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New role for Eilidh as foundation expands

EILIDH Gunn of Highland consultancy Caithness Renewables Ltd will be seconded to Foundation Scotland's Community Engagement team from mid August.

Eilidh will continue to operate out of Caithness Renewables' Thurso office working two days a week for Foundation Scotland on an initial trial period.

She will work closely with Carol Elliot, Foundation Scotland's Highland based community engagement executive.

Foundation Scotland hopes that this modest growth to its team will enable its community engagement work to be better supported, particularly in Caithness and Sutherland.

In Sutherland, Foundation Scotland administers funds affecting Lairg, Creich, Ardgay & District and is also familiar with Golspie, Rogart, Brora and Helmsdale communities and some island communities from other community benefit fund activity.

In Caithness, Foundation Scotland currently administers funds affecting Watten, Tannach & District and Latheron, Lybster and Clyth and is also now working with community members in Dunnet & Canisbay to establish the Stroupster Fund that will become operational next year.

Alongside fund management work in Caithness, Foundation Scotland is also working with the Dounreay Stakeholder

Group to follow up on the Caithness Conversation work it undertook last year on behalf of RWE Innogy.

Announcing the appointment, Rachel Searle-Mbullu, Foundation Scotland's head of community investment said: "Working with communities on community funds is quite a complex process. The opportunity for communities to direct resources in this way has not happened very much before. Our experience from working with communities and developers across Scotland is that hands on professional support, sensitively provided, can be very valuable.

"We welcome the opportunity for partnership working. We hope that by enhancing our team through this secondment from Caithness Renewables will further improve level of service to developers and communities on various aspects of community engagement/community benefit funds."

Louise Smith, director of Caithness Renewables added: "We are delighted to be supporting Foundation Scotland, improving the access to its operations for the Caithness and North Highland and Islands community. It is a logical continuation of our work on the Caithness Conversation which looked at improving access to funding coming into our communities from renewable energy projects."