

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Thurso Community Development Trust – Socially Growing**

On behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), please accept this letter of support to Thurso Community Development Trust in their application for Socially Growing.

HIE chairs the Caithness Community Planning Partnership and have been supporting the Caithness community resilience effort to the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the most severe challenges identified in the county by local groups and volunteers are issues around food insecurity and mental health.

Having more established and sustainable local food networks as well as places for outdoor social interaction are not only in line with national priorities around community-led food production and a greener health. The individuals in and around Thurso facing challenges around food insecurity and mental health will, undoubtedly, benefit from the activities proposed.

If you require more information about Highlands and Islands Enterprise, please contact me on 01463 383 176 or on [martin.thomsen@hient.co.uk](mailto:martin.thomsen@hient.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Martin Thomsen  
Senior Development Manager, Caithness & Sutherland  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise