

GRANT AID FOR VILLAGE HALLS GUIDANCE NOTES

Please read these notes **before** you complete an Application Form

Revenue Support Grants

The purpose of these grants is to encourage community use of independent village/community halls in the Highlands by providing assistance with annual running costs.

Traditionally, levels of support for halls have varied throughout the Highland Council area and over time the inherited schemes will be harmonised.

Halls can apply for:

- ◆ **either**, 25% of annual running costs up to a maximum of £800
- ◆ **or**, on the basis of the inherited local scheme, for a grant which does not exceed the actual payment made to the hall in the 1998/99 financial year.

Final awards will be made on the basis of whichever of these schemes is more beneficial for the individual hall. Closing date for applications 31st December.

Eligibility

All halls applying for grants must meet the following eligibility criteria;

- ◆ Be independently owned or have long-term security of tenure on the premises
- ◆ Be properly constituted, non-profit making organisations which exist for public benefit
- ◆ Be managed by an elected, representative committee from the community
- ◆ The facilities must be available, within reason, to **all** members of the community

The constitution (and, if necessary, lease) will be checked to see if the hall is eligible for assistance.

Additional Guidance

1. The scheme is designed to help village/community halls. Therefore, halls or premises owned and used by specific interest or activity groups, for example, sports clubs, youth clubs, arts centres, day care centres will not be eligible for assistance.
2. Village/community halls are particularly important in rural communities and are often the only facilities available locally. People living in larger centres of population usually have access to a range of facilities. For these reasons, priority will be given to providing funding for halls serving communities with a population of less than 5000 people.
3. However, only one hall in each community (as defined above) will be supported. If more than one hall applies for assistance, local Highland Councillors will nominate the hall they wish to support.
4. For larger towns/villages (i.e. those with a population of more than 5000) local Highland Councillors will nominate the independent halls they wish to support. In this situation, the total number of halls will relate proportionally to the total population. (For example a maximum of two independent halls could be supported in a town with a population of 10,000).

Capital Grants for Village Halls

Education, Cultural & Sport Services offers advice and information for village halls wishing to undertake major improvements or building works. It provides:-

- ◆ Information on Council policy and the stage halls must be at to be considered for funding
- ◆ Advice on funding sources for hall projects
- ◆ Information leaflet
- ◆ An opportunity to network with other hall projects in Highland
- ◆ Co-ordinating and managing contributions to village hall projects from Council sources

The Council may be able to help halls which have successfully applied for a substantial grant from the national lottery or other sources of funding to co-ordinate a final funding package and offer practical help and advice during the construction phase. For further information contact the Grant Aid Officer on (01463) 702064.

Child Protection

The Highland Council believes that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all circumstances a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which could result in the child being physically or psychologically damaged. For this reason, from 1st April 2001, the Council will only provide grants for organisations which have substantial access to children if they have adopted the Highland Child Protection Committee's (HCPC) Child Protection Policy. Grant aided organisations which hire out their facilities must also check that user groups with substantial access to children have an appropriate policy in place. Get in touch with your Area Cultural and Leisure Services Office if you need further advice or information on child protection issues.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

The Council operates a Village Hall Insurance Scheme and a small number of discount schemes. Activities happening in halls or groups using halls may be eligible to apply for other Education, Culture and Sport Services' grants. For example, sports clubs may be eligible to apply for sports grants which are available via local sports councils or local arts promoters may be able to apply for promoters' grants.

Limited budgets mean that the Council cannot provide grants for routine repairs and maintenance or for small-scale hall improvement projects.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Your local Cultural and Leisure Services Manager will be able to help.

Caithness	Council Offices, Wick	(01955) 607770
Sutherland	Council Offices, Golspie	(01408) 633033
Nairn	Council Offices, Nairn	(01667) 458521
Badenoch & Strathspey	Council Offices, Kingussie	(01540) 664500
Inverness	Town House, Inverness	(01463) 724224
Lochaber	Mamore House, Fort William	(01397) 702102
Ross & Cromarty	Ross House, Dingwall	(01349) 868477
Skye & Lochalsh	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree	(01478) 612341