**Town Centre Fund**

**Inverness Area**

**Information Sheet**

**November 2020**

**Town Centre Fund**

**Information Sheet**

**Purpose**

The Highland Council has been given a £1,066,000 Town Centre Fund capital grant from the Scottish Government to spend in the 2020-2021 financial year. The City of Inverness Area Committee has been allocated £252,468. This grant can be spent on Council, public, community-based or private sector projects (work to existing residential premises are not eligible) in the town centres of settlements of Beauly, Drumnadrochit, Inverness (Balloch, Culloden, Smithton, Milton of Leys, Westhill, Inverness), and Ardersier.

While the fund can be used for a wide range of investments, in practice this is more limited due to:

* The capital nature of the fund (it must be used on physical assets).
* The Fund must be committed by March 2021 and spent by October 2021 (or else returned to Scottish Government)

The key reason the Scottish Government has provided the Council with this funding is to stimulate local construction activity and support employment across Highland at this time of economic crisis. This is the reason why there is a very tight timetable associated with this Fund.

**Decision-making**

Decisions on the use of the fund rest with the Area Committee and can be used on Council or third party (public sector bodies, private sector bodies or individuals) capital expenditure. Social enterprises or community organisations will be eligible if they are companies limited by guarantee/shares.

**Project Eligibility**

The Scottish Government has decided that this Town Centre Fund grant must be for physical projects and therefore to ensure that this takes place, has given it to the Council in the form of capital grant. This means that only certain types of projects can be funded, for example, the spending must be of a "one-off" nature and result in the construction or improvement of an asset such as a building or an area of land.

Spending that is of a revenue nature, for example, staff salaries, maintenance or for the costs of running events or services, is not eligible.

A Project Proposal proforma is outlined below and prospective project sponsors are requested to complete and return to regeneration@highland.gov.uk, as soon as possible, but no later than 9am, Wednesday the 6th of January 2021, to aid project identification. **Please note that any question unanswered will result in your proposal not being considered.**

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| **Town Centre Fund****Project Proposal** (Send to regeneration@highland.gov.uk ) |
| **Site address:** |  |
| **Ownership:** |  |
| **Project lead and contact details:** |  |
| **Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested.** (*e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):* |
| **Estimated outputs** (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created): |
| **Indicative costs** (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost item** | **Amount funded from TCF** | **Amount funded from other sources** **(please specify funder)** | **Total Cost** |
|  | £ | £ | £ |
|  | £ | £ | £ |
|  | £ | £ | £ |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **£** | **£** | **£** |

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| **If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:** |
| **Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:** |
| **Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:** |
| **Location plan and photographs of site/property:** |