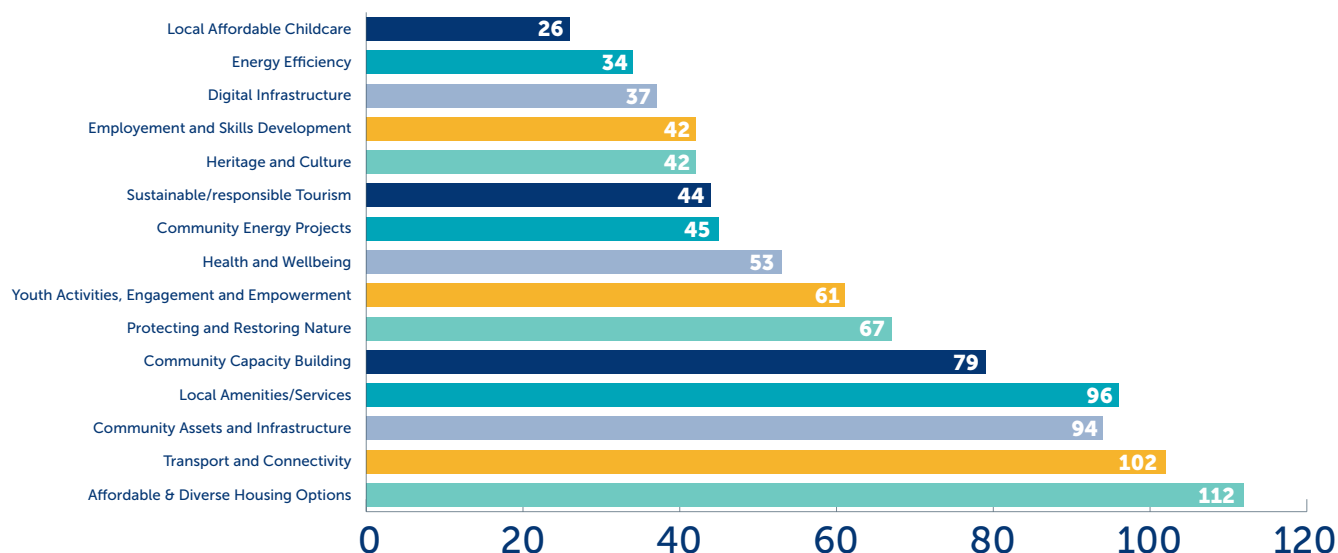
In your view, what are the key priorities for your community? Please select your top 5 priorities.

The top priorities across all respondents (n=201) were:

1. Affordable & Diverse Housing Options (including a range of tenure options such as woodland crofts, rent-to-buy etc)
2. Community Assets and Infrastructure (including acquiring or improving community assets such as village halls)
3. Community Capacity Building (including supporting core costs for community organisations)
4. Local Amenities/Services (including facilities such as community shop, men's shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities)
5. Transport and Connectivity (including community transport, active travel paths and infrastructure improvements to enhance accessibility)

These remained the top 5 priorities when non-residents were excluded from the data set, leaving 187 responses from residents of the area. This is illustrated in the graph below.

In your view, what are the key priorities for your community? Please select your top 5 priorities. Total Residents (n=187)



Two additional overarching themes came through strongly in the free-text sections of the survey and in conversations during the consultation events.

- Firstly, residents emphasised that activities and projects should take account of the need to retain and involve young people in community life.
- Secondly, residents highlighted the significance of Gaelic, indicating that the language and associated cultural heritage is not viewed as a standalone priority but as an aspect of everyday life that underpins many residents' sense of place and community. Skye is home to **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture. **Spòrs Gàidhlig**, a social enterprise that offers young people the opportunity to use Gaelic in the outdoors, has recently relocated to Staffin in the north of Skye. There is currently a community-led campaign to have Skye & Raasay designated as an 'Area of Linguistic Significance' under the Scottish Languages Act (2025).

Indicative reasons included:

- “A lot of issues stem back to housing, both affordable housing and housing that is fit for purpose (warm and comfortable). This is also true for community spaces that people use regularly for socialising, learning new skills and sharing ideas. Connectivity in rural places is so important, and public transport, paths and cycleways make areas accessible for all ages. A lot of community development is led and supported by community organisations, where additional capacity is vital for these additional purposes.”
- “As one of the few younger members of the community still living in the area, I know many people my age who want to move back home but can’t afford the very few housing options that occasionally become available. Young locals are out-bid and the houses on the market become holiday homes, leading to an ageing population with out a workforce to support local services. The area is remote and I know first hand how difficult transport is without your own vehicle. As a Gaelic speaker who works in Gaelic development, I have personally witnessed the decline of Gaelic as a social language within my community.”
- “Communities can only survive as long as there are families. Families need housing and childcare to be able to live and work locally. With the right support, families will preserve cultural assets, create opportunities for employment, leisure, etc. Workers are needed to meaningfully develop community assets who can be based within the communities they are developing - once again it comes down to making these places liveable for families.”
- “We have no public service transport on the island so non car drivers can’t get about which particularly impacts our older community members. We have a community hall but because we are small groups, the hourly rate is costly per head. Our community shop is no longer fit for purpose and a new building needs completely refurbished.”
- “To thrive the community needs to retain and attract young people and to do that accessible and affordable housing is crucial, then there needs to be amenities and infrastructure in place to promote employment opportunities and recreation activities.”

Respondents had the opportunity to write any additional priorities which they felt were not covered in the options given.¹ These responses highlighted several additional priorities for individuals but did not reveal any recurring themes that would indicate an additional key priority for the area.

Several of the additional priorities related to perceived gaps in statutory provision of services (i.e., schools, roads, healthcare, social care for the elderly, Gaelic Medium Education, potential designation as an Area of Linguistic Significance)

Others drew attention to the importance of specific local amenities and services (i.e., Citizen’s Advice, Kyleakin Connections, support for Gaelic as a community language, Glenelg Ferry, women’s support services, affordable food, supported housing for vulnerable young adults). These specific activities are covered by the priority ‘Local Amenities/Services (including facilities such as community shop, men’s shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities)’



¹ Several of the answers given in the free text box are captured by the priorities already identified, for instance answers like “Sport and sporting facilities and support for building new village halls/renovations of old halls” is covered under the priorities ‘Local Amenities/Services (including facilities such as community shop, men’s shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities)’ and ‘Community Assets and Infrastructure (including acquiring or improving community assets such as village halls)’.

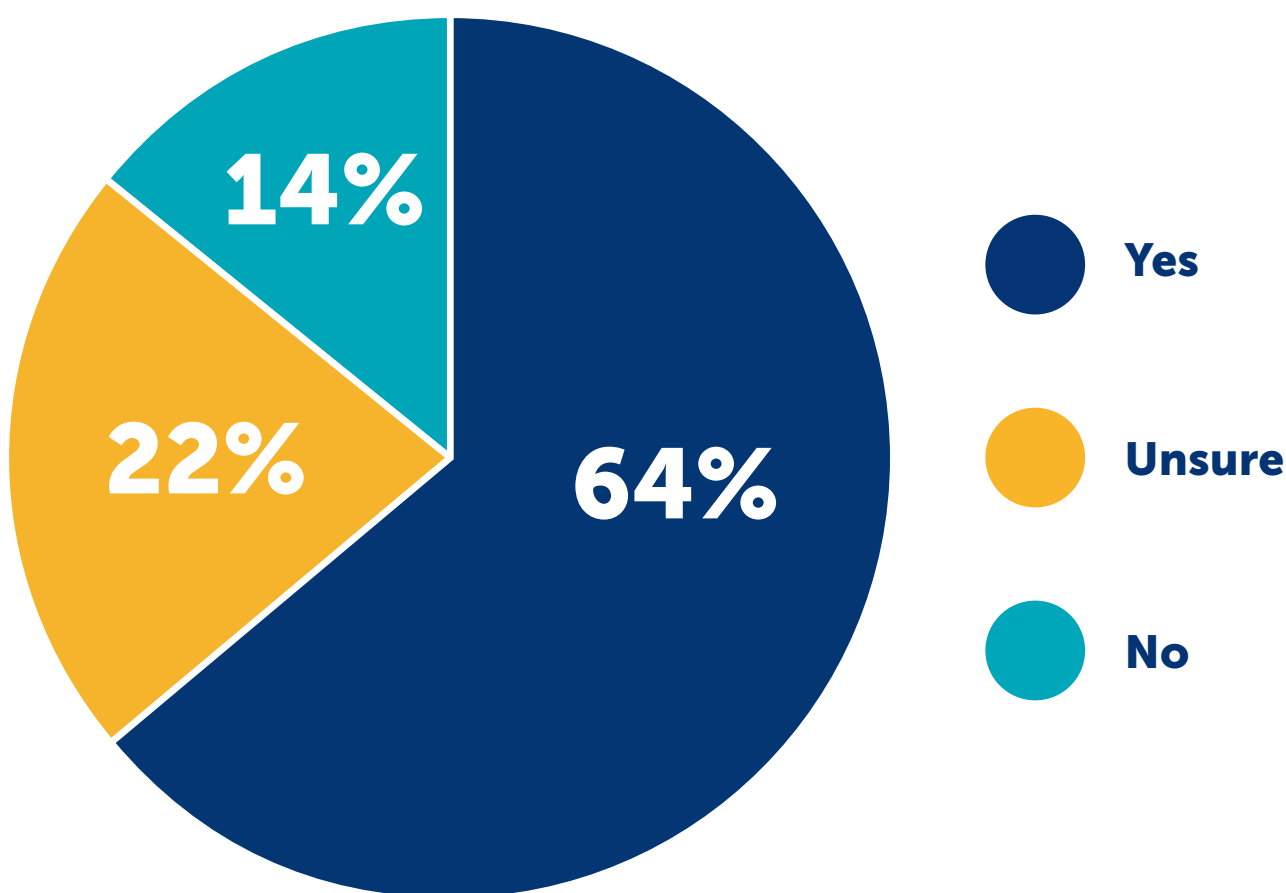
Multiple Choice & Open Question:



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.

In your view, does the local area have the relevant organisations to support in progressing community projects? Total Residents (n=187)



A clear majority (64%) of residents surveyed believe that their local area has the appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects, including submitting funding applications.

Many of these respondents highlighted the challenges faced by the organisations that do exist, including over reliance on volunteers; lack of revenue funding/core cost support; and inconsistent levels of skills and experience.

Approximately a third of respondents were either unsure (22%) or did not think that their local area has appropriate organisations to support the development and progression of community projects (14%). Many of these respondents raised concerns about areas without development trusts or community councils; limitations on the capacity and sustainability of community organisations due to an over reliance on volunteers; and (in some areas) a lack of trust in or transparency around local organisations.

Indicative reasons included:

- “We now have a really strong community trust. But as usual it is voluntarily run by the same people that are doing a lot of other things as well as their own jobs. We need more support for the people who already work so hard and bring so much skill to the table. We have the skills here but we need the support to make the work folk do sustainable for them. Also skills can then be passed on and new people will be more likely to take roles on.”
- “We have an active community council, Community Trust and Hydro Community Benefit organisation. However, more capacity for articulating projects and associated funding bids needs developing.”
- “We have an active Community Council and at the Hall we have a healthy and functioning Hall committee. We also have the Community Trust that takes on large projects for community benefit. It would be GREAT if the Hall had a development officer because we are all volunteers and we are stretched very thin, but we would also be happy with more funding to get our projects off the ground.”
- “The challenge for these organisations is that they are often treading water and they need to have the capacity firstly to plan and develop projects, to apply for the funding and then to manage and deliver specific projects. These organisations often feel under pressure to deliver new or distinct projects when what they really need is just core funding to continue to do the good work that they are already doing with less onerous applications and reporting requirements. If multi-year core funding was awarded primarily on a track record basis or with just the basic details of what the funds would be used for, with no pressure to deliver new projects, this would be incredibly helpful and allow these organisations to focus on delivering their core benefit as opposed to being bogged down with securing staff funding every 6 months.”

Indicative reasons included:

- “There is no community trust in [this area]. The community Council runs with less than the recommended number of members which makes it very difficult to find the time to support funding applications.”
- “Far too many public sector responsibilities are being passed onto community organisations who struggle to find the revenue funding to meet staffing costs to deliver a wide variety of roles they are now required to deliver from an ever-diminishing pool of volunteers.”
- “Most people are too busy working, trying to make enough money to pay household bills. We need long-term funded posts to build capacity and skills. Can’t do everything via volunteers.”
- “The community already has access to some funds, but people don’t feel supported in navigating the application process; a more proactive community engagement approach would easily identify community needs, and could help resolve them through grant applications.”
- “In my view, while there are organisations in the local area that support the development and progression of community projects, the level and consistency of that support varies significantly [...] some Community Councils and local groups do not always fully reflect the communities they represent. There can be a disconnect in terms of cultural understanding and awareness of rural poverty, which can make it more difficult to identify and respond to local needs effectively. This, in some cases, can lead to division or a lack of trust within communities. Overall, while there are strong examples of good practice, there is a need for more consistent support, better resourcing, and more inclusive representation to ensure all communities have equal opportunities to develop projects and access funding.”

Question:



Where do you think Community Benefit Funding for the Skye Reinforcement Project should be made available? (This is defined as the area of benefit). Please give your reasoning.

The majority of responses agreed that funding should be made available across the whole area of the Skye Reinforcement Project route, including all community council areas in Skye & Raasay; Glenelg & Arnisdale, Glengarry and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston.

Answers to this question also suggested that the fund should prioritise communities closest to infrastructure and highlighted the need to fund the most fragile, remote areas that can struggle to attract funding from other sources.

In addition, some respondents suggested the area of benefit should be extended. Several responses highlighted that some community councils in Lochalsh host services used by people living in Skye and Glenelg & Arnisdale and suggested that such projects/activities should also be able to access the funding. One response highlighted that projects/activities in Fort William are used by residents of Glengarry and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and suggested these should also be included in the fund area of benefit.

Indicative reasons included:

- I believe it should benefit the communities already outlined nearest the infrastructure but keep the boundaries to already defined geographical boundaries. For example, all of Skye, rather than 5 miles either side of the infrastructure which can happen with other community funds, meaning some projects fall outside the benefit area.
- Not only because of my job, but from a social and economic perspective the village and community of Kyle should be included as it is part of the South Skye & Lochalsh suite of services and amenities. As an example, the pool and leisure centre is closer for South Skye residents than the facility in Portree.
- People in the smaller more remote areas have to travel quite a distance on single track (often potholed!) roads, often at great expense given the ever-increasing cost of fuel, to access a lot of community facilities. It would be good to see some of these smaller communities benefiting.
- Whilst we are geographically not as close to the line as some it would be important for any funders to recognise the difficulties that some rural crofting communities have in generating funds for community development.
- That area seems reasonable to me, but at the same time perhaps this could be handled on a case-by-case basis should the need arise. For example, if as part of a funding application a community within this area can make an argument for funding a project in collaboration with another community not included in the area of benefit, and the application is solid and provides benefits to both, then that should be accepted.

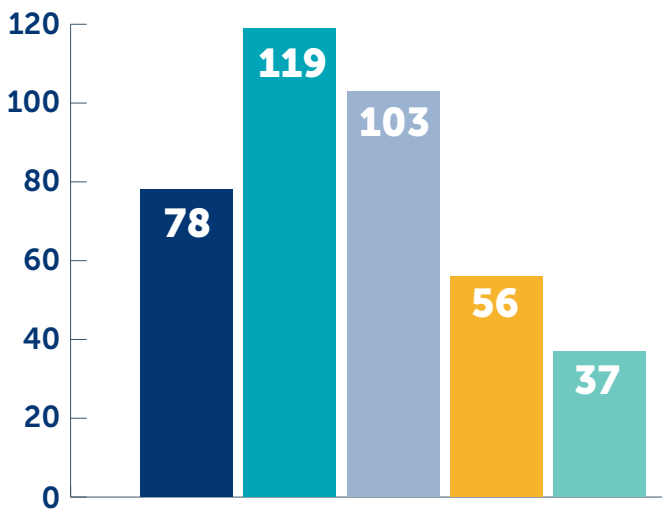




Multiple Choice Question: How much money do you believe should be available for individual projects/activities (tick as many as appropriate).

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

How much money do you believe should be available for individual projects/activities? Total Residents (n=187)



78

Large scale projects, e.g. capital redevelopment (up to £500,000)

119

Medium scale projects/activities (up to £100,000)

103

Small-scale projects/activities (up to £10,000)

56

Micro grants (up to £500)

37

No preference

Reasons included:

- "A couple of flagship projects would be great but there are many small projects that would give benefits to a wider and more diverse sector of the community."
- "Micro grants are available elsewhere, large scale projects should be managed elsewhere - the risk of much bigger projects is taking a larger proportion of funds available away from smaller ventures which may support more people."
- "The impact of small to medium projects in my experience working in the charity sector often get a higher multiplier effect than large scale projects. They often touch more people and are often more supported by local communities."
- "I feel that funding for small to medium projects and associations is vital to preserve local community."
- "This is quite a hard one. I think it is important that as many people as possible see benefit so have selected the ones in the middle so they are big enough to have an impact while being able to spread the money over several projects. Though there might be a case for large scale if really of major impact. I don't see much point in micro grants though - they should be possible from other funds e.g. Community Council."

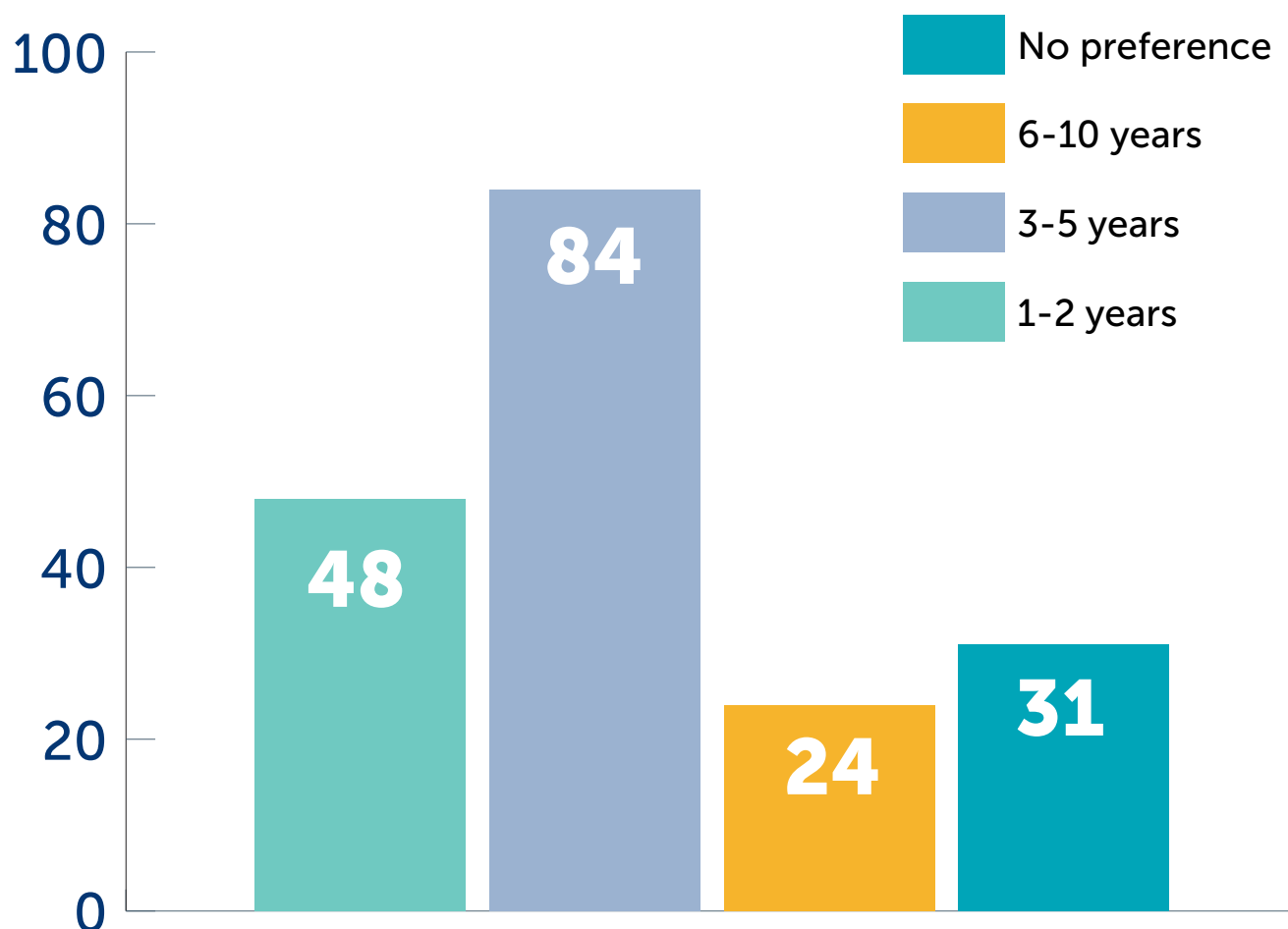


Multiple Choice Question:

The total value of the Fund is £5,455,000. Over what period of time should this funding be delivered?

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

The total value of the fund is £5,455,000. Over what period of time should this funding be delivered? Total Residents (n=187)

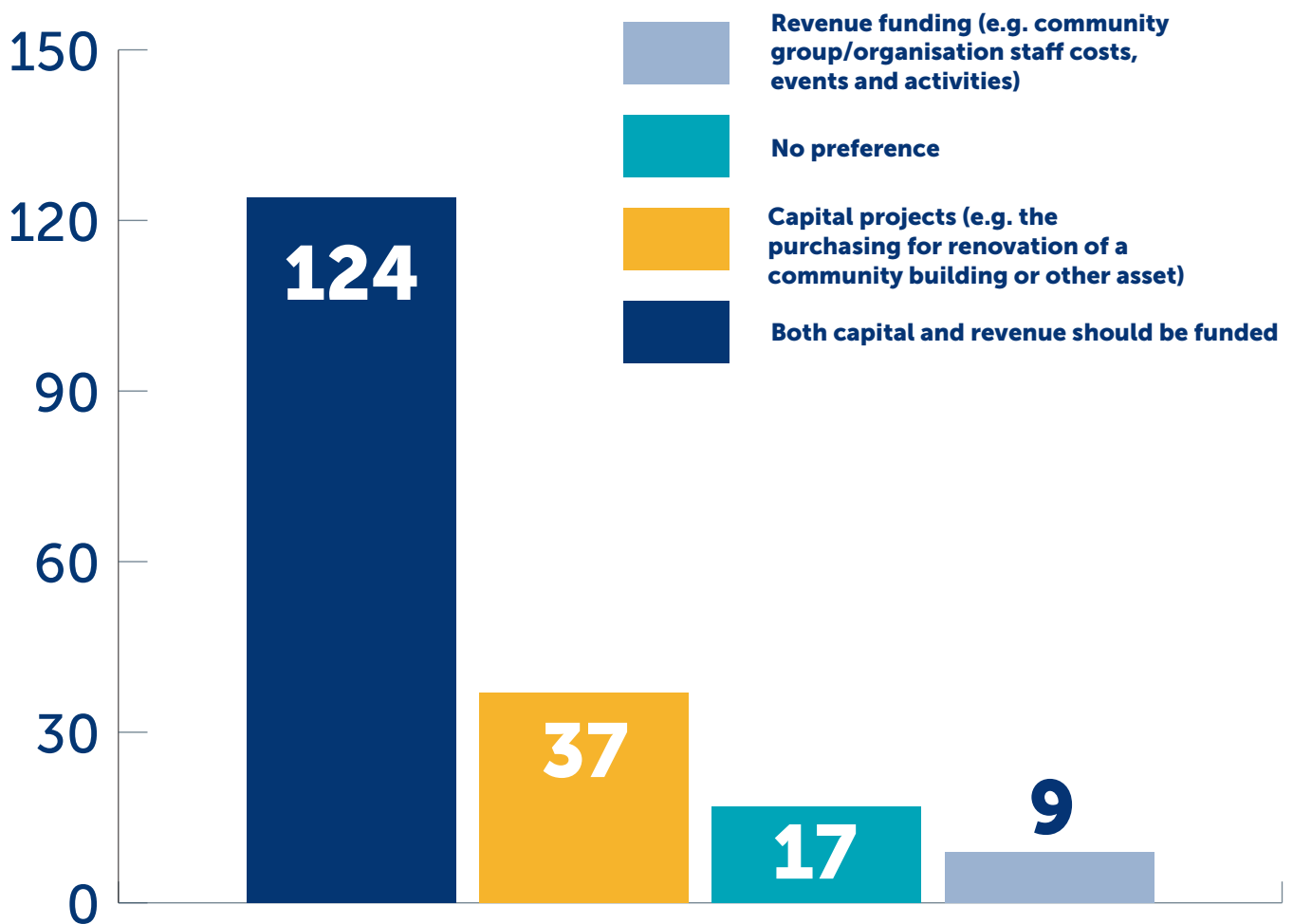




Multiple Choice Question:

What types of projects should be prioritised for funding?

The responses showed a clear preference for both capital and revenue funding.



Reasons included:

- "Our communities have assets but are struggling to generate sustainable revenue from them. Balancing capital and revenue should help create opportunities for new or enhanced income streams."
- "We need to support capital & infrastructure projects and also the resource to enable groups to be able to run & move these projects forward."

Appendix 1 - Community Plans

The table below identifies the publicly available community-led plans across the area and indicates whether there is a development trust, community company or community association taking forward projects for the local area.

Community Council area	Local Plan	Development Trust/ Community Company/ Community Association
Broadford and Strath	Local Place Plan (2024)	Broadford & Strath Community Company Elgol and Strathaird Development Trust
Dunvegan	Community Action Plan (2025)	Dunvegan Community Trust
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston	Local Place Plan (2025)	Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company
Glendale	No finalised local plan published. Glendale Trust Project List	Glendale Trust
Glenelg and Arnisdale	Included in Lochalsh Community Action Plan and Lochalsh Local Place Plan (2024).	Glenelg & Arnisdale Development Trust Arnisdale and Loch Hourn Community Association (no website)
Glengarry	Community Action Plan (2025). Local Place Plan (2026).	Glengarry Community Development Trust
Kilmuir	No finalised local plan published.	Urras Chille Mhoire (Kilmuir Community Trust)
Kyleakin and Kylerhea	No finalised local plan published.	None
Minginish	Community Action Plan in development. MCA List of Projects.	Minginish Community Association
Portree and Braes	No finalised local plan published. PBCT Project List	Portree & Braes Community Trust
Raasay	Raasay Development Plan (2023); Raasay Community Climate Change Action Plan (2023)	Raasay Development Trust
Sconser	No finalised local plan published.	None (exploring membership of Portree & Braes Community Trust)

Community Council area	Local Plan	Development Trust/ Community Company/ Community Association
Skeabost	No finalised local plan published. Edinbane & Communities Company Projects List (covering part of Skeabost CC area)	Edinbane & Companies Company covers the following postcodes: IV51 9PN; IV51 9PR; IV51 9PW; IV51 9PX; IV51 9PU; IV51 9PT; IV51 9PS; IV51 9RE; IV51 9PA; IV51 9NY; IV51 9NZ; IV51 9PP
Sleat	Local Place Plan (2025)	Sleat Community Trust
Staffin	No finalised local plan published. SCT Project List	Staffin Community Trust
Struan	Community Action Plan (2024)	Struan Community Trust
Uig	Local Place Plan in development	Uig Community Trust
Waternish	No finalised local plan published.	None



Appendix 2 - Survey

About your relationship to the area

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

Q1. What is your connection to the area along the Skye Reinforcement Project route?

(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 Skye & Raasay/Glenelg & Arnisdale/Glengarry/Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston
- ☐ I work in Skye & Raasay/Glenelg & Arnisdale/Glengarry/Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston
- ☐ My work involves supporting communities in Skye & Raasay/Glenelg & Arnisdale/Glengarry/Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston
- ☐ I represent Skye & Raasay/Glenelg & Arnisdale/Glengarry/Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston as a Highland Councillor, MSP or MP
- ☐ I am a Community Councillor in Skye & Raasay/Glenelg & Arnisdale/Glengarry/Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston
- ☐ Other

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

(If you do not live in the area, please select this option towards the end of the list below.)

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Broadford & Strath CC | ☐ Kilmuir CC | ☐ Skeabost CC |
| ☐ Dunvegan CC | ☐ Kyleakin & Kylerhea CC | ☐ Sleat CC |
| ☐ Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston CC | ☐ Minginish CC | ☐ Staffin CC |
| ☐ Glendale CC | ☐ Portree & Braes CC | ☐ Struan CC |
| ☐ Glenelg & Arnisdale CC | ☐ Raasay CC | ☐ Waternish CC |
| ☐ Glengarry CC | ☐ Sconser CC | ☐ Uig CC |
| ☐ I don't live in any of these areas but I would like to share my views | | |

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 the nature of your involvement (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?

Q6. In your view, what are the key priorities for your community?

(Please tick your top 5 priorities)

(The priorities listed are drawn from those already identified in existing Local Place Plans, Community Action Plans and Area Place Plans across the area. By highlighting your top priorities, you will help ensure the Skye Reinforcement Local Fund focuses on supporting the projects/activities most important to your community in the coming years.)

- ☐ Digital Infrastructure (including community broadband and improving digital connectivity)
- ☐ Local, Affordable Childcare
- ☐ Affordable & Diverse Housing Options (including a range of tenure options such as woodland crofts, rent-to-buy etc)
- ☐ Transport and Connectivity (including community transport, active travel paths and infrastructure improvements to enhance accessibility)
- ☐ Protecting and Restoring Nature (including creating, caring for and accessing green spaces such as community gardens/woodlands/allotments and safeguarding marine environments)
- ☐ Youth Activities, Engagement and Empowerment
- ☐ Community Capacity Building (including supporting core costs for community organisations)
- ☐ Local Amenities /Services (including facilities such as community shop, men's shed, tool libraries and sport/recreational activities)
- ☐ Community Energy Projects (including hydro schemes, wind turbines and other renewable energy sources)
- ☐ Heritage and Culture (including Gaelic, creative arts and music)
- ☐ Employment and Skills Development
- ☐ Health and Well-being
- ☐ Community Assets and Infrastructure (including acquiring or improving community assets such as village halls)
- ☐ Sustainable / Responsible Tourism (including visitor management and community-led tourism initiatives)
- ☐ Energy Efficiency (including insulation and low carbon technologies such as solar PV/Air Source Heat Pumps for community facilities)
- ☐ Other

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 support in progressing community projects?

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

Please provide reasons where possible and name any relevant organisations.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

If you answered 'no', please describe the key challenges faced and what support is needed.

Fund Structure

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

Q10. Where do you think Community Benefit Funding for the Skye Reinforcement Project should be made available?
(This is defined as the area of benefit.)

All the communities in Skye & Raasay, Glenelg & Arnisdale, Glengarry and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston 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.

Q11. 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 micro grant.)

- ☐ Micro grants (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

Please share the reasons for your answer.

Q12. The total value of the Fund is £5,455,000. 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 (aiming to fund large scale projects)
- ☐ 3-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years (funding smaller projects over a longer period)
- ☐ No preference

Q13. 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

Please share the reasons for your answer.

Additional Comments

Q14. 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).

Q15. 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 |

Q16. How do you describe your gender?

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

Q17. 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 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Q18. Would you like to be added to our community benefit mailing list to be kept updated on the Skye Reinforcement Local Fund?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

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

Full name:

Email:

Q19. 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.

- ☐ By email from SSEN Transmission Mailing List
- ☐ By email from the Community Fund Manager (Jo Rodgers)
- ☐ By email from Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO)
- ☐ Highland Council Skye & Raasay Area Committee Presentation
- ☐ By email from Highland Community Planning Partnership newsletter
- ☐ Local Media (i.e. West Highland Free Press)
- ☐ Social Media (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn)
- ☐ On my local community website
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Skye Radio
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ SSEN Transmission's website

Survey Return

Please return this survey by the end of Friday 10 April. If you have any trouble meeting this deadline please contact community.benefit@sse.com

These forms can be returned in two ways:

- A photo/scanned copy can be returned via email to community.benefit@sse.com
- Completed hard copies can be returned via post to the following address:

FAO

Dr Joanna Rodgers



SSEN Transmission,
10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

