

River Avich Hydro Community Benefit Fund

Panel Member Role Profile

Overview

River Avich Hydro Community Benefit Fund Advisory Panel is being convened to support the delivery of the main (open) grants programme under River Avich Hydro Community Benefit Fund. The Fund supports charitable activities that primarily benefit the residents of Inverinan, Lochavich, Dalavich, and Kilmaha (collectively termed the Primary Beneficiary Area).

The Fund is provided from unallocated retained reserves arising from the operations of Awesome Energy Dalriada Ltd (AED), the community benefit society set up to own and operate the River Avich Hydro scheme. It is administered by independent grant making expert, Foundation Scotland, under contract to AED. The Foundation supports the Panel in its role and carries out all grant making, publicity and financial administration of the Fund.

Donations into the Fund are anticipated to total around £1,177,000 over the period 2020 to 2037, with maximum sums in any given year estimated to range from £19K to £175K¹. The Fund is expected to be provided over the hydro schemes forty years lifespan.

The Fund is being made available via four strands:

- The Main Grants programme provides awards to constituted organisations for charitable activities that contribute towards Dalavich Community Action Plan.
- The Education & Training Fund provides bursaries to individuals seeking to take a course or apprenticeship that will help them improve their employability prospects or develop a new career.
- Microgrants for individuals and groups are available through Avich & Kilchrenan Community Council.
- An annual grant is made to Dalavich Improvement Group to take forward activities set out in its business plan, as approved at its AGM.

The proportion of funding available for each of the above strands in each year is determined by local anchor organisation Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG). In Year One (June 2021 to

¹ predominantly based upon Low Flow Data (LFD) P50, which has been consistently beaten by 15-20%.

May 2022), a total of £10,000 is being made available for the Main Grants programme, with a maximum grant size of £3,000.

Panel members for this voluntary role will make recommendations on grant awards under the Main Grants programme. Members will be identified through a process agreed between Foundation Scotland and Dalavich Improvement Group and may serve for up to four years.

The Panel operates to a Terms of Reference. This includes a conflict-of-interest policy that ensures that Panel members are not involved in decisions about applications from groups they are directly involved with.

Key Responsibilities

- **Attend an induction session and any further training:** Led by Foundation Scotland, these will focus on building an effective Panel.
- **Review assessment and progress reports:** Foundation Scotland assesses all applications to the Fund and provides assessment reports for consideration by Panel Members before each award-making meeting. The Foundation also provides information on the achievements and outcomes reported by grant recipients in their progress/ completion reports.
- **Attend Panel meetings:** At these, the Panel makes recommendations on grant awards. Panel members also consider any other relevant items of Fund business such as progress against previous grant awards and Fund promotional activity.
- **Promote the Fund locally:** Panel members are encouraged to play a role in promotional activity e.g.: distributing posters, circulating e-mails, attending publicity events.

Additional Information

- The Panel is supported by a staff member at Foundation Scotland. The Foundation will assess all applications and help arrange Panel meetings.
- The Panel will meet to make awards no more than twice each year. The precise number of Panel meetings will depend on the amount of funding available, demand for grants, and the Panel's availability.
- This is a voluntary role but reasonable expenses (travel and /or childcare costs) incurred by Panel Members in the line of duty may be met from the Fund.
- The Foundation promotes openness and transparency in its community benefit work and will make brief information about Panel members available on our website. This will not include contact details.
- For further information please contact Tom Black at Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0331 or at tom@foundationscotland.org.uk