

# The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	CIA/18/25

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area Committee

**Date:** 19 May 2025

**Report Title:** Inverness Common Good Fund Grant Applications Over £10,000

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive - Place

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current applications for grant funding over £10,000 to be determined by Committee and updates the Committee of the recommendations made by the ICGF Sub Committee.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 considered all applications presented on their merits. On this occasion there were insufficient funds available in the ICGF budget to fund all approved applications under 'Poverty and Inequality' category.
- 1.3 The Sub Committee agreed to support those applications with a reduced amount, allowing applications to be supported whilst leaving a modest budget available for applications received throughout the remainder of 2025/26.
- 1.4 Recommendations made in respect of the applications for grant funding over £10,000 reflect that approach.
- 1.5 There was sufficient budget available under 'Other' Grants and Conference Funding categories, to proceed as usual and make recommendations for full amounts applied for.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
  - i. Consider the applications for funding detailed in Booklet A.

## 3. Implications

### 3.1 Resource

Funding is provided by the Inverness Common Good Fund budget for 2025/26. Members are reminded that the Grants Budget was allocated £0.160m for Poverty and Inequality projects and £0.080m for all other requests. The 2025/26 ICGF budget also contained provision for £0.030m conference Support and £0.065m City Destination Projects. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee (The Sub-Committee)

have taken steps to carefully assess each application as to which category it sits within to ensure an appropriate allocation of funds.

### 3.2 **Legal**

There are no Legal implications as a result of this report.

### 3.4 **Risk**

There are no known risk implications in respect of this report.

### 3.5 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)**

Consideration will be given to ensuring that appropriate standards are applied to any projects that are approved for grant support come at all in terms of Council policy.

### 3.6 **Gaelic**

Applications if successful will be required to meet expectations set by Council Policy in this regard.

## 4. **Impacts**

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 A separate screening for impact for each project is not required however applications applying to the ICGF must specifically show how their project or activity will help the Council meet its public sector equality duty, including how it may address any barriers and promote social inclusion. This supports the decision-making process.

4.4 Impact assessment screening was carried out in respect of the 2025/26 ICGF Budget including the grants funding categories. The outcome of this screening was detailed in the ICHG budget setting report to this Committee in February 2025.

## 5. **Grant Applications**

5.1 The current summary of funds available following the Sub-Committee meeting on 24 April 2025 is set out in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 **Booklet A** includes details of current grant applications for more than £10,000. Members are invited to consider the following applications:

1. **Poverty & Inequality Grant Applications** Members are asked to note that a pro-rata reduction of 30% was applied to all successful grant applications in this category due to the limited budget available

i. **Highlands & Islands Blood Bikes (HAIBB):** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £10,500 (£15,000 minus 30%) towards the costs of one motorcycle from the Poverty and Inequality Budget

towards motorcycle urgent medical response. The Sub-Committee felt that it was reasonable to fund one replacement motorcycle rather than the two requested by the applicant.

- ii. **Crown Church, Inverness:** The Sub-Committee recommend refusal of a grant of £30,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards insulation of the attic of the sanctuary of the Crown Church, Inverness. The Sub-Committee felt that the application demonstrated insufficient benefit to the wider community and those living in poverty or otherwise disadvantaged.
- iii. **Inverness Rowing Club:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £7,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards an all-abilities pontoon project.
- iv. **Apex Scotland:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £7,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards the Challenge Team.
- v. **Shopmobility Highland SCIO:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £21,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards shopmobility.
- vi. **Calman Trust:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £18,380 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards Beyond Club Artysans.

## 2. Partnership Working Applications

- i. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness:** The Sub-Committee recommend deferral of this application for the promotion of Inverness for Business Tourism. The Sub Committee has sought more detailed information on the proposed “familiarisation trips” and how the requested funding would be spent.

## 3. Other Properties

- i. **Inverness Angling Club:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £19,000 towards financial support for the continued arrangements in respect of the ICGF River Fishings.

Committee are asked to note that the Sub Committee has agreed that the arrangement between the ICGF and Angling Club be reviewed with the outcome be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 08 May 2025

Author: Lewis Hannah, Community Development Manager  
David Haas, Snr Community Development Manager Inverness & South

Background Papers:

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICGF resources available for allocation.  
Booklet A – Grant Applications over £10,000

## APPENDIX 1

**Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants**  
**Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available		Poverty & Inequality	160,000		
		Other	80,000		<b>240,000</b>
Carry Forward from 2024/25					
		Poverty & Inequality	66402		
		Other	21031		87,433
					<b>327,433</b>
<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Total for meeting</b>		
(Committed from previous financial years)					
	Grants < £10k		38,683		
	Grants > £10k		48,750		87,433
					<b>240,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>					
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	53,371			
Other	Grants < £10k	35,300	88,671		<b>151,329</b>
<b>19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval</b>					
Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880		<b>87,449</b>
<b>Poverty &amp; Inequality Grants</b>					
					<b>160,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>					
	Grants < £10k	53,371	53,371		<b>106,629</b>
<b>19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval</b>					
	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880		<b>42,749</b>

**Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants**  
**Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available		30,000	
Carry Forward from 2023/24		<u>9,600</u>	39,600
<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Total for meeting</b>
<b>(Committed from previous financial years)</b>			<u>9,600</u> <b>30,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>			
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000 <b>21,000</b>

**Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants**  
**Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available				30,000	
Carry Forward from 2023/24				<u>9,600</u>	39,600
<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Total for meeting</b>		
<b>(Committed from previous financial years)</b>				<u>9,600</u>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>					
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000		<b>21,000</b>