

Laxdale Community Association (LCA)



Accelerate's support has been invaluable in helping us to secure our funding.



Background

The Laxdale Community Association (LCA) has acted as the 'caretaker' for the Laxdale Community Hall (the Hall) since the 1940's. Located just outside Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, the Hall has had various upgrades over the years, including the addition of a Sports and Games Hall in the early 1990s. However, over recent decades, the Hall itself has been in a state of gradual decline and disrepair and, more recently, the Covid-19 pandemic caused the Hall to close completely for over two years.

Need for support

The closure impacted on all sections of the local community – from children and families often having to depend on a sparse bus service commute to Stornoway to use and pay for facilities, to the local primary school being unable to access essential space for PE and cultural activities – as well as for elderly members of the community who had lost access to the Hall's community kitchen.

LCA sought support through Accelerate to help secure funding that would allow it to restore and develop the Hall as a community hub - and breathe life back into a building that has both significant historical relevance as well as an important local resource for the community. LCA was also looking to employ its own Community Development Officer.

[You can watch a testimonial video here](#)

What we did

Accelerate helped develop and revise the Community Association's business plan. This also included writing a successful funding bid (circa £300k) to the Community Ownership Fund (COF), coupled with other match funding bids.

The business plan also included three-year cashflow projections incorporating both the capital and revenue funding that had been secured. The plan also included an ongoing funding strategy that, in addition, identified potential income generation opportunities. The outcome of Laxdale's engagement with Accelerate means it now has the capital funding in place to renovate the building for the benefit of the local community.

The improved services and core staffing, now in place will allow LCA to develop the trading opportunities laid out in the business plan to increase its revenue and contribute to its longer term sustainability.

Its engagement with other community groups in Lewis and further afield has increased. LCA is being supported again by funders and, with a new and robust business plan in place, has gained the confidence to start approaching other funders.

Most importantly, however, is that the Hall has been safeguarded and improved and can continue to act as an invaluable asset for present and future generations.