

Item: 6

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 1 July 2025

Application 0/5/8/0084 – Holm Sailing Club – Purchase of ex-Island Games Sail Boats.

Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.

1. Overview

- 1.1. The Holm Sailing Club 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, together with a 40 ft storage container, at a total cost of £62,321.
- 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 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 Holm Sailing Club will be able to offer to club members new dinghies which will increase the uptake of sailing in Orkney and will enable a sufficient number of 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 container will provide much needed storage facilities for the club and ensure the protection of the new sailing dinghies.
- 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 sum of £30,160, approximately 48% of total eligible costs, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Holm Sailing Club towards the purchase of six ILCA competition sail dinghies with rigs and covers, sailing equipment, two stacking and lowering trailers and a 40-foot storage container including delivery, subject to:
 - Confirmation of the subsidy control position to the satisfaction of the Director of Enterprise and Resources.
 - Confirmation of the full funding package being secured.
 - Confirmation that sportscotland are offering the Holm 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 Finance, to authorise, if required, advance payment of the grant, referred to at paragraph 2.1i above, on receipt of invoices, to assist cash flow requirements of the Holm Sailing Club.
- iii. 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 Holm Sailing Club in respect of the funding detailed at paragraphs 2.1i and 2.1ii above.

3. Background

3.1. Holm Sailing Club (HSC) has been operating in its current form as an unincorporated association for several decades. Records mention a Holm regatta as far back as 1949. Since the Club's early days until now sailing has been part of Holm's heritage and culture and is growing in popularity in Orkney. HSC currently has over 54 members in 2025.

- 3.2. HSC 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 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. HSC requests assistance of £30,160 towards total project costs of £62,321. The project includes the following: towards the following:
- 6 x ILCA sailing dinghies with rigs and covers.
 - 6 x ILCA 4 rigs and delivery.
 - 2 x double stacking and lowering trailers and collection.
 - Purchase and delivery of 40ft container.
- 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 Holm Sailing Club is not VAT registered):

Eligible Costs.	£.	Funding applications.	£.
6 ILCA sailing dinghies.	42,000.	sportscotland up to.	30,160.
6 ILCA 4 rigs including deliver.	3,520.	Community Development Fund up to.	30,160.
2 x Double stacking/ lowering trailers including collection cost.	8,197.	Club's own funds up to.	2,001.
40 foot container including delivery.	8,604.		
TOTAL.	£62,321 .	TOTAL.	£62,321 .

- 3.6. An award from the Community Development Fund has the opportunity to help lever 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 £30,160 approximately 48.4% 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 Holm Sailing Club after the Island Games. The remaining sailboats are to be allocated for purchase by other Orkney-based clubs.
- 3.8. Holm 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. HSC is also committed to purchasing equipment and to purchasing these top of the range dinghies which has only become possible as a result of Orkney 2025. The 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 of 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 HSC'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

- Holm Sailing Club has seen a growing demand for access to club boats, particularly from new sailors, youth groups, and members of the local community without the means to purchase their own dinghies. Previous "Try Sailing" sessions and inter-club activities have regularly reached capacity, demonstrating clear demand. Feedback from local families, schools, and community groups has highlighted a desire for more accessible sporting opportunities, especially in coastal and rural areas where options are limited.
- Purchasing ILCA boats over any other class of boat, will provide a clear pathway for developing sailors to compete in wider national and even international events. Spurred on by having two club members competing in the Island Games this year, the young sailors aspire to take part in future games.

4.3.2. Achievability

- The project is fully achievable within the proposed timeframe, supported by a skilled and committed volunteer base, clear planning, and recent success in both fundraising and operational delivery. The Club has already trained volunteers in key safety and instructional roles, secured access to coaching resources, and demonstrated strong project delivery through recent capital investments such as the purchase of a new safety boat. This foundation ensures the Club is well-prepared to implement and manage the new fleet effectively.

4.3.3. Sustainability

- This project supports long-term sustainability by investing in durable, low-maintenance ILCA dinghies and ensuring a trained base of volunteers and instructors. Revenue from increased participation, membership fees, and ongoing fundraising will support future maintenance and expansion. Furthermore, volunteer training ensures the club remains self-sufficient, reducing reliance on external resources while fostering community ownership and continuity.

4.3.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- This project directly serves the local public by making sailing more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable for individuals and families across Orkney. The addition of six ILCA dinghies enables Holm Sailing Club to offer more frequent and structured training, recreational sailing, and competitive opportunities to a wider audience, regardless of background or experience.
- Other sailing clubs in Orkney are also investing in the same class of boat, which strengthens the local ILCA fleet and makes inter-club competition more viable and

consistent. This alignment across clubs enhances opportunities for joint events, regattas, and training sessions, creating a vibrant and interconnected sailing community throughout the islands.

- By working collectively with other clubs, Holm Sailing Club is actively contributing to a collaborative approach that improves access to sailing for the county. These partnerships help share resources, streamline coaching efforts, and build a stronger sailing culture that benefits all participants.
- The long-term benefit of this project lies in its ability to support continuous engagement with the sport, nurture future generations of sailors, and foster a more active, connected, and resilient community

4.3.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The project significantly upgrades training and competition opportunities, allowing for more structured coaching sessions, inter-club regattas, and participation in national events. It also creates new pathways for beginners and returning sailors, with access to standardised, high-performance dinghies. This ensures that participants at all levels can engage meaningfully in the sport and progress at their own pace.
- The addition of six new ILCA dinghies will significantly enhance the quality and scope of sailing opportunities at Holm Sailing Club. Currently, the Club fleet consists of two competitive 40-year-old Snipe dinghies and six second-hand Toppers. While these boats have served the Club well, they are limited in terms of capacity, modern performance, and suitability for structured training and racing.
- The introduction of the ILCA class not only modernises the Club's fleet but also provides a more versatile and performance-oriented option for sailors of all ages and abilities. These boats are widely used nationally and internationally, making them ideal for both training and competition. Importantly, with Holm Sailing Club's proven track record of maintaining boats to a high standard, this investment will ensure reliable access to high-quality sailing for the next 20–30 years.
- This upgrade positions the club to deliver consistent, high-level programming—whether for beginners taking their first steps on the water or more advanced sailors training for regional and national events. It is a forward-looking investment that supports long-term growth and inclusivity in the sport.

4.3.6. Enriching quality of life

- Access to sailing; Sailing enriches quality of life by encouraging outdoor activity, personal growth, and connection with the local environment. It offers individuals the chance to develop new skills, overcome challenges, and enjoy a sense of achievement. Regular participation supports positive lifestyle habits, a sense of belonging and overall well-being.
- Physical Well-being: Sailing promotes physical health through cardiovascular activity, balance, and strength training. It provides a low impact yet active sport suitable for all ages, supporting lifelong physical engagement. Regular sailing sessions encourage participants to stay active and spend time outdoors, promoting a healthier lifestyle.
- Mental Health Benefits: Time on the water can reduce stress, boost mood, and improve mental clarity. Sailing fosters mindfulness, confidence, and a sense of freedom, offering a mental escape from daily pressures. The structured, supportive environment of the club also helps build resilience and positive social connections; all key to better mental health.
- Community Engagement: This project strengthens community bonds by bringing people together through shared activity. Sailing events, training sessions, and regattas create regular opportunities for social interaction, volunteerism, and teamwork. The club's inclusive approach fosters a welcoming environment where people of all backgrounds can connect and contribute. The Holm Sailing Club is seen by the local community as a community club as past and present generations of people in the community have connection with the Club. This can be seen by the Holm Community Centre and Holm Sailing Club working together to provide a local gala day, which includes the Holm regatta.
- Youth Development: With access to high-quality dinghies and trained instructors, the Club can offer consistent youth programming that supports skill-building, confidence, leadership, and responsibility. Sailing teaches discipline, problem-solving, and communication—key life skills that benefit young people in sport and beyond.
- Talent Development: By standardising training in ILCA dinghies, the Club creates a clear pathway for talented sailors to progress to regional and national competitions. Structured coaching, access to suitable equipment, and participation in inter-club racing all contribute to identifying and nurturing local sailing talent.

- Multi-Generational Participation: Sailing is one of the few sports where people of all ages can participate side-by-side. The project promotes family involvement, allowing parents, children, and grandparents to sail together or support events. This inclusive approach fosters stronger family and community bonds and encourages lifelong participation.

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 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. Letters of Support

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from:

- Commodore Orkney Sailing Club.
- Board Member of the International Snipe Class Association.
- Vice Commodore, Stromness Sailing Club.

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 be required to ensure the project reaches a satisfactory conclusion.

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 require 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 as a result 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 HSC.
14. **Information Technology:** N/A
15. **Cost of Living:** N/A

List of Background Papers

- Application from Holm Sailing Club for Community Development Fund assistance dated 13/05/25.
- Community Development Fund Guidance (Ver July2023).