

<b>Committee</b>	UHI North, West and Hebrides Board
<b>Subject</b>	Grants and Funding Update
<b>Action requested</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> For endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> For approval
<b>Summary of the paper</b>	The purpose of this paper is to provide F&GP with an update on grants and funds received and/or offered to date to support both research and curriculum growth opportunities across North West and Hebrides
<b>Resource implications</b>	None
<b>Risk implications</b>	Ensuring we have a complete audit trail for decisions previously agreed with the three previous colleges,
<b>Date paper prepared</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Date of Board / Committee meeting</b>	F&GP 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023
<b>Author</b>	Debbie Miller, Interim VP Operations
<b>Link with strategy</b> Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Plan	
<b>Island communities</b>	The rural and islands college merger may have an impact on the Western Isles and islands covered by West Highland College that is different to other communities. As part of the merger process, the University will undertake an Island Communities Impact Assessment.
<b>Status</b> (e.g., confidential, non-confidential)	Non confidential
<b>Freedom of information</b>	Yes
<b>Consultation</b> How has consultation with partners been conducted?	Consultation with executive and staff involved in the development of the projects and those who will be involved if and when the projects are approved to take forward.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is request that the committee recommend the following for approval to the Board of Management. Some of these projects are historical and therefore the purpose is to provide a complete audit trail of previous decisions made through the boards prior to merger and/or catch anything that was missed due to the volume of work being undertaken during the merging period.

### **Equipment Sale and Grant Application – UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

For completeness F&GP is asked to note the sale of a training rig from the Engineering and Technology Centre in Thurso as previously approved by the North Highland Board of Management in June 2023. This income of £60k is now being used to match fund a bid to a Highland UK Shared Prosperity Fund, People and Skills – Skills Challenge Fund managed by Highland Council. The bid comprises a total project cost of £119,939.00 with £60k of match funding from the sale of our training rig and a grant request of £59,939.

We had expected to find the outcome of our application prior to the current board cycle but as at the time of writing the report we are still awaiting a decision. I would therefore ask if we are advised if we are successful that we could use the fast track process for approval given the training must be started and completed by March 2024. It is often the case when we are presented with opportunities for additional funding where the monies must be spent within the financial year, this is a challenge for our staff but in this case, we are confident of delivery.

### **Research Projects**

Following a review with the Finance Director and Project Manager, ERI we have revised the Advanced Notification Form which is a separate paper to committee. We are also playing catch up in some areas of research as new grants are being applied for across our research team which if successful will require board approval. The ERI quarterly report (which will be renamed to include West and Hebrides in the next quarter) highlights their project applications in the pipeline to the end of August 2023. I have also included as an appendix the applications from the ERI and Centre for Recreation and Tourism, CRTR, up to date. Note the spreadsheet has two tabs one for ERI and one for CRTR

[ERI and CRTR Project Pipeline to October 2023.xlsx](#)

Additionally for projects which have a value of over £50k to NWH I include links to as many of the ANF's or approvals as I have been provided with to date. Further ANF's and associated documents should be available to the next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The various research teams are still moving documentation over to the new sharepoint areas hence the delay.