



Article 1.1 The Individual Training and Learning Fund

Our first set of articles focuses on our well established, and ever developing, Training and Learning Fund. The fund was originally set up in order to distribute income from the wind turbine to residents of the island, in order to benefit members of the community directly in many aspects of personal development.

Article 1.1 focuses on our Individual Training and Learning Fund, there are 2 other aspects of the Fund, information on these can be found at: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/newsletter/>

The Individual Training and Learning Fund

What is it and how much am I entitled to?

The most established and successful aspect of the fund is our Individual Training and Learning Fund. Established early 2014, each residing member of the Hoy and Walls Community is entitled to apply for funding up to the value of £500 per year towards a number of training and learning categories. The applications will be assessed to ensure that the participants meet the funding criteria and the aims of the Trust which are:

1. To promote training, particularly among residents of the Community, and with particular reference to skills which will assist the participants in obtaining paid employment.
2. To advance education and in particular to promote opportunities for learning for the benefit of the general public.

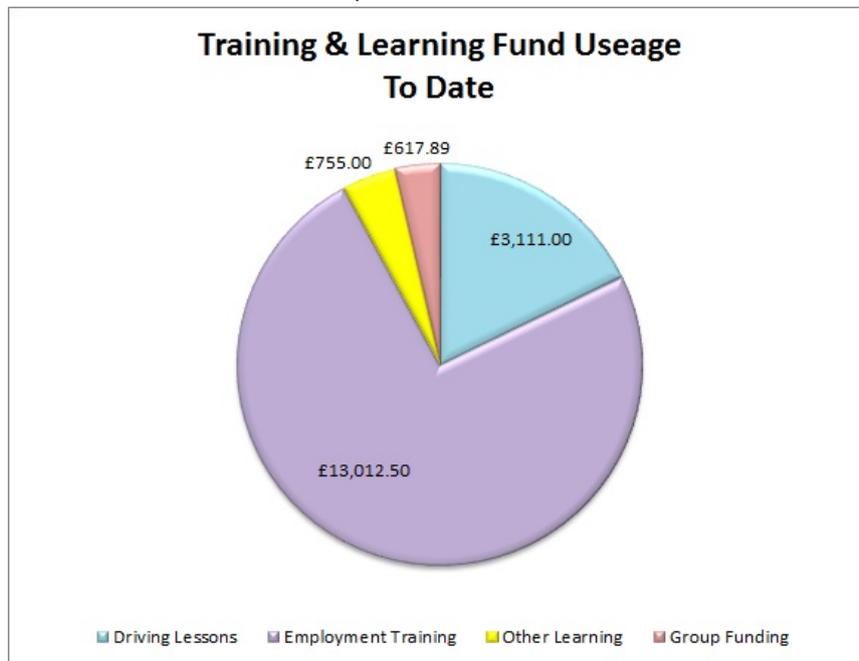
Applications to The Individual Training and Learning Fund are almost always dealt with by the office staff, and the turn around on decisions is usually very quick.

Please note, allocation of these funds is dependent on the number of applications that the Trust receives and the value of awards that we have granted during the year, so don't delay in submitting your application!



So what could you use it for?

So far, we have received and approved 70 applications for funding in the Individual Training and Learning category, with a combined total of £17,496.39 paid out across the two established aspects of the Training and Learning Fund, with many of the applicants applying for additional funding for other activities or courses either within the same year, or in subsequent years up to their personal allowance of £500 per year. There are literally 100s of possibilities, so, to help you decide, here are some areas in which your fellow Islanders have utilised their fund...



Driving Lessons, as well as Trailer and Forklift Lessons



Agricultural Courses such as Safe use of Pesticides

Other Work Related Qualifications such as ECDL or Language Courses



Pursuing Hobbies and Interests such as Machine Embroidery Classes

Boat Qualifications such as Fire Safety



Lifeguarding and Swimming Instruction

The list of Training and Learning categories is not exhaustive and if you are unsure as to whether or not your chosen category is included, we urge you to get in contact with us and we can assist you with this. Activities and courses do not need to result in a vocational or professional qualification in order to qualify for funding.

Where it is proven that undertaking certain activities or courses will result in unavoidable travel costs, and/or unavoidable overnight accommodation costs, applicants may apply for funding towards these areas too.

OK, I've chosen my activity or course, how do I apply?

It's easy! Applications can be done in a number of ways. You can download a form by clicking on the following link: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/2016/06/training-learning-fund-application-form/>, we can email, or post you a hard copy, or why not pop in to the office and we will be happy to dedicate our time to discussing the application in detail with you, and fill it in while you're here? Just let us know when you would like to get together.

Course funding may depend on participants applying for external funding as well as funding from the Development Trust. In some instances, applicants may be entitled to external support, which they should investigate in order to qualify for funding through The Trust, the office may be able to assist you with this, please feel free to contact us.

Applications for funding must be received prior to activities or courses being undertaken and we may have to refuse funding if the application is retrospective.

How often can I apply?

Each individual can apply to the fund as often as they want to, up to the value of £500 in any 12 month period. This means that if you undertake an activity or course which costs less than your designated £500, you can reapply into the fund for your outstanding allowance and use it towards another activity or course. For on-going activities or courses, applications will need to be resubmitted annually as we cannot guarantee that approved funding will be continuously offered for activities or courses which take a number of years to complete.

Not sure if training and learning is for you? Here's what others told us they had gained from their experiences...

"This has proved extremely valuable in my current area of work"

"Immediate pay rise in my job"

"Experience!"

"Confidence!"

There have been numerous success stories on the island as a result of the Training and Learning Fund, some applicants achieved qualifications, some broadened their horizons with learning, others undertook training to drastically improve their flexibility in many aspects of their lives, such as learning to drive. We looked into some of the grants that we have issued over the years and how you told us that they helped you.

Real Lives, Achievable Goals!

One of our repeat grant applicants underwent a journey of learning in order to open up opportunities within their working environment. Originally employed on a relief basis, the applicant talked to us about how a specific qualification could assist them in obtaining full time work with the company that they were currently working for. The training was arranged and funding authorised, and once completed, the applicant was then able to secure a pay rise and an increase in hours. Keen to improve their skills even further, the applicant then applied for further funding in order to improve flexibility and increase their skill set, and they completed an additional qualification. They are now ready to apply for a full time position should one become available in future.

Personal Islander Vocational Case Study

A member of the community has recently undertaken an OFTEC qualification to service oil fired boilers.

Here's what they had to say on the training and learning experience...

"The Training Provider offered an excellent training package as well as an OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association) - certification too. The Island of Hoy Development Trust Training and Learning Fund, proved to be invaluable to make the cost of training affordable.... (I have gained) new skills which can be put to good use at home, and in our community, to keep heating safe, sound and efficient, and to carry out repairs when needed. A big thank you to the Island of Hoy Development Trust for without whom, this worthwhile experience wouldn't have been possible. The process of applying for and receiving funding was quick and simple, and I recommend it to anyone wishing to develop their skills or knowledge."

...and here's what some of the recipients of the fund had to say about the application process...

'Very helpful and easy to apply. Lucky to have this scheme!'

'It was very easy to apply for the grant'

'A simple process'

'Very good, staff were always helpful and quick to respond'

So why not put in an application form? Download, fill in, and send it back to us and you could be learning again in no time!

