

Item: 15

Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee: 8 September 2026.

**Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and Crown Estate
Community Led Development Fund - Budget Outturn.**

Report by Director of Enterprise and Resources.

1. Overview

- 1.1. This report presents budgetary information in respect of the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund for 2025/26.
- 1.2. In June 2022 the Council established the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund; each to be resourced from the allocation of funding that the Council receives annually from the Crown Estate.
- 1.3. The fund balances in respect of each of the two Crown Estate Funds are outlined in Annex A to this report.
- 1.4. Determination of applications for funding from the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund is delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources, in consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader, Chair and Vice Chair of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
- 1.5. Determination of applications for funding from the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund is delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources, in consultation with the Leader, Depute Leader, Chair and Vice Chair of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee, together with the Chair of the Orkney Local Action Group.
- 1.6. Funding commitments approved under the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, totalling £96,500, are detailed in Annex B to this report.
- 1.7. Funding commitments approved under the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, totalling £439,297, are detailed in Annex C to this report.

- 1.8. The Crown Estate funding allocation to the Council for 2026/27 was confirmed in July 2026 as £2,108,569. It is anticipated that the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund will each be allocated 25% of this sum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
- i. Note the fund balances of the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund, as at 31 March 2026, as detailed in Annex A to this report.
 - ii. Note the funding allocations made in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 totalling £96,500, against the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund, as detailed in Annex B to this report.
 - iii. Note the grant approvals made in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 totalling £439,297 against the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund, as detailed in Annex C to this report.

3. Exempt and/or Confidential Information

- 3.1. Under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting in respect of any discussion relating to Annexes B and C to this report. Annexes B and C contain exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

For Further Information please contact:

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Implications of Report

- 1. **Financial:** Financial implications are detailed in the report and annexes to the report.
- 2. **Legal:** Budget monitoring procedures help the Council meet its statutory obligation to secure best value.
- 3. **Corporate Governance:** When the funds were established in June 2022, the Council agreed that annual monitoring reports in respect of the Crown Estate Economic Development Fund and the Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund be submitted to the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
- 4. **Human Resources:** Not applicable.

5. **Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in respect of financial reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of financial reporting.
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:** Not applicable.
10. **Risk:** Not applicable.
11. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living:** The report includes details of grant award commitments made during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, some of which could contribute to addressing negative impacts of cost of living on Orkney business and wider community interests.

List of Background Papers

Policy and Resources Committee, 21 June 2022 – Crown Estate Fund – Proposals for Economic and Community Development Schemes.

Annexes

Annex A – Crown Estate Fund - Outturn statement for financial year 2025/26.

Annex B – Crown Estate Economic Development Fund Grant Allocations for 2025/26.

Annex C – Crown Estate Community Led Local Development Fund Grants Approved for 2025/26.

Annex A: Crown Estate Fund Out-turn statement 2025/26

	Crown Estate Economic Development Fund	Crown Estate Community Led Development Fund
Opening balance as at 1 April 2023	£558,300	£558,300
Add: 25% share of Crown Estate Fund in financial years:		
2023/24	£220,175	£220,175
2024/25	£247,270	£247,270
2025/26	£332,965	£332,965
	£1,358,710	£1,358,710
Less: Commitments made in financial years:		
2023/24	(£477,039)	(£478,003)
2024/25	(£330,360)	(£378,087)
2025/26	(£96,500)	(£439,297)
Closing balance as at 31 March 2026	£454,811	£63,323