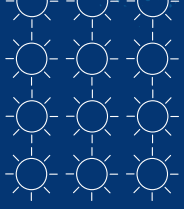


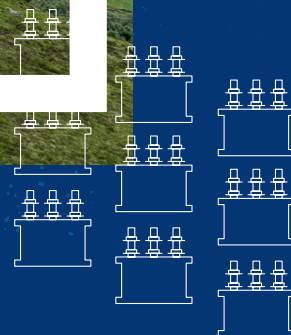


Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



Skye Reinforcement Local Fund Proposal



Overview and Consultation

This document outlines an initial proposal for the structure and priorities of the Skye Reinforcement Local Fund. The current total lifetime funding available for the Skye Reinforcement Fund is **£5,455,000**.

This proposal is underpinned by the UK Government’s [guidance](#) on community benefit funding for transmission infrastructure. It is based on the outcome of extensive consultation with the communities that live along the route of the Skye Reinforcement Project. The Consultation Report can be found on the Fund website [here](#).

Community consultation was carried out across the area of benefit in March and April 2026, and included the following engagement activities:

Consultation Activity	~No. of Participants
Drop-in events	
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	12
Thursday 2 April, 6.30-8pm	
Survey	201 responses

- Approximately 194 people engaged with the consultation across all in-person and online events, and 201 people completed the survey.
- In addition, desk-based research was carried out using available place plans, community plans, and socio-economic data pertaining to the area. Several meetings were held with Elected Members and Officers at The Highland Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, and Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) to learn more about the area and existing work on community priorities.
- In summary, the key outcomes of the consultation were:
- 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. Funding should also be available for projects or activities outside this area, provided they benefit residents of the area.
 - A clear preference for funding both small-scale projects / activities (up to £10,000) and medium-scale projects / activities (up to £100,000).
 - A clear preference for the fund to run for 3-5 years; and for both capital and revenue funding to be included.
 - Community members and key stakeholders emphasised the importance of local decision-making to ensure the Fund meets the needs of local communities and supports a positive and lasting legacy.
 - Five clear priorities identified: Affordable & Diverse Housing; Community Assets and Infrastructure; Community Capacity Building; Local Amenities / Services; Transport and Connectivity.
 - Two overarching themes identified: the need to retain and involve young people in community life; and the importance of support for the Gaelic language and associated culture (which underpins a sense of place and community for many residents of the area).

Area of Benefit

There are 18 community council areas bordering the Skye Reinforcement Project. Feedback from the consultation showed support for the beneficiaries of funding to be from these areas. Respondents also highlighted that funding should be available for projects or activities outside these community councils, provided they benefit residents of the identified areas.

It is proposed that projects directly benefitting people in the following community council areas will be eligible for the fund:

- Broadford and Strath
 - Dunvegan
 - Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston
 - Glendale
 - Glenelg and Arnisdale
 - Glengarry
 - Kilmuir
 - Kyleakin and Kylerhea
 - Minginish
- Portree and Braes
 - Raasay
 - Sconser
 - Skeabost
 - Sleat
 - Staffin
 - Struan
 - Uig
 - Waternish

Organisations based outwith these community council areas are welcome to apply to the fund, provided that a significant number of beneficiaries of the proposed activity are resident within the area of benefit.



Funding

Fund Value

All SSEN Transmission community benefit funding is being delivered in accordance with UK Government guidance on the delivery of community benefit for transmission infrastructure. 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

In line with the SSEN Transmission fund delivery model, 50% of the community benefit funding from each of these projects will be made available for local community funding, with the remaining 50% of the funding being delivered via SSEN Transmission’s Regional Fund.

Therefore, the current total lifetime funding available for the Skye Reinforcement Fund is £5,455,000. This value may increase if eligible infrastructure is built in the area and can be incorporated into this fund without disadvantaging any local communities.

Fund Priorities

It is proposed that the top five priorities identified by respondents will be the core priorities of this Fund. These are:

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).

Under these priorities, activities or projects that focus on or involve young people and projects that support or involve Gaelic will be especially welcomed. This reflects the consultation findings, where local residents identified these two elements as especially important.

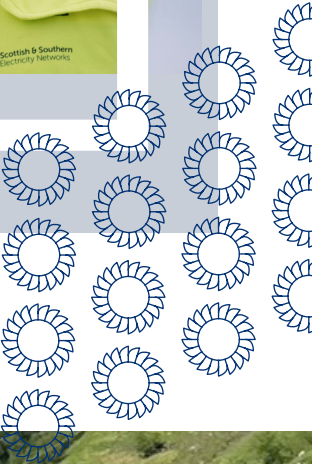
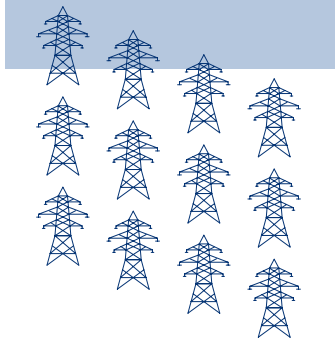
Fund Duration and Structure

It is proposed that the Fund is established to run for a minimum of 3 years. This proposal is based on consultation responses indicating a clear preference for the Fund to be delivered over 3-5 years. It also reflects the diverse needs of communities across the area of benefit, including some with shovel-ready projects, some with projects in development, and some communities that require additional time and capacity support in order to develop projects and access funding.

Both revenue and capital projects will be considered for funding. This reflects the clear stated preference of the majority of consultees for both types of funding to be made available.

It is proposed that both small-scale (up to £10,000) and medium-scale (up to £100,000) activities / projects are funded. Where larger projects of up to £500,000 can demonstrate exceptional legacy and impact, these will be considered for funding on a case-by-case basis. This proposal is based on the clear stated preference of the majority of consultees for both small- and medium-scale projects to be funded, while also taking into account that some consultees highlighted the need for flexibility to support large-scale projects where these will have exceptional impact.

As the Fund will be delivered over a minimum of 3 years, the total amount available annually will be approximately £1,818,300. The total amount delivered over the lifetime of the Fund will be £5,455,000. This amount may increase if additional eligible projects are built in the area and this will be communicated clearly with stakeholders.



Decision Making Process

An independent, impartial Local Investment Forum will be created via an open recruitment process to act as the decision-making body for the Fund. The Forum will be supported by the SSEN Transmission Community Fund Manager to ensure consistent standards are applied throughout the decision-making process.

Funding decisions will be based on the priorities set out in this document and will also consider factors such as the applicant project's distance from infrastructure, its impact, value for money, alignment with local plans, deliverability, level of community involvement and evidence of need. Full guidance for applicants will be published when the fund is opened.

More information on the Local Investment Forum will follow in advance of the fund opening.

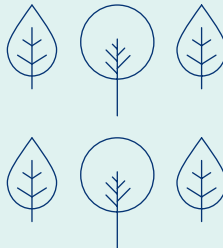


Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, organisations must have a constitution, operate on a not-for-profit basis, and align with the fund priorities identified through the consultation. Community organisations are welcome to apply in partnership with public bodies, but the community organisation must be the lead partner / applicant. Statutory services and gap funding for existing provision will not be supported.

Funding is not available for community projects which fall under the following categories:

- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups);
- Direct costs of energy consumption;
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts;
- Trips abroad;
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before a decision has been made (retrospective funding);
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities.

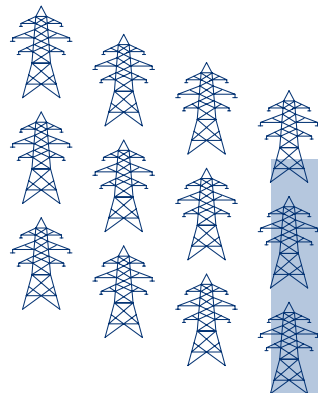


Community Capacity

Consultation responses indicated that most respondents feel that there is sufficient capability in their area to use the funding and deliver positive impacts. The challenges faced by community organisations were highlighted, including overreliance on volunteers; lack of revenue funding / core cost support; and inconsistent levels of skills and experience.

A significant minority 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 overreliance on volunteers; and (in some areas) a lack of trust in or transparency around local organisations.

Therefore, alongside supporting community capacity building as a core theme of this fund, SSEN Transmission will aim to support capacity building for new and existing community organisations to access funding as appropriate. The Community Fund Manager will engage with third sector and other relevant organisations to investigate any needs for additional support. This will further ensure that the projects and activities supported by the Fund will have significant impact and supports a positive and lasting legacy for the communities hosting transmission infrastructure.



Next Steps

SSEN Transmission welcomes feedback on this Fund Proposal from stakeholders.

Following a period of consultation the final Fund Proposal will be published, a decision-making panel will be appointed, and the Community Fund Manager will continue to support the development and administration of the Fund.

The timing of the fund opening is dependent on planning conditions being fully discharged and project construction beginning. It is anticipated that the Fund will open by the end of 2026.

Please contact community.benefit@sse.com with any comments or questions on the fund proposal.

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community.benefit@sse.com

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