

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NOTE OF MEETING BETWEEN SG and LAND REFORM
4 November 2021, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Attendees:

[REDACTED], Deputy Director, Manufacturing and Industries Division
[REDACTED], Team Leader, Industrial Sectors and Projects

[REDACTED], Head of Land Reform

Meeting Purpose

To consider proposals by community groups to GFG to transfer estate land to community ownership.

Summary of points made in discussion:

[REDACTED] provided a background summary of recent discussions with Jahama Highland Estates [REDACTED]the East Lochaber Laggan Community Trust [REDACTED]and [REDACTED] regarding proposals for a transaction to transfer land from GFG/Jahama Estates to community ownership.

East Lochaber Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) Proposal

It is understood that following a meeting between ELLCT and Jahama Highland Estates in August, a possible offer of land to develop a community-owned industrial park has been prepared. It is understood that the proposal is [REDACTED]to the community [REDACTED]this may be seen as a positive option for GFG Alliance and provide a positive relationship with the local community. Given other pressures on GFG Alliance, it may be some time before receipt of a response on this matter.

The location of the proposed industrial park is adjacent to the area the [REDACTED] transfer to community ownership. While further work is required, the estimated value of the land is [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

The proposal looks positive and would provide an important economic impact to the community. The impact on GFG/Jahama Estates of release of the land is not likely to be economically significant in terms of the operation of the hydro plant and smelter but the business is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

While further work is required, the estimated value of the land is [REDACTED].

Scottish Government

In principle, Scottish Government would support the proposals given the commitment in the 2016 [REDACTED], produced around the same time as the Guarantee and Reimbursement Agreement (GRA), to a significant community land transaction and current legislation. It was agreed that it would be useful to raise the community land issue at the next meeting of Mr McKee and Mr Gupta (likely end of November/early December).

In practice, the estate lands form part of the securities Scottish Government holds in respect of GFG Alliance's investment commitment to the Lochaber smelter. [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Until GFG Alliance's [REDACTED], it would be [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED]

Scottish Government has not recently been in contact with Jahama Estates. It is noted that there are other estates questions currently posed [REDACTED] that would be useful to consider in the overall

approach to a significant community land transaction. Land Reform and Scottish Government agreed to meet with Jahama Estates to consider all land transfer questions together.

Meeting ended

Actions:

- 1) Land Reform to establish with Jahama Estates the current position within GFG Alliance of the review of the land transfer proposals.
- 2) SG to check whether [REDACTED]
- 3) SG and Land Reform to meet with Jahama Estates to consider all land transfer questions together.
- 4) SG to add to the brief for the next meeting between Mr McKee and Mr Gupta a note reminding GFG Alliance of the commitment to a significant community land transaction [REDACTED].

Meeting between GFG and ELCT, 9am on 21 June 2022 @ Lochaber Smelter

NB :- this is a summary note of the discussion.

Attendees

- [REDACTED], Lochaber Smelter (Alvance British Aluminium, a member of the GFG Alliance)
- [REDACTED], Saker Consultancy
- [REDACTED], Head of Land Reform, Scottish Government
- [REDACTED] of East Lochaber Community Trust
- [REDACTED] of East Lochaber Community Trust
- [REDACTED] of East Lochaber Community Trust

Purpose of meeting: To continue discussions following 17 August 2021 to discuss delivery of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a significant land transaction with this community trust.

Summary

The meeting opened with brief introductions, and [REDACTED] outlining that he and his family live in the area and want to see the best for the local community. Members of the ELCT outlined that they wished to see matters progressed, but in no way have ever wanted to jeopardise the smelter operation. [REDACTED] outlined that she was present to support all parties in attendance. All attendees expressed a desire that this meeting should be a continuation of the discussion held on 17 August 2021 (and noted by HIE who attended).

Members of the ELCT expressed frustration about how long this issue had been ongoing. They outlined their understanding of the commitment within the [REDACTED] and the political commitments given to a significant land transaction. [REDACTED] stated that he understood a proposal had been put together by GFG in 2018, but that it had not been seen by the group however they had been led to believe that the proposal included [REDACTED], and that the then Cabinet Secretary had indicated that there would need to be [REDACTED]

The ELCT also made sure that [REDACTED] was aware that they had bid both as part of a consortium and in their own right back in 2016, and had feasibility work conducted at the time.

[REDACTED] was surprised that no proposal had been seen by the group, and apologised for that. He stated that he is willing to listen to their proposals, and was keen to understand the ELCT's aspirations now.

^[REDACTED] said that the sort of areas of interest could be the [REDACTED]. Other revenue-earning areas would need to be included, such as [REDACTED] areas as discussed in the last meeting on 17 August (and noted). There was certainly interest in the [REDACTED] but whether that would be an asset or liability because of [REDACTED], remained to be seen. They stated that they are not in a position to know where the revenue earning areas are and discussion would be needed before a feasibility study could be started.

Restrict – for meeting attendees only

[REDACTED] outlined that the challenge for the trust, and indeed all community bodies, is capacity and that it would be helpful to at least have indicative proposals to begin the process of considering feasibility. [REDACTED] committed to scoping out options for feasibility work to begin.

[REDACTED] committed to coming back within a week with a date for a further meeting (to take place in 4-6 weeks).

[REDACTED]
24 June 2022