

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	6
Report No	BSAC/15/25

Committee: **Badenoch and Strathspey**

Date: **4 August 2025**

Report Title: **Community Regeneration Funding Award**

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

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the current position as regards Community Regeneration Funding for Badenoch and Strathspey.
- 1.2 The report also gives further information on the costs of the Laggantygown Cemetery Car Park/Loch Vaa project (previous agreement to ringfence £50,000 towards this project (April 2025).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
 - i. **Note** the Community Regeneration Funds currently available in Badenoch and Strathspey; and
 - ii. **Approve** the full request of CRF funding of £80,000 to deliver the full Laggantygown Cemetery Car Park/Loch Vaa Project.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – Badenoch & Strathspey area has available funding of £111,155.90.

Tranche 5 of Highland Coastal Communities Funding of £50,000 has already been ringfenced towards this project. There is sufficient funding from Tranche 6 of the Highland Coastal Communities Funding and Place Based Investment Funding to allocate additional CRF funding to deliver the Laggantygown Cemetery Car Park/Loch Vaa project if approved.
- 3.2 **Legal** – When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to the Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back-to-back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect the Highland Council financial and reputational interests.

- 3.3 **Risk** – A balanced approach to risk is necessary when disbursing grant funds as sometimes it is necessary if a community led project is to proceed, to forward grant payment. Factors such as past knowledge of and project experience of the grant receipt, release of funds related to invoices/works completion certificates etc are considered in such assessments.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisations.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** – Consideration given within individual project applications in line with the council's policy.

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 This is a monitoring and update report. Therefore, an impact assessment is not required.

5 Background

- 5.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for several funds that are available for communities/organisations to access in Highland. At present, in Badenoch and Strathspey, the funding allocation for 2025/26 is shown in the table below:-

Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF) – Tranche 5	Revenue or Capital	£50,000.00 (currently ringfenced for this project)
Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF) – Tranche 6	Revenue or Capital	£50,000.00
Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP)	Fixed capital only	£61,155.90
Total		£161,155.90

Both funds are Scottish Government (SG) grants to support economic regeneration and sustainable development in Highland.

- 5.2 Members will recollect that the current Scottish Government (SG) grant offers are made on annual basis with the expectation that funds are expended by the financial year end. Project approvals are made at Area Committee by Members following assessment of the project by the Community Regeneration Funding Team.

The current available balance in Badenoch and Strathspey must be committed to projects by the end of December 2025 and work started prior to 31 March 2026 to remain compliant with the SG grant conditions. Failure to do so would leave the funding vulnerable to clawback and therefore potentially withdrawn from the area.

- 5.3 We are hopeful that there will be a second tranche of PBIP funding confirmed later in 2025/26 for the Badenoch and Strathspey area.

6. Investment Opportunities

- 6.1 Members have previously agreed to ringfence £50,000 Tranche 5 Highland Coastal Communities Funding (HCCF) towards work at Laggantygown Cemetery Car Park/Loch Vaa subject to full costs for the project being reported back to the area committee.

The full costs of this work have now been provided by the Roads and Infrastructure team as follows:-

Works	Total cost (based on current estimates)
Car Park works	£90,000
Path Project	£25,000
Total costs	£115,000

Funding committed to date	
Community Regeneration Fund	£50,000
Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)	£35,000
Total	£85,000
Shortfall	£30,000

The path project will be funded in its entirety by CNPA with the landowner making the land available at no cost to the project. The landowner will also provide the land for the small carpark at no cost to the project. Some items at the main carpark including fencing, signage and interpretation (c. £10,000) will be funded by CNPA.

Members are asked to consider a further funding award of **£30,000** to cover the shortfall in funding for the full cost of the works.

- 6.2 Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place
- Date: 15 July 2025
- Author: Fiona Cameron, CRF Programme Manager
Alison Tanner, Community Heritage Officer
- Background Papers: None
- Appendices: None