



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 7

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 1 July 2025.

Application 0/5/8/0019 – Orkney Sailing Club – Purchase of ex Island Games Sail Boats.

Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.

1. Overview

- 1.1. Orkney Sailing Club (OSC) has applied for funding from the Council's Community Development Fund in respect of purchasing a fleet of six ex-Island Games competition sail dinghies and equipment, including a time keeping system and a lifting gantry at a total cost of £57,432.
- 1.2. The situation has arisen for Orkney based sailing clubs to be offered the opportunity to purchase ex-Island Games competition sail dinghies permitting the clubs to invest in an almost new fleet. This opportunity has presented itself through the Royal Yacht Association supported by sportscotland to purchase, at a discounted price, several of the boats: International Laser Class Association (ILCAs) single-handed racing dinghies, provided to Orkney for the Orkney 2025 Island Games thereby adding to the legacy resulting from the Games.
- 1.3. The project legacy will be that Orkney Sailing Club will be able to offer to club members new dinghies which will increase the uptake of sailing in Orkney and will enable enough vessels to hold local competitions intra club, between Orkney based clubs as well as enable the clubs to attend competitions outwith Orkney which will encourage sailing across Orkney. The purchase of the time keeping equipment and the lifting gantry will enable professional time keeping at all races and regattas including training races and safe and efficient retrieval of dinghies after use.
- 1.4. Further details relating to the application are outlined in sections 4 and 5 below.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:

- i. Agree that a grant of up to a maximum of £13,334, approximately 23% of total eligible costs, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Orkney Sailing Club towards the purchase of six ILCA competition sail dinghies, sailing equipment including six ILCA 4 rigs, time keeping system and lifting gantry, subject to:
 - Confirmation of the subsidy control position to the satisfaction of the Corporate Director of Enterprise and Resources.
 - Confirmation of the full funding package being secured.
 - Confirmation that sportscotland are offering the Orkney Sailing Club discounted ILCA dinghies.
 - Confirmation that all regulatory permissions, where required, are in place, for example planning permission.
- ii. Delegate powers to the Director of Enterprise and Resources, in consultation with the Head of Corporate Governance, to determine whether appropriate security can be put in place and, if so, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Orkney Sailing Club in respect of the funding detailed at paragraphs 2.1i and 2.1ii above if required.

3. Background

- 3.1. Orkney Sailing Club (OSC) has been operating in its current form as an Unincorporated Association for several decades. However, records state that the Club was established in 1889. Since the club's early days until now sailing has been part of Orkney's heritage and culture and is growing in popularity in Orkney. OSC currently has over 200 members in 2025.
- 3.2. OSC offers a range of sailing opportunities and training as well as opportunities for those who do not own a sail dinghy but want to learn to sail or those not engaged in sailing, for example timekeepers, safety vessel operation, starting crew and at social events to become involved with the club. Those of all ages and abilities are engaged in making the Club a success. The Club offers RYA approved courses for various sailing disciplines. The Club activities are open to non-members for trial sails and volunteers thereby widening the potential engagement with the community.

- 3.3. Sportscotland were approached requesting the opportunity to purchase the ILCA dinghies provided for the Orkney 2025 Island Games via The Royal Yacht Association Scotland at a discounted price which has been agreed.
- 3.4. OSC requests assistance of £13,334 towards the planned project which includes:
- 6 x ILCA sailing dinghies with rigs and covers.
 - 6 x ILCA 4 rigs and delivery.
 - 2 x double stacking trailers.
 - Sailing land-based ancillary equipment.
 - Time keeping system and lifting gantry (installed).
- 3.5. The project costs have been determined by means of acquiring a quote from sportscotland for the sail boats. The proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below (inclusive of VAT as Orkney Sailing Club is not VAT registered):

Eligible Costs.	£.	Funding applications.	£.
6 ILCA sailing dinghies.	42,000.	Sports Scotland up to.	25,020.
6 ILCA 4 rigs including delivery.	3,530.	Community Development Fund up to.	13,334.
2 x Double stacking trailers.	4,510.	Community Led Local Development Fund up to.	13,334.
Land-based sailing equipment including a pressure washer, tyre pump and water system upgrades.	2,052.	Club's own funds up to.	5,744.
Time keeping system.	300.		
Lifting gantry (installed).	5,040.		
TOTAL.	£57,432.	TOTAL.	£57,432.

- 3.6. An award from the Community Development Fund will enable the leverage of a considerable amount of funding from sportscotland as regards discounted sailing dinghies purchased for the Orkney 2025 Island Games via the Royal Yacht Association Scotland. The final CDF funding award will be no more than the recommended support of up to a maximum of £13,334 approximately 23.2% of total project value.

- 3.7. There is a degree of urgency regarding the project as the sail dinghies and equipment requires to be allocated for the Orkney Sailing Club after the Island Games. The remaining 18 sailboats are to be allocated for purchase by other Orkney-based clubs.
- 3.8. Orkney Sailing Club will maintain the sail boats and equipment and promote the new facilities once the project is complete and the project funding through its website and social media presence.
- 3.9. Orkney Sailing Club is also committed to purchasing equipment and to purchasing these top of the range dinghies which has only become possible because of the International Island Games. These dinghies are an unexpected opportunity for a small sailing club to obtain top of the range sailboats with no transport risks or costs.

4. Project Appraisal

- 4.1. The project proposal submitted in the application is accompanied by a development statement. This statement confirms the intention that the project is for the use of a wide age range from the community and will benefit the Orkney sailing fraternity at all levels and abilities.
- 4.2. The Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, have supported a wide range of development projects involving sports and recreation and community facilities.
- 4.3. Regarding OSC's application for support towards the purchase of equipment and sail dinghies, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria for the CDF:

4.3.1. Evidence of need

- This application complements proposals submitted by other sailing clubs in Orkney all seeking to secure funding for the purchase of ILCA sailing boats delivered to the islands for the Orkney Island Games 2025. The collective aim is to create a legacy from this major sporting event by retaining a fleet of boats which will strengthen the long-term sustainability of sailing in Orkney and significantly improve access to the sport across the community.

- The establishment of a shared fleet of ILCA boats—suitable for training, development, and competitive sailing—will enhance collaboration between clubs and communities, support the development of local talent and raise the profile of Orkney’s sailors at regional, national and international levels through participation in events such as future Island Games.
- There is a clear and growing need to provide inclusive, affordable access to sports facilities, equipment and programmes in Orkney to promote physical health, mental wellbeing and community cohesion. Sailing is deeply rooted in Orkney’s heritage and this project, alongside others led by other local clubs, will ensure its long-term viability for future generations.

4.3.2. Achievability

- Orkney Sailing Club’s Management Committee will manage the project which will reduce the cost. Collaborative funding in partnership with the sportscotland will ensure value for money. OSC has made a separate, complimentary funding application which secured funding from the Community Led Local Development Fund.
- Orkney Sailing Club can provide the necessary management skills needed to make the project a success and the timescales set are realistic and allow for some flexibility.
- The Club has a long well-established track record of managing projects including those which have received funding support.

4.3.3. Sustainability

- This project will play an important role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of OSC and the sport of sailing in Orkney. By investing in high-quality, durable equipment and strengthening association facilities and services the project will build the Club’s capacity to serve the wider community well into the future.
- Through accessible OSC and associated club memberships, community members will have ongoing use of boats and resources which are fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard. This will ensure that participation in sailing is both inclusive and sustainable over time.
- The project will also support intergenerational engagement by encouraging new and younger participants to take up the sport. These individuals will have the opportunity to sail with and learn directly from experienced sailors helping to transfer knowledge and build skills for the future within the local sailing community.

4.3.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- This project will directly serve the wider Orkney public by improving access to sailing and strengthening the visibility of Orkney's maritime heritage. The expansion of opportunities will also expand participation as well as making sailing more accessible, inclusive and representative of the broader community. The project will also stand as a legacy of the Orkney Island Games securing long-term value from the event.
- The provision of affordable, community-led sporting opportunities supported by well-equipped and welcoming clubs is an important contributor to community wellbeing. This project will support people of all ages and abilities which promotes physical and mental health through active engagement, social interaction and skills development.
- Sailing is a sport which extends beyond those on the water sailing. The sport relies on a wide network of volunteers, instructors, officials and supporters which creates roles for a diverse cross-section of the community. This broad involvement fosters intergenerational connections, builds community capacity and ensures lasting social and recreational benefits for Orkney well into the future.

4.3.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The project will help establish a new fleet of sailing boats in Orkney which will be available for community use through Club membership enabling people from a range of ages and abilities to learn, train and develop their sailing skills in Orkney.
- This project represents a step change in how sailing is developed in Orkney. The project will greatly enhance the training capacity, support talent development and promote inclusivity by removing barriers to participation through access to high-quality equipment.

4.3.6. Enriching quality of life

- Sailing is an active engaging sport which promotes physical fitness and mental wellbeing. Through ensuring access to sailing for as wide demographic as possible, this project will encourage a healthier lifestyle across the Orkney community. It will also create valuable social opportunities, new and lasting connections among individuals and families and enhance inter-community collaboration.
- Through participation in sailing, people of all ages and abilities can experience the benefits of outdoor activity, teamwork and personal development.

4.3.7. Value for money

- This project offers excellent value for money by delivering long-term impact from a one-time capital investment. The durability and versatility of the ILCA dinghies ensure years of use, while the expanded programming increases participation and revenue opportunities. The Club's volunteer-led model also maximises the return on investment by reducing ongoing staffing costs. Under this proposal the boat hulls and equipment used in the island games are purchased at half the cost of that if bought new from a supplier. It is unlikely that this type of discounted offer would ever be available again.

4.3.8. Partnership funding

- The project is strengthened through partnership funding from sportscotland, with strategic support from RYA Scotland, aligning with national priorities for increasing access to sport, particularly in rural communities. These partnerships not only provide financial backing but also guidance on governance, development pathways, and long-term sustainability, ensuring the success and impact of the project.

5. Letter of Support

5.1. A Letter of support in relation to this project has been received from the following organisation:

- Royal Yacht Association, Scotland.

For Further Information please contact:

Morag Robertson, Economic Development Officer, extension 2852, Email morag.robertson@orkney.gov.uk.

Implications of Report

1. Financial:

- In December 2022, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils.
- Community Development Funds records show that as of 31 May 2025, the unallocated fund budget was £312,878. At present there is therefore sufficient budget within the 2022 Community Development Fund tranche to consider this project.
- The option of accessing Community Development Fund grant as an advance payment, to assist cash flow, will not be required regarding this project as OSC has sufficient funds in hand to bankroll the project between purchase and grant claim.

2. **Legal:**
 - Subject to the content of the third bullet point (below) there are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
 - If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally binding agreement will be required to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.
 - Any financial assistance provided by the Council will need to be assessed to determine if the financial assistance proposed meets the definition of a subsidy under section 2 of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (the 2022 Act). If it is determined that the financial assistance is a subsidy, then it will need to be provided in a manner compliant with the provisions of the 2022 Act.
 - In accordance with the Community Development Fund Guidance, if grant assistance is to be provided by the Council and the total project cost exceeds £10,000, then the Community Development Fund Sub-committee will determine whether appropriate security should be taken over any appropriate heritable property improved because of the project.
3. **Corporate Governance:** Determination of applications for funding from the Community Development Fund is delegated to the Community Development Fund Sub-committee.
4. **Human Resources:** N/A.
5. **Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - ☒ Growing our economy.
 - ☒ Strengthening our communities.
 - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.
 - ☐ Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - ☐ Cost of Living.
 - ☒ Sustainable Development.
 - ☒ Local Equality.
 - ☐ Improving Population Health.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** N/A
10. **Risk:** N/A

11. **Procurement:** N/A
12. **Health and Safety:** N/A
13. **Property and Assets:** The project includes purchase of sail dinghies, sail gear, stacking/lowering trailers and 40ft storage container which will be owned by OSC.
14. **Information Technology:** N/A
15. **Cost of Living:** N/A

List of Background Papers

- Application from Orkney Sailing Club for Community Development Fund assistance dated 02/05/25.
- Community Development Fund Guidance (Ver July2023)