**Storas Ulbha – Ulva House Project Brief**

A project to celebrate Ulva’s People – the impact they have had in history across the world, and the impact they will have in building a new community on the island. The story of Ulva is a microcosm of the story of Scotland’s remote communities both in the impacts of clearance and depopulation and the drive today to sustainably repopulate and regenerate some of Scotland’s most beautiful and remote places.

**Background**

Ulva’s people have inspiring and engaging stories to tell, including that of Lachlan Macquarie – the Founding Father of modern Australia. He achieved great success and his influence lives on and is celebrated today. However of the thousands of other people who left Ulva, voluntarily or forced, there are other stories of the famous, infamous and not famous – that deserve to be told. Why did they leave, where did they go to, what legacy did they leave behind and what life and legacy did they create in their new homes? How has this impacted on Scotland and the people of some of our most remote communities? What about those left behind? We can find memories of Scotland and Ulva across the world. What connections remain? The exhibition will also highlight the lives of today’s and future residents of Ulva – how will these remote rural places survive and thrive in today’s Scotland? How has community ownership allowed Scotland’s people to reclaim their land and heritage?

**Project Aims**

The project would include an interpretive exhibition focussing on Ulva’s cultural history. It might also include artefacts from project partners. It will also engage new audiences for Ulva’s heritage through the development of digital access – website/ Apps/ downloadable information and interpretation to enhance the visitor experience and ensure Ulva’s story is accessible as widely as possible. An education program delivered on Ulva will be available to the local community and visitors. This will build on Scotland’s diaspora and the lasting legacies Scots have left across the world. The project will consider the full range of impacts Scots have had – positive and negative – and how this tradition of diaspora has developed Scotland’s image of itself and its people.

**Ulva House Project Detail**

To develop a visitor, interpretation and education centre in Ulva House on Ulva. The project to include a fully integrated digital offering accessible to new audiences to Ulva who may never visit, and to enhance the experience of the physical visitor. Using Ulva House both enables a key building to remain at the centre of the community, as well as the emotional and cultural implications of bringing the former Laird’s house into public use for the benefit of the local people and visitors.

The focus of the project will be telling the stories of 6 or so key Ulva individuals. Who they were, set in the context of their times, the impact they had on Ulva and, as they left, the impact they had on the place they went to. There are some obvious stories – such as Lachlan Macquarie and one of the Clarks – the Clearance lairds. However there will be others, discovered through research, that will tell the story of their time – what it was like to live on Ulva and like to leave Ulva. Initial research has already identified a number of interesting characters that need to be explored further.

**The Building**

Ulva House will be refurbished and repurposed to provide the following:

* Education and interpretation space in the ground floor public rooms
* Meeting and activity space in the principal first floor rooms
* An office base for Centre staff and volunteers in the ground floor office
* 1 or 2 self catering flats that can be let for holiday accommodation to generate income to support the Centre’s running costs
* Externally the grounds will be used to provide further information and interpretation – including crofting and farming exhibits where appropriate
* Restoration of the Garden by volunteers and then made open for public access to be part the project.

**Project costs**

The project costs to include:

* Refurbishment of Ulva House (heating/ wiring/ plumbing/ structural repairs)
* Internal repurposing to make principal GF and FF rooms accessible for general public use
* Creation of self catering flat
* Establishment of NWMCWC office in GF office space
* External landscaping and access improvements
* Material costs of continuing the Garden upgrade
* Upgrading access track from Ferry
* Education officer for 2-3 years to run activities and build up the education/ self catering business
* Project manager