

# The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	LA/23/24

**Committee:** Lochaber Area

**Date:** 11 August 2025

**Report Title:** Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications

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

## 1 Purpose/ Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present three funding requests to the Lochaber Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) allocation, for discussion and decision by Members. The report also updates Members on the Lochaber CRF budget position for 2025-26.

The three applications are provided within Appendix 1 to this report, and a technical assessment summary is provided within Appendix 2.

It was originally intended that four applications would be presented. However, Mallaig Community Hub and Shop have requested that their application be withdrawn, to allow more time to address outstanding issues. It is intended that this application will now be presented at the November 2025 Lochaber Committee.

## 2 Recommendations

### 2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Consider** the applications presented and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application. An approval of funding should detail the amount approved and outline any conditions of funding that Members wish to attach to the approval over and above the required technical conditions. A deferral would allow an applicant to resubmit the current application at a future date with updated information or for the project to be approved subject to further funding becoming available. A rejection would mean that the application will not proceed and any future application to the fund should be brought forward initially as a new expression of interest; and
- ii. **Agree** the approved CRF grant award for each application up to the value of the available area allocation.

### 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - Lochaber has available CRF funding of £793,564.63. Applications under consideration total £192,367.55. Therefore, there are no resource implications in approving the funding awards as requested.
- 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's 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 recipient; 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 organisation.
- 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 A separate screening for impact for each application is not required, however consideration of impacts for equalities, socio-economic impact and consideration of the impact on the individual community is part of the assessment criteria and included within the assessment report. This supports the decision-making process.

### 5 Background

- 5.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for a number of funds that are available for communities/ organisations to access in Highland. It currently comprises elements of the Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF) and the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP), both of which are Scottish Government Funding streams to support economic regeneration and sustainable development in Highland. Area Committees are awarded devolved allocations according to approved formulae and decision making on which projects should receive funding sits with elected Members.

5.2 Broad eligibility criteria for the fund is as follows:-

All projects are expected to be able to meet at least one of the following priorities:-

- economic recovery;
- community resilience;
- mitigating the impact of the climate/ecological emergency; or
- addressing the challenges of rural depopulation

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:-

- sustainable/viable;
- providing value for money;
- providing additionality; and
- able to evidence positive impacts and wide community benefit

5.3 Applications brought to this committee meeting were either previously submitted to the Highland Strategic LAG for consideration for CLLD funding, and were unsuccessful in that approach, or have been identified by Members as addressing priorities set out in the Lochaber Area Plan. This is in line with the policy direction set by the CRF Strategic Sub- Group in February 2025.

5.4 In summary the budget position in Lochaber at Area Committee on 11 August 2025 is as follows:-

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Highland Coastal Communities Fund- Tranche 5	Capital or Revenue	324,160.95
Highland Coastal Communities Fund- Tranche 6	Capital or Revenue	363,388.46
Place Based Investment Programme (confirmed to date)	Fixed Capital Only	72,959.55
Area Budget 24-25 underspend- carry fwd.	Capital or Revenue	2,555.67
Area Budget 24-25 project de-commitment- carry fwd.	Capital or Revenue	30,500.00
<b>Total Confirmed Lochaber CRF Budget</b>		<b>793,564.63</b>

A total of three applications are under consideration by Members today, with a total grant request value of **£192,367.55**.

If Members were to approve all three applications, there would be **£601,197.08** remaining in the Lochaber CRF budget for 2025-26.

5.5 To aid Members in their decision making, the following appendices are provided to this report:-

- **Appendix 1** – Project Application Forms; and
- **Appendix 2** - RAG Summary Spreadsheet

RAG status on key criteria is based on the application form and supplementary information provided during the application process. All applications presented are technically eligible – if any criteria are marked as red this does not indicate an eligibility concern but reflects the quality of information provided or outstanding requirements that will require technical conditions to be applied to any award of funding.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 17 July 2025

Author: Fiona Cameron, CRF Programme Manager  
Martin Culbertson, Project Officer

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Project Application Forms  
Appendix 2 – Project Technical Assessments – RAG Summary

## Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) Application Form

(May 2025 – CLLD version only)

### Key considerations



Please refer to the **Application Guidance** (link below) and **Fair Work First Summary Guidance** when completing the application form as there is important supplementary information you need to be aware of. Answer the questions concisely, describing clearly and directly what the project you are seeking funding for is delivering. Please do not exceed the word limit given.

To ensure you have the best opportunity to score well during the assessment, please refer to the **Assessment Criteria Matrix** (link below) when completing the application form.

In this current round of CRF, we seek well-developed and robust **capital projects** that can commence after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and must be completed and the grant claimed no later than 27 February 2026.

**The deadline for application submission is 9am on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.**

Double click the icons below to download the documents. If you have any issues with downloading the documents, please contact us at [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk)

<u>Application Guidance</u>	<u>Assessment Criteria Matrix</u>
 CRF_application_Guid ance (May 2025 - CLL	 CRF Assessment Criteria (v1 May 2025

### SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1	<b>Project reference number</b>	CRF4088
1.2	<b>Organisation</b>	Glencoe Folk Museum
1.3	<b>Project title</b>	New Local History Exhibitions
1.4	<b>Summary of project you wish to be funded (max 250 words)</b>	Glencoe Folk Museum will create and install all-new exhibitions in its upgraded premises to maximise visitor physical and intellectual access, protect a unique accredited local history collection and provide a vibrant, engaging Museum experience. Our existing displays are life-expired, having been created in-house several decades ago, do not meet modern visitor expectations and standards of collections care, and require wholesale replacement and upgrading.

1.5	Project costs	Total project cost	£435,642
		Match funding	£335,642
		CRF grant requested	£100,000
1.6	Start date ( <i>not before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025</i> )	1st September 2025	
1.7	End date ( <i>by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026</i> )	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	
1.8	Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">CRF privacy notice</a>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

## SECTION 2: CONTACT AND ORGANISATION DETAILS

2.1	Organisation	Glencoe Folk Museum	
2.2	Address and postcode	Main Street, Glencoe Village, Glencoe, PH49 4HS	
2.3	Main contact name		
2.4	Position in the organisation		
2.5	Contact number		
2.6	Email address		
2.7	Website address	<a href="#">Glencoe Folk Museum</a>	
2.8	Organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/>	Company limited by guarantee
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Constituted group
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Public body
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SCIO
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):
2.9	Organisation registered number	SC002786	
2.10	Is the organisation VAT registered?	<p>By confirming this, you are declaring the organisation VAT status as per HMRC. If this changes at any time during the project, you <u>must</u> notify the CRF Team as this may affect the offer of grant.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
2.11	If the organisation is VAT registered, please provide the number.		
2.12	Is the VAT related to the project being reclaimed from HMRC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whole
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Partial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
2.13	Provide details of VAT exemptions.		

SECTION 3: PROJECT DETAILS		
3.1	Please confirm the location of the project including post code.	
3.2	Are you applying on behalf of a partnership project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Is there a partnership agreement in place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Is your organisation the lead applicant?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Do you own the land or asset?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Are you leasing the land or asset?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.7	If ownership or lease agreements are not in place, please provide details if applied for and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	
3.8	Does the project require planning permission or other statutory regulatory consents? Projects must have all permissions in place by 02/06/2025. Evidence of secured permissions must be emailed to the CRF team no later than 02/06/2025 otherwise the application will not be progressed.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.9	If consents are required, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	Planning permission, building warrant etc. are all in place.

SECTION 4: THE PROJECT PROPOSAL																
4.1	List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales. Projects must be completed and fully claimed by 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026.															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity name</th> <th>Achieve by (date)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Building of Exhibitions begins</td> <td>September 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building of Exhibitions complete</td> <td>May 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soft re-opening</td> <td>June 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full grand re-opening</td> <td>August 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10,000x tourist and 250x local resident visits in 2026</td> <td>December 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Activity name	Achieve by (date)	Building of Exhibitions begins	September 2025	Building of Exhibitions complete	May 2026	Soft re-opening	June 2026	Full grand re-opening	August 2026	10,000x tourist and 250x local resident visits in 2026	December 2026		
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4.2	(a) What local need or opportunity will the project address?															
	<p>(250 words max limit)</p> <p>Glencoe Folk Museum is a unique community asset chronicling local 17th-21st century history - the only accredited repository of historic artefacts in the area which explores Glencoe's rich history in authentic surroundings.</p>															

	<p>Our Museum has become tired, inaccessible, unable to capitalise on the rising local tourist market and is presently financially unsustainable. We are currently delivering a capital redevelopment to overhaul and extend our physical site, better protect and interpret our historic buildings and collection, transform the Museum's global engagement and secure the charity's financial sustainability.</p> <p>Crucially, our inaccessible external display area, constructed in the 1970s, will be replaced with a new climate-controlled exhibition space, ensuring all our displayed artefacts are under-cover for the first time and are fully accessible to the public.</p> <p>Demand for our organisation to upgrade its exhibitions has been established through extensive consultations (pre- and post-pandemic) with visiting tourists, local residents and stakeholders inc. care homes, disability access and loneliness charities, accommodation providers, local attractions and colleges. These groups had significant input into the form and content of the proposed displays, and a pillar of our exhibition plans is to involve our communities' voices in interpreting our artefacts.</p> <p>Developed with financial experts, our business plan shows that completing this project will increase the Museum's visitor figures to c20,000 each season by 2030 - this will have a significant impact on the local economy, by encouraging more people to spend more time in Glencoe, and consequently spend more money visiting other local hospitality, retail and tourism businesses.</p>
	<p><b>(b) Has this need been recognised in a local place plan?</b></p>
	<p>(250 words max limit)</p> <p>Prior to launching the project, local strategies were consulted, including the Scottish Govt report 'A Connected Scotland', Ballachulish Community Forum's Community Action Plan 2016-2021, Lochaber Disability Access Panel Access Audit and the Highland Museums Forum report 'Our Collective Future'.</p> <p>The needs gap these have identified includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of ways schools can engage with local history (especially when travel budgets are reduced).</li> <li>- Lack of indoor attractions for wet-weather periods.</li> <li>- Lack of accessible venues for meeting/education/socialising, particularly indoor venues which are required during winter months. This contributes to isolation within the community during the winter months due to lack of socialisation opportunities. The lack of accessibility means that elderly individuals or anyone with accessibility requirements are further disadvantaged and isolated.</li> <li>- Shortage of local accessible heritage.</li> <li>- Lack of after-hours activities and attractions for local residents.</li> <li>- Lack of local youth skills development opportunities contributing to the Highland brain drain.</li> <li>- Lack of opportunities to learn about Highland heritage and traditional crafts remotely.</li> <li>- Lack of sense of local spirit (tying to Scottish Government 2019 report 'A Connected Scotland' which reported that 22% of Highland adults feel socially isolated and lack a sense of belonging to their community).</li> </ul>



4.3	<b>How do you know there is local support for the project? How can you evidence this?</b> Provide evidence as supporting documents as requested at 8.2
	(250 words max limit)  Extensive visitor surveys, community individual, group and business stakeholder interviews demonstrate a firm appreciation of the potential of the Museum and a strong appetite for increased local and tourist engagement, both in-person and remotely, following a redevelopment. This data echoed the Highland Museums Forum 'Our Collective Future' report, which gave professional assessment of the Museum and suggested action points. Our project has been built around this feedback and the community has had significant input into its development. There is widespread support for this project – see attachments for 19 letters of support from a broad range of local stakeholders.
4.4	<b>Outputs and outcomes – Please refer to the application guidance for further information and a definition of what constitutes “outputs” and “outcomes”.</b>  <b>(a) What are the immediate and short-term outputs that your project will achieve? How will you measure them?</b>
	(250 words max limit)  Immediate Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will build six distinct exhibition spaces: Our Place, Our Land, Our Roots, Our Lives, Our Clans and Our Cottages, each celebrating a different aspect of local Highland history and culture.</li> <li>- The engaging graphics and interpretation will meet modern visitor standards for the first time, and fun interactives, AVs and hands-on exploration will add depth to the stories. Improving physical and intellectual access to history will remove barriers to visits by audiences put off by stereotypes of a 'traditional' museum experience.</li> <li>- Displays will be created in consultation with Gaelic experts and the local community to ensure we are telling their stories and that Glencoe's unique heritage is shared through their voices. Contemporary collecting will help us record Glencoe's recent past.</li> </ul> Outcomes linked to increased visitors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will achieve financial sustainability and will thrive in the long-term as a jewel in the crown of the local tourist and community heritage offer.</li> <li>- Improved attraction, increasing tourists visits and promoting greater dwell time in Glencoe village, will encourage longer stays and greater spend in at least five local businesses.</li> <li>- Local repeat visitors will have greater incentive to participate in local activities and make local secondary spend.</li> <li>- Opportunities for joint promotion with local businesses/tourism providers to strengthen local tourist offer.</li> <li>- Local produce sold in gift shop, promoting local craftspeople/businesses and supporting the local economy.</li> <li>- Potential for increasing employment of part-time Museum Assistants from two to four, contributing to local employment and skills development.</li> </ul>
	<b>(b) What do you think the outcome of your project will be and how will you measure them? Please note the outcome is the longer-term change that your project will achieve. What will be the lasting benefits and legacy?</b>
	(250 words max limit)  Outcomes: -Glencoe's heritage is protected and interpreted for future generations.  -Museum visitor figures increase from 7,000 (2019) to 20,000 (2030) - capitalising on the enormous local tourist market while encouraging local repeat visitors.

	<p>-Glencoe Folk Museum's long-term financial resilience secured - ensuring its future.</p> <p>-Improved local tourist offer - providing all-weather heritage attraction and encouraging dwell time in Glencoe / Ballachulish.</p> <p>-Contribution to local economy - increased employment of part-time Museum Assistants, sales of local produce in gift shop, attracting greater numbers of tourists and encouraging secondary spend in local businesses.</p> <p>-Ongoing post-project Community Story Sessions, continuing to gather local input into development of new exhibitions, ensuring the Museum is a 'one stop shop' for local heritage.</p> <p>-Improved local wellbeing - it is well researched that having a good connection to your heritage, and participating in your local heritage, can have a positive impact on wellbeing.</p>
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**(c) Please select below ONE of the CRF main strategic objectives that you believe your project's outputs and outcomes will best align with.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing community resilience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling poverty and inequality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addressing causes of rural depopulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Helping economic recovery and sustaining growth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling the climate emergency and working towards net zero

**4.5 How will the project be supported/maintained/sustained after CRF funding?**

(250 words max limit)

The improvements at the Museum, including the improved exhibitions, will increase our income funding ongoing development and maintenance of our exhibitions and the building as a whole;


- Visitor numbers (therefore admission and retail revenue) will increase with redeveloped, fit-for-purpose Museum.
- The site will be 100% undercover and heated for the first time, becoming an all-weather attraction and meaning we can open for a longer tourist season with increased revenue. New facilities to host group visits and evening / weekend hireable space for community groups will generate additional income. New space for community activities will help us develop a strong case for support when applying to grant funders - meaning we can keep our entry fee prices as low as possible to ensure the Museum continues to be accessible to all. Specific measurable achievements would be: c20,000 visitors per annum by 2030 and c£40,000 in grant income per annum by 2030.

Furthermore, we plan to continue employing a fundraiser/development manager who will continue delivering our multi-channel fundraising plan. They will also look into how we can boost profits through our shop (potentially with online sales).

We will also benefit from reductions in our costs;

- New/restored buildings will require less maintenance.
- Energy bills will be reduced through solar panels / air source heating and improvements to the building's insulation.
- Our newly developed Operational Readiness Strategy will include a scheduled programme of maintenance that will allow costs of repairs to be spread over longer periods.

4.6	<b>Describe how you intend to mitigate negative environmental impacts that may arise in delivering the project. It may be that the project specifically seeks to address climate change issues or implement net zero ambitions/solutions.</b>
(250 words max limit) <p>Environmental sustainability is embedded in work, through our wider capital redevelopment project, we will undertake the following measures to support the UK/Scotland's net zero ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will re-use existing structures and materials as far as possible, minimising material consumption</li> <li>- New building works will be primarily constructed from sustainably-sourced timber.</li> <li>- Our Business Plan provides a strategy for promoting environmentally-sustainable visits to the Highlands. (measured through visitor surveys – how did visitors reach the Museum)</li> <li>- Operational Readiness Review will include processes for maintaining / developing the Museum site to minimise material consumption and carbon footprint.</li> <li>- Capital works will install solar panels and air-source heat pumps to reduce reliance on mains electricity, generating c ⅓ of Museum energy. (measured through utility bills)</li> <li>- Current inefficient electric radiators will be removed as part of the capital works and LED lighting installed to reduce energy consumption. (measured through utility bills).</li> <li>- Installing e-bike chargers will allow the Museum to encourage reduced carbon visits and promote sustainable tourism. (measured through visitor surveys)</li> <li>- Areas of sedum roof will attenuate rainwater, reducing the likelihood of overwhelming drains and flooding in poor weather, as well as contributing towards local biodiversity. Restoring areas of green spaces in front of the Museum cottages will likewise increase biodiversity and create a more visually-appealing frontage.</li> </ul>	
4.7	<b>In developing the project, explain how you have considered equalities issues and taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development/delivery of the project. How will you ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefiting from the project? Will the project target specific groups?</b>
(250 words max limit) <p>The redevelopment has been designed to meet intellectual and physical access needs, transforming a presently inaccessible site.</p> <p>We are working in partnership with Lochaber Disability Access Panel to ensure the redevelopment meets the broadest range of physical and sensory access requirements.</p> <p>We are improving wheelchair access, and we will have toilets on site for the first time.</p> <p>A number of the exhibits will have audio descriptions (often transcribed by local people) to make them more accessible for those with hearing impairments.</p> <p>New free-to-enter spaces and activities will ensure income is not a barrier to participation. Similarly fundraising activities will span a broad range of activities and tariffs to make sure that everyone feels they can contribute at a level they are comfortable with.</p> <p>The improved site will allow evening and winter activities, engaging with audiences unable to reach the museum during normal opening hours and creating capacity for quiet hours for relaxed visits. We are creating a plan on how to deliver quiet sessions suitable for people with additional needs.</p> <p>Online versions of talks / events / activities will allow global engagement with people not able to physically access the museum.</p> <p>We are creating an excellent digital platform where people can enjoy our collection remotely.</p>	

4.8	<p>All applicants are required to provide a statement on how the organisation is committed to advancing the <a href="#">Fair Work First Policy</a> including the 'Real Living Wage' and 'Effective Workers Voice' criteria. The statement should be agreed jointly by the employer and an appropriate workplace representative or a trade union representative if one is in place.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE-</b> This statement is applicable to all groups and organisations even if you do not employ staff and/or only work with volunteers. Projects cannot progress without a signed statement - refer to the <a href="#">Fair Work First guidance</a> for more information. Complete the following Fair Work First Statement and Declaration form and submit with the application. Double click the icon to download.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>FWF statement and declaration template.c</small> </div>	
<b>Have you provided a Fair Work First statement in a separate document with this application? Please ensure it is signed by an appropriate workplace representative.</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Can you confirm if you have the Living Wage Accreditation or are planning to be certified?</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Applied <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the Fair Work First statement on your organisation's website?</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have a website <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How many people do you employ or how many volunteers do you have?</b>		Directly Employ - 5 (3 FTE & 2 PT) Freelance Employees - 1 Volunteers - 12
<b>Do you currently pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>As part of your procurement assessment process, do you ensure that traders/suppliers also pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is something we will look to do in future as we increase our capacity.
<b>How do you provide channels for Effective Voice in the workplace for staff and/or volunteers?</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line Management Relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Engagement Surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suggestions Schemes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intranet/Online Platforms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Forums / Networks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Recognition/Collective Bargaining

## SECTION 5: PROJECT BUDGET

- 5.1 Main project expenditure – costs should be as accurate and current as possible from recent quotations or price comparisons.**
- Only capital funding is available in this round. Revenue costs cannot be funded via the CRF grant but may be included in the project budget IF the relevant match funding is in place.**
- Please refer to the guidance note on eligible expenditure. Only download and complete the overheads and management fees summary spreadsheet below, if you would like to claim more than 10% of total project costs as overheads.**



CRF overheads and  
management fees sum

Budget Heading	Detailed Costs	Revenue/Capital	Amount
Our Roots Display	Displays cases, wall mounts, graphics, frames, interactive displays, lighting, software etc.	Capital	£19,243.22
Our Lives Display	Displays cases, wall mounts, graphics, frames, interactive displays, lighting, software etc.	Capital	£37,612.38
Our Clans Display	Displays cases, wall mounts, graphics, frames, interactive displays, lighting, software etc.	Capital	£69,864.53
Our Places and Our Cottage Display	Displays cases, wall mounts, graphics, frames, interactive displays, lighting, software etc.	Capital	£133,245.86
Retail and Welcome			£29,099.78
Community Byre			£5,937.30
Externals	Mangle to be made good and repainted including fixing bracket, Concrete foundation block plinth with fixing for Mangle, Opening times siding unit including Graphic, Wooden customer stopper chalkboard with water tank	Capital	£1,531.92
Graphic design & Art working		Capital	£11,500.00
Prelims	Prelims cover fitout / av software/ av hardware /Showcase manufacture/ travel/ accommodation	Capital	£55,000.00
VAT Total		Capital	£72,607.00
Total revenue expenditure			£0
Total capital expenditure			£435,641.99
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>			<b>£435,641.99</b>

Is VAT included in these costs?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you confirm that the costs above have not already been incurred or committed to?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<b>Reasonableness of cost – Are the project costs listed in 5.1 based on valid quotes as per the procurement guidance provided?</b> <b>Please provide all quotes as supporting documents to this application (as requested at 8.2). Please note that current valid quotes must be submitted no later than 02/06/2025 otherwise your application will not be progressed.</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<b>Please explain how your project will achieve value for money.</b>	<p>Our exhibition plans have been developed with exhibition design experts and in consultation with Museum trustees, volunteers and the local community to ensure they are appropriate and meet our organisation's needs.</p> <p>Detailed quotes have been obtained from four fitout contractors to deliver these plans, which have been subjected to a further value-engineering exercise to ensure that the Museum meets its core exhibitions needs in the most cost-effective way possible.</p> <p>As you will see from the attachment documents, our four fitout quotes suggested a total cost of between £753,860.47 and £857,411.69 for the works. This would have offered the very highest quality across the project, but we believe this would not have offered the best value for money and would have left us with an insurmountable deficit. Our initial estimates made in August 2022 was £223,0000.</p> <p>The increase on our initial estimate is due to market forces, cost of labour and cost of materials. Similar increases have been reported industry wide.</p> <p>To remedy this, we undertook a process of extensive value engineering, whereby we reviewed all costs and made saving wherever possible. This has brought the total figure down to £435,641.99. This is the lowest cost at which we can deliver our project goals, while still creating displays that will protect our collection, stand the test of time, and create an interactive, accessible and inclusive experience for visitors.</p> <p>While the total cost is still significantly above our initial estimates, it reduces the gap significantly, and we are hopeful that the Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund will help us ensure we can still deliver this project to a high standard.</p>

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING			
6.1 Match funding details			
Name of funder	Confirmed?	Date Confirmed or Decision Expected	Amount £
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed	335,642.00
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Total match funding</b>			<b>335,642.00</b>
<b>CRF requested</b>			<b>100,000.00</b>
<b>Total funding</b>			<b>435,642.00</b>
6.2	Will the project involve “in kind” support?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	If yes, please detail.		
6.4	Please explain why public funding is required to deliver the project.		We have exhausted all other possible sources of income - having applied to many private grant funders and sought donations from our community. The costs have gone up significantly since our original estimates, and the challenging funding landscape is making it very difficult to find the funding to make up this difference.
6.5	Please explain what the remaining bank balances are for in your accounts.		£332,231.50 - the majority of this is designated redevelopment project funding.
6.6	Please explain why unrestricted funding in your annual accounts cannot be used to deliver the project and/or used as match funding.		<p>At the closing of our last annual accounts we had 258,411 in our Endowment fund reserves, however this figure has now been reduced to £110,189.</p> <p>Our reserves policy states: The Museum works to maintain reserves in order to pay for its annual running costs. The charity tries to generate these unrestricted reserves out of annual surpluses on charitable activities. When this is not possible, transfers are made from the endowment fund</p>



		<p>established from the estate of our founder. All our reserves are designated for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To pay a Curator to run the Museum</li> <li>-For priming our Redevelopment Project to increase the financial sustainability of the Museum.</li> </ul> <p>We require at least 3 months running costs in reserves to ensure we can pay staff notice should the organisation close. We have therefore taken the maximum funding possible from the Endowment Fund to support the wider redevelopment project.</p>
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## SECTION 7 – INCOME GENERATION

7.1	Will the project generate income?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.2	If yes, how will the income benefit the organisation? Will it be re-invested to help with the sustainability of the project – if so, how? A copy of a business plan and/or budget forecast must be provided with the application.	We are a charity and therefore a not for profit organisation. Any increased income resulting from our improved exhibitions, will be re-invested into maintaining our Museum, or be used to support our local community,
7.3	How will you ensure that local organisations/ businesses are not disadvantaged because of the project? Are they supportive of the project?	Local businesses are very supportive, and will benefit through increased footfall into Glencoe Village, increased dwelling time, resulting in greater spend in local retail and hospitality businesses.
7.4	Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.5	If not, please state why?	We have explored options for loan funding through organisations including Social Investment Scotland, but this would be a short-term solution and would add a great deal of financial pressure to our organisation when loans had to be repaid.
7.6	Have you previously received public funding?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.7	If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 fiscal years and if any were awarded under Public Subsidy.	

Funding	Date	Amount £	Public Subsidy?
Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund (Capital Works Professional Fees)	Dec 2022	£50,000	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>



## SECTION 8 – SIGNATURE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

8.1	Main applicant, chairperson or equivalent – the person signing this application has the authority within the organisation to apply for grant funding.
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***I declare that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the guidance notes and understand and accept the terms and conditions noted within them.***

***The data provided in the application (and claim) forms are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.***

**Signature**

**Print**

**Date:**  
29/05/25

**Please Ensure You Also Complete the Attachments Checklist Below**

8.2	You must enclose the following supporting documents (where applicable) with the application. If they are not available, please state why.	Yes / No / Not applicable
1	Bank statement – please provide a full bank statement with the organisation address. It must be the latest statement at the time of application submission.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Annual financial accounts – latest available.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Constitution or articles and memorandum.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Committee Members or Directors List.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Policies – relevant organisational policies applicable to the project such as child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities, Fair Work First policy.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Valid organisation insurance policy.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Evidence of need and demand i.e. letters of support, community consultation reports, photos, feasibility study	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Confirmation of match funding letters	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Permissions – i.e. planning, building warrants, marine licences	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Business plan (income generation projects only)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
11	Job descriptions (for CRF funded posts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Evidence of control/ownership of asset – i.e. lease, title deeds	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
13	Partnership agreement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reason for missing documentation:		

**Completed forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk) quoting your unique project reference number.**

**The deadline for application submission is 9am on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.**

**Please ensure you have labelled the supporting documents as per 8.2 of the guidance note:**

The application form should follow the naming convention example:

**(Name of organisation) final application form**

Supporting documentation should be labelled as: **document type followed with the title** – for example:

- Match funding – The Highland Council
- Match funding – National Lottery

- Insurance – Zurich 2022/23 annual policy
- Organisational policy – health and safety
- Organisational policy – Fair Work First statement
- Permissions – Planning granted July 2022
- Permissions – Building warrant granted Aug 2022
- Bank statement – Bank of Scotland Nov 2022
- Letter of support – name of Councillor
- Letter of support – community council/group
- Letter of support – name of local business

# Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) Application Form

(May 2025 – CRF Area Funds)

## Key considerations

Please refer to the **Application Guidance** (link below) and **Fair Work First Summary Guidance** when completing the application form as there is important supplementary information you need to be aware of. Answer the questions concisely, describing clearly and directly what the project you are seeking funding for is delivering. Please do not exceed the word limit given.

To ensure you have the best opportunity to score well during the assessment, please refer to the **Assessment Criteria Matrix** (link below) when completing the application form.

In this current round of CRF, we are seeking well-developed and robust projects that are ready to commence, and can complete within 12 months of funding being awarded.

**The deadline for application submission is 5pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

Double click the icons below to download the documents. If you have any issues with downloading the documents, please contact us at [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk)

<b><u>Application Guidance</u></b>	<b><u>Assessment Criteria Matrix</u></b>

## SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1	<b>Project reference number</b>	CRF4154
1.2	<b>Organisation</b>	The Highland Council
1.3	<b>Project title</b>	Corran Ferry Flit Boat
1.4	<b>Summary of project you wish to be funded (max 250 words)</b>	<p>The Corran Ferry flit boat, or crew transfer launch, requires replacing and upgrading due to the age (over 35 years old) and inadequacies of the current vessel.</p> <p>The flit boat is integral to the community, being essential to the lifeline Corran Ferry service, taking the crew to and from the ferry twice a day in all weathers to keep the ferry running every day (except Christmas and New Year).</p> <p>The new boat will:</p>

		<p>1. Replace the current old vessel with a new vessel, maintaining Corran Ferry service reliability and reducing flit boat maintenance costs. Maintenance cost approximately £30,000 in the last 5 years, and annual costs are increasing. Annual maintenance costs for the proposed new vessel will be minimal other than for engine servicing costs.</p> <p>2. Improve the safety of the Crew transfer operation (the new boat will have a better, safer design).</p> <p>3. The new boat design is also more seaworthy, so it can cross the Corran Narrows in all weathers to pick up crew, which the current flit boat cannot, so widening the recruitment pool to all of the local community (note - the car ferry itself cannot leave Ardgour without a full complement of crew).</p> <p>4. Allow us to provide a contingency passenger service immediately, with our own crew, should the need arise, this being more responsive, and significantly cheaper than being wholly dependent on hiring services as was necessary in 2023.</p> <p>5. Continue to provide first-response safety cover at the Narrows (people pets, and boats have regularly been rescued using the flit boat over the years).</p>	
1.5	Project costs	<b>Total project cost</b>	£115,000.00
		<b>Match funding</b>	£32,500.00
		<b>CRF grant requested</b>	£82,500.00
1.6	Start date	01/09/2025	
1.7	End date (max 12 months from start date)	28/08/2026	
1.8	Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">CRF privacy notice</a>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 2: CONTACT AND ORGANISATION DETAILS		
2.1	Organisation	The Highland \Council
2.2	Address and postcode	Highland Council, Corran Ferry, The Ferry Office, Ardgour, Fort William PH33 7AA
2.3	Main contact name	
2.4	Position in the organisation	

2.5	Contact number	
2.6	Email address	
2.7	Website address	<a href="https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20024/corran_ferry">https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20024/corran_ferry</a>
2.8	Organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/> Company limited by guarantee
		<input type="checkbox"/> Constituted group
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public body
		<input type="checkbox"/> Charity
		<input type="checkbox"/> SCIO
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
2.9	Organisation registered number	
2.10	Is the organisation VAT registered?	<p><b>By confirming this, you are declaring the organisation VAT status as per HMRC. If this changes at any time during the project, you <u>must</u> notify the CRF Team as this may affect the offer of grant.</b></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.11	If the organisation is VAT registered, please provide the number.	663758203
2.12	Is the VAT related to the project being reclaimed from HMRC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole
		<input type="checkbox"/> Partial
		<input type="checkbox"/> None
2.13	Provide details of VAT exemptions.	

SECTION 3: PROJECT DETAILS		
3.1	Please confirm the location of the project including post code.	Highland Council, Corran Ferry, The Ferry Office, Ardgour, Fort William PH33 7AA
3.2	Are you applying on behalf of a partnership project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Is there a partnership agreement in place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Is your organisation the lead applicant?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Do you own the land or asset?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Are you leasing the land or asset? If so, what is the term left on your current lease agreement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>Years</span> <span>Months</span> </div>
3.7	If ownership or lease agreements are not in place, please provide details if applied for and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	
3.8	Does the project require planning permission or other statutory regulatory consents?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.9	If consents are required, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	n/a
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#### SECTION 4: THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

4.1	List the main activities required to deliver the project including timescales.	
Activity name		Achieve by (date)
Receive quotations		31/07/2025
Place Purchase Order		29/08/2025
Receive new flit boat		27/02/2026
Pay Invoice		27/03/2026
Sell old flit boat		25/09/2026
		Click or tap to enter a date.
4.2	(a) What local need or opportunity will the project address?	

(500 words max limit)

In underpinning day to day operations of the Corran Ferry service, the flit boat is an integral part, ensuring the resilience of the ferry service. As described in the Corran Narrows Socio-economic Study presented to ECI Committee on 02 Dec 2021: -

- Patronage on the ferry is growing (compound annual growth rate 2.1%) and this is before staycation trends are taken into account post 2019
  - Impact of three main users:
    - The 'no ferry' scenario would significantly reduce the ability for residents to access employment, employment opportunities, key services, and social activities
    - The 'no ferry' scenario implies an immediate increase in the cost of serving and doing business in the peninsula
    - In a 'no ferry' scenario, the scale of the peninsular tourism market would reduce, and there could also be negative impacts in Lochaber
  - The impacts on each of the user groups would overlap and thus reinforce the negative consequences of a 'no ferry' scenario
    - *For example, the loss of peninsular jobs would be compounded by a reduction in visitor income and a potential increase in supply-chain and delivery costs. Multiplier effects would compound these losses creating a vicious circle of decline*
  - All of these impacts would ultimately coalesce around a threat to the economic viability of the area
  - Increased costs, reduced income, and difficulty accessing employment, personal business and leisure opportunities would act as a significant 'push' factor to out-migration, particularly amongst younger cohorts, and would also act as deterrent to families minded to in-migration
  - In fragile rural communities, it only takes a small number of families to leave for local businesses to become unviable, and services reduced, creating (or more accurately recreating) the cycle of decline
- In short, in the absence of a fixed link across the Narrows, the provision of a frequent, reliable, and high-capacity ferry service at Corran is fundamental to the economic viability and future sustainability of the peninsula.

Upgrading the flit boat to a HDPE hull (High Density Polyethylene) is a very resilient material with virtually no future maintenance costs. The new vessel will have a cab and passenger seating, which the current vessel does not, making it much more fit for purpose for crew and potential passengers when the need arises. Vitally, the new boat will have an access gantry for the crew designed to allow much improved safer transfer from the flit boat to the ferry which the crew must do twice a day in all weathers all year round. As mentioned, the hull design will also be much more seaworthy, allowing the flit boat to operate in a wider range of weather conditions and cross the narrows to collect crew from the far side, so widening the pool for local recruitment opportunities.

**(b) Has this need been recognised in a local place plan?**

(500 words max limit)

The need for a resilient Corran Ferry service is widely recognised in several local plans. In the overall Lochaber Area Plan, ferry queues and reliability issues emerged as a key identified challenge for the area following community engagement. This application will complement the priorities of improving transport infrastructure and securing future proof ferry services, which are identified in this plan.

The Ardgour Place Plan notes support for measures by Highland Council to put in place a long term replacement to the current Corran Ferry and improve resilience. The plan also notes that “new, fit for purpose Corran Ferries and associated infrastructure” was a top priority from community consultation undertaken during the production of the plan.

The “Live, Life, Morvern” plan identifies better transport links to Fort William as a priority for the local community.

While FW2040 does not specifically cover the Corran Ferry route, this application would complement the aim to make Fort William a more “Connected Place”.

**4.3 How do you know there is local support for the project? How can you evidence this? Provide evidence as supporting documents as requested at 8.2**

(500 words max limit)

This project has been brought to the attention of the local community and Highland Council members – a copy of slides attached from Ward Business Meeting (14 April 2025).

It has been discussed with, and is supported by, the community representatives on the Corran Ferry Steering Group which meets every 6 weeks to discuss all matters relating to the Corran Ferry service – a copy of minutes attached from Steering Group (20 February 2025).

The primary purpose of the Corran Ferry Steering Group is to provide a structured forum for Community Councils to represent community views, advise on local priorities, and collaborate with The Highland Council in shaping, supporting, and delivering both the current service and future developments of the Corran Ferry Project.

**4.4 Outputs and outcomes – Please refer to the application guidance for further information and a definition of what constitutes “outputs” and “outcomes”.**

**(a) Please select below ONE of the CRF main strategic objectives that you believe your project’s outputs and outcomes will best align with.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increasing community resilience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling poverty and inequality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addressing causes of rural depopulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping economic recovery and sustaining growth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling the climate emergency and working towards net zero

**(b) What are the immediate and short-term outputs that your project will achieve? How will you measure them?**

(500 words max limit)

1. Replace the current old vessel with a new vessel, maintaining the flit boat and Corran Ferry service reliability, and resulting in reduced flit boat maintenance costs.
2. Improve the safety of the Crew transfer operation. The new boat will have a better, safer design, making it safer and easier for crew to transfer from the flit boat to the ferry, in turn allowing the ferry to operate in a wider range of weather conditions. Currently the foredeck of the flit boat is too low and crew require to transfer their grip from a single low handrail to a knotted rope and pull themselves up using the rope as they step up onto the ferry. This is tricky, especially when hand grips and the foredeck are slippery in wet weather, and good timing is required to suit the motion of the boat in heavy weather. The new flit boat will have a purpose built access platform at the correct height in the bows, with suitable steps, and handrails all-round.
3. The new boat design is also more seaworthy, so it can cross the Corran Narrows in all weathers to pick up crew, widening the recruitment pool to the whole of the local community (note - the car ferry cannot leave Ardgour without a full complement of crew), helping with recruitment and job opportunities locally. The future crew profile will reflect this.
4. Allow us to provide a contingency passenger service immediately, with our own crew, should the need arise, this being more responsive, and significantly cheaper than being wholly dependent on hiring services as was necessary in 2023, for comparison.
5. Continue to provide first-response safety cover at the Narrows (people pets, and boats have regularly been rescued using the flit boat over the years, as well as providing cover support should the Corran Ferry itself experience any difficulty),

**(c) What do you think the outcomes of your project will be and how will you measure them? Please note an outcome is the longer-term change that your project will achieve. What will be the lasting benefits and legacy?**

(500 words max limit)

Outcomes:

Ongoing budget savings will be measured by reduced flit boat maintenance costs (the current boat is old, over 35 yrs old, requiring more and more annually to maintain it).

Improved crew transfer safety, measured by zero accidents and less reported near misses. A "near miss" is a reported incident where an accident or injury was averted but could have occurred in other circumstances, due to the difficulties described above in section 4.4 (b) 2.



Corran Ferry jobs will become more accessible to the wider local community, by being able to collect crew from the far side with the new boat (the Fort William side), measurable by future crew profiles.

Allows us to provide a contingency passenger service immediately, with our own crew, should the need arise, this being more responsive, and significantly cheaper, than being wholly dependent on hiring services as was necessary in 2023 (this could be compared against the cost of hiring contingency services in 2023 which cost around £400,000).

Continuing to provide first-response safety cover at the Narrows (people pets, and boats have regularly been rescued using the flit boat over the years), will help to keep the outcomes positive and maintain a low number of serious outcomes at the narrows.

All integral to the ongoing resilience for, and within the local community, of the Corran Ferry service.

#### **4.5 How will the project be supported/maintained/sustained after CRF funding?**

(500 words max limit)

The Highland Council Corran Ferry Service will maintain and operate the flit boat.

The table below compares the current costs against projected costs, showing the ongoing savings with the new flit boat.

Current Fit Boat		New Flit Boat	
Average Overhaul Costs (over last 5 yrs)	Est Routine Maintenance Costs	Est Average Overhaul Costs (over the next 5 yrs)	Est Annual Routine Maintenance Costs
£6,000	£2,500	£1200	£1,500

#### **4.6 Describe how you intend to mitigate negative environmental impacts that may arise in delivering the project. It may be that the project specifically seeks to address climate change issues or implement net zero ambitions/solutions.**

(500 words max limit)

The flit boat ensures the resilience of the Corran Ferry service, which is currently working hard, via the Corran Ferry New Electric Vessel (CFNEV) project to replace the current diesel ferry with an electric ferry, in line with the government's policy for short ferry crossings (2019), and the national and Highland Council targets for Net Zero.

A petrol flit boat has been selected to make the upgrade affordable. Electric power technology whilst available for small boat engines, is currently much more expensive. Also, in the interests of time, the flit boat requires to be upgraded as soon as possible particularly for the reasons explained around safety. The petrol option is readily available with short lead times, whereas we would anticipate significant project delays to source the appropriate electric engines and suitable charging infrastructure, justify the more expensive option and source sufficient funding. (Also, a petrol option is more saleable, reducing overall risk to the council).

Although this is petrol (for the reasons given), it is essential to allow the operation of the much more environmentally friendly electric main ferry vessel.

Also, by allowing a cheaper and quicker contingency vessel to be put on in the event of any breakdown, it could reduce the number of additional car journeys round the Loch, that would otherwise need to be taken, all helping to meet overall carbon reductions.

**4.7 In developing the project, explain how you have considered equalities issues and taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development/delivery of the project. How will you ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project? Will the project target specific groups?**

(500 words max limit)

This application does not target any specific groups with protected characteristics. It is intended to provide a resilient ferry service, which benefits all members of the local community and visitors to the area. The project will offer the added benefit of making employment opportunities on the ferry much more available to people living on the Nether Lochaber side of the crossing.

The vessel is primarily intended to be used by the Corran Ferry crew. (In that regard, by making the crew transfer operation safer and easier, it does potentially open up employment opportunity to a wider range of physical abilities.)

However, the flit boat will be able to be used as a contingency passenger ferry in the event of a breakdown of the ferry. To this end, considerations around accessibility would be:

While the intrinsic nature of such vessels have immediate access limitations, there is space on the new flit boat to allow people with accessibility issues to be transported on the boat, so systems can be devised to take people with accessibility issues onboard safely, combined with crew training around supporting people with accessibility issues to use the boat

Crew already receive equalities awareness training.

**4.8 All applicants are required to provide a statement on how the organisation is committed to advancing the [Fair Work First Policy](#) including the 'Real Living Wage' and 'Effective Workers Voice' criteria. The statement should be agreed jointly by the employer and an appropriate workplace representative or a trade union representative if one is in place.**

**PLEASE NOTE-** This statement is applicable to all groups and organisations even if you do not employ staff and/or only work with volunteers. Projects cannot progress without a signed statement - refer to the [Fair Work First guidance](#) for more information. Complete the following Fair Work First Statement and Declaration form and submit with the application. Double click the icon to download.



FWF statement and  
declaration template.doc

**Have you provided a Fair Work First statement in a separate document with this application? Please ensure it is signed by an appropriate workplace representative.**

Yes ☒ No ☐

**Can you confirm if you have the Living Wage Accreditation or are planning to be certified?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Applied ☐

**Is the Fair Work First statement on your organisation's website?**


Yes ☒ No ☐ Do not have a website ☐

**How many people do you employ or how many volunteers do you have?**

17 full-time, 4 part-time

<b>Do you currently pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>As part of your procurement assessment process, do you ensure that traders/suppliers also pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How do you provide channels for Effective Voice in the workplace for staff and/or volunteers?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line Management Relationship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff /Engagement Surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suggestions Schemes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intranet/Online Platforms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Forums / Networks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Recognition/Collective Bargaining

## SECTION 5: PROJECT BUDGET

<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Main project expenditure – costs should be as accurate and current as possible from recent quotations or price comparisons.</b></p> <p><b>Please refer to the guidance note on eligible expenditure. Only download and complete the overheads and management fees summary spreadsheet below, if you would like to claim more than 10% of total project costs as overheads.</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>CRF overheads and management fees summary spreadsheet</small> </div>
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Budget Heading	Detailed Costs	Revenue/Capital	Amount
New Flit Boat	Details as to spec of vessel to be purchased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.4m long, seagoing hull (RIB style)</li> <li>HDPE 'indestructible' hull construction material</li> <li>7-seater enclosed weatherproof cabin</li> <li>2 x 100hp Honda 4 stroke petrol outboards providing suitable propulsion endurance (sufficient power)</li> <li>Bespoke forward mounted raised access gantry with handrails for safe transfer of crew</li> </ul>	Capital	£115,000.00
Total revenue expenditure			£0.00
Total capital expenditure			£115,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>			<b>£115,000.00</b>
<b>Is VAT included in these costs?</b>			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Can you confirm that the costs above have not already been incurred or committed to?</b>			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

5.2	<b>Reasonableness of cost – Are the project costs listed in 5.1 based on valid quotes as per the procurement guidance provided?</b> <b>Please provide any quotes as supporting documents to this application.</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<b>Please explain how your project will achieve value for money.</b>	<p>Highland Council Contract Standing Orders:</p> <p>4.6.1 Where any contract has an estimated value of between £50,000 and the GPA Threshold (for supplies/services) or is otherwise exempt from the full application of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, competitive tendering shall be undertaken.</p> <p>Competition absent for Technical Reasons:</p> <p>4.3.1 Where the works, supplies or services can only be provided by a particular economic operator because competition is absent for technical reasons or because that operator has an exclusive right (including intellectual property rights), and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists, a request for approval of a direct award must be submitted in writing (using the approved template from the Procurement Manual) to the Chief Officer Resources, Finance and Commercial and Procurement Shared Service. No business case approval will be required, in all other respects, Regulation 4.1 will continue to apply, including the requirement that expenditure can be met from an approved budget.</p> <p>Due to the specialist design and bespoke nature of the work, three quotes have been obtained from yards that our advisor (Argyll Maritime Design Services Ltd <a href="mailto:alisdair@argyllmaritime.co.uk">alisdair@argyllmaritime.co.uk</a>) is confident are able to adequately supply the desired vessel.</p>	
<p align="center"><b>SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING (if applicable)</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Please note match funding for this round is not essential, however efforts to secure match funding for the project is reflected within the assessment criteria.</b></p>			
6.1	<b>Please provide details of any match funding applied for and whether it is awaiting a decision or confirmed.</b>		
Name of funder	Confirmed?	Date Confirmed or Decision Expected	Amount
Highland Council- Corran Ferry Service Budget. Budget holder has confirmed that the match contribution will be met.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	15 July 2025	£32,500.00
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Total match funding</b>			<b>£32,500.00</b>
<b>CRF requested</b>			<b>£82,500.00</b>
<b>Total funding</b>			<b>£115,000.00</b>

6.2	Will the project involve “in kind” support?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	If yes, please detail.	
6.4	Please explain why public funding is required to deliver the project.	While the Highland Council are committed to provide the Corran Ferry service, it is not a statutory requirement to do so. The cost of running a safe and efficient Ferry service has risen dramatically over the years, not least in keeping the aging ferries in a suitable condition. The Highland Council is committed to affordable fares for ferry users, and council budgets are stretched, therefore it is important that the council examines all potential appropriate funding opportunities where possible in exercising due diligence, keeping essential services running and meeting required costs, more pertinent in a lifeline service such as this.
6.5	Please explain what the remaining bank balances are for in your accounts.	n/a
6.6	Please explain why unrestricted funding in your annual accounts cannot be used to deliver the project and/or used as match funding.	While the Highland Council are committed to provide the Corran Ferry service, it is not a statutory requirement to do so. The cost of running a safe and efficient Ferry service has risen dramatically over the years, not least in keeping the aging ferries in a suitable condition. The Highland Council is committed to affordable fares for ferry users, and council budgets are stretched, therefore it is important that the council examines all potential appropriate funding opportunities where possible in exercising due diligence, keeping essential services running and meeting required costs, more pertinent in a lifeline service such as this.
6.7	If you are applying for 100% funding for your project, please explain why no match funding is available.	N/A

## SECTION 7 – INCOME GENERATION

7.1	Will the project generate income?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.2	If yes, how will the income benefit the organisation? Will it be re-invested to help with the sustainability of the project – if so, how? A copy of a business plan and/or budget forecast must be provided with the application.	The flit boat does not generate income directly. However, as explained in the document, it is essential for the resilience of the Corran Ferry service.

7.3	How will you ensure that local organisations/ businesses are not disadvantaged because of the project? Are they supportive of the project?	The Corran Ferry service supports the socioeconomics of the area.	
7.4	Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7.5	If not, please state why?	Debt management.	
7.6	Have you previously received public funding?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7.7	If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 fiscal years and if any were awarded under Public Subsidy.		

Funding	Date	Amount £	Public Subsidy?
None previously received by Corran Ferry.	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

## SECTION 8 – SIGNATURE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

8.1	Main applicant, chairperson or equivalent – the person signing this application has the authority within the organisation to apply for grant funding.	
<p><i>I declare that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the guidance notes and understand and accept the terms and conditions noted within them.</i></p> <p><i>The data provided in the application (and claim) forms are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.</i></p>		
Signature:		Date:
Print:		30/06/2025

**Please Ensure You Also Complete the Attachments Checklist Below**

8.2	You must enclose the following supporting documents (where applicable) with the application. If they are not available, please state why.	Yes / No / Not applicable
1	Bank statement – please provide a full bank statement with the organisation address. It must be the latest statement at the time of application submission.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Annual financial accounts – latest available.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Constitution or articles and memorandum.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Committee Members or Directors List.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Policies – relevant organisational policies applicable to the project such as child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities, Fair Work First policy.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Valid organisation insurance policy.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Evidence of need and demand i.e. letters of support, community consultation reports, photos, feasibility study	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Confirmation of match funding letters	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Permissions – i.e. planning, building warrants, marine licences	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Business plan (income generation projects only)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Job descriptions (for CRF funded posts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Evidence of control/ownership of asset – i.e. lease, title deeds	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Partnership agreement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reason for missing documentation: There is not a single overarching bank statement for Highland Council- a link to annual accounts is provided. Similarly, a link to information on our insurance arrangements is provided.		

Completed forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk) quoting your unique project reference number.

Please ensure you have labelled the supporting documents as per 8.2 of the guidance note:

The application form should follow the naming convention example:

**(Name of organisation) final application form**

Supporting documentation should be labelled as: **document type followed with the title** – for example:

- Match funding – The Highland Council
- Match funding – National Lottery
- Insurance – Zurich 2022/23 annual policy
- Organisational policy – health and safety
- Organisational policy – Fair Work First statement
- Permissions – Planning granted July 2022
- Permissions – Building warrant granted Aug 2022
- Bank statement – Bank of Scotland Nov 2022
- Letter of support – name of Councillor
- Letter of support – community council/group
- Letter of support – name of local business



## Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) Application Form

(May 2025 – CRF Area Funds)

### **Key considerations**

Please refer to the **Application Guidance** (link below) and **Fair Work First Summary Guidance** when completing the application form as there is important supplementary information you need to be aware of. Answer the questions concisely, describing clearly and directly what the project you are seeking funding for is delivering. Please do not exceed the word limit given.

To ensure you have the best opportunity to score well during the assessment, please refer to the **Assessment Criteria Matrix** (link below) when completing the application form.

In this current round of CRF, we are seeking well-developed and robust projects that are ready to commence, and can complete within 12 months of funding being awarded.

**The deadline for application submission for the current round is 5pm on 30/06/25**

Double click the icons below to download the documents. If you have any issues with downloading the documents, please contact us at [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk)

<b><u>Application Guidance</u></b>	<b><u>Assessment Criteria Matrix</u></b>

### **SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Project reference number</b>	CRF4155
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	An Comunn Gàidhealach
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Project title</b>	The Royal National Mòd 2025, Lochaber
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Summary of project you wish to be funded (max 250 words)</b>	<p>An Comunn Gàidhealach is seeking support specifically for the hire and provision of a high-quality marquee, measuring 15 metres by 40 metres, to be installed adjacent to the Nevis Centre.</p> <p>Due to the scale and popularity of the event, the existing indoor capacity of the Nevis Centre is insufficient to meet the growing demands of attendees, participants, exhibitors, and media personnel. The marquee will serve multiple vital purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increased Space for Catering and Hospitality:</b> The marquee will significantly relieve pressure on</li> </ol>



		<p>indoor facilities by providing a designated space for catering operations, dining areas, and social gatherings. This ensures a better experience for visitors and participants, helping to promote extended engagement with the event.</p> <p>2. <b>Dedicated Area for Exhibitors and Media:</b> With the number of exhibitors and media teams expanding year on year, there is an urgent need for additional space that allows them to operate effectively and professionally. The marquee offers a versatile, weather-protected environment ideal for displays, interviews, and technical setups that cannot be accommodated within the main building.</p> <p>3. <b>Improved Crowd Flow and Safety:</b> Managing crowd movement is essential for both safety and overall event experience. The additional covered area will ease congestion within the venue, allowing for better flow between activities at peak times. This, in turn, supports our commitment to providing a secure, comfortable environment for all attendees.</p> <p>4. <b>Operational Flexibility:</b> The marquee gives critical flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances, including weather disruptions, last-minute scheduling changes, or increased demand for space. It serves as a buffer zone that can be adapted for multiple uses without impacting the core functions of the main venue.</p> <p>The marquee is a strategic necessity that enhances the capacity, safety, and professionalism of the event. Without it, we risk compromising both the quality of the experience and the operational effectiveness of our delivery.</p> <p><b>A full event budget is provided as Appendix 1, for reference.</b></p>	
1.5	Project costs	<b>Total project cost</b>	£24,890.05
		<b>Match funding</b>	£15,022.50
		<b>CRF grant requested</b>	£9,867.55
1.6	Start date	11/10/2025	
1.7	End date ( <i>max 12 months from start date</i> )	19/10/2025	
1.8	Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">CRF privacy notice</a>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 2: CONTACT AND ORGANISATION DETAILS		
2.1	Organisation	An Comunn Gàidhealach
2.2	Address and postcode	5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ
2.3	Main contact name	
2.4	Position in the organisation	
2.5	Contact number	
2.6	Email address	
2.7	Website address	www.ancomunn.co.uk
2.8	Organisation type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Company limited by guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Constituted group <input type="checkbox"/> Public body <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charity <input type="checkbox"/> SCIO <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
2.9	Organisation registered number	SC322420
2.10	Is the organisation VAT registered?	<p><b>By confirming this, you are declaring the organisation VAT status as per HMRC. If this changes at any time during the project, you <u>must</u> notify the CRF Team as this may affect the offer of grant.</b></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.11	If the organisation is VAT registered, please provide the number.	266233951
2.12	Is the VAT related to the project being reclaimed from HMRC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> None
2.13	Provide details of VAT exemptions.	

SECTION 3: PROJECT DETAILS		
3.1	Please confirm the location of the project including post code.	Fort William, Lochaber, PH33
3.2	Are you applying on behalf of a partnership project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Is there a partnership agreement in place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Is your organisation the lead applicant?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Do you own the land or asset?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Are you leasing the land or asset? If so, what is the term left on your current lease agreement	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Years Months</p>

3.7	If ownership or lease agreements are not in place, please provide details if applied for and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	
3.8	Does the project require planning permission or other statutory regulatory consents?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	If consents are required, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	

## SECTION 4: THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

4.1	List the main activities required to deliver the project including timescales.
-----	--

Activity name	Achieve by (date)
Planning and coordination	January 2024-October 2025
Venue Booking and Logistics	April 2024-October 2025
Programme Development	May 2024-October 2025
Marketing and Promotion	September 2024-October 2025
Volunteer Recruitment and Training	January 2025-September 2025
Fringe and Community Engagement Programme	March 2025-October 2025
Event Delivery	10-18 October 2025 (event week)
Evaluation and Reporting	November 2025-January 2026

4.2	(a) What local need or opportunity will the project address?
-----	--

The Royal National Mòd 2025 in Lochaber presents a significant opportunity to address multiple local needs — cultural, economic, educational, and linguistic — while also building on the area's existing strengths and identity.

### 1. Revitalisation of Gaelic Language and Culture:

Lochaber has a rich Gaelic heritage, but like many areas across the Highlands, the local use of Gaelic is in decline. Hosting the Mòd will re-energise interest in the language and provide a high-profile platform for its use and celebration. It will directly support Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in local schools by giving young people a chance to compete, perform, and engage with Gaelic in a meaningful way outside the classroom. The event will also offer intergenerational opportunities for older native speakers to share their knowledge and support learners, helping to strengthen the linguistic fabric of the community.

### 2. Economic Development and Seasonal Boost:

Lochaber's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, but footfall drops significantly after the summer. The Mòd, scheduled for October, provides an opportunity to extend the visitor season, drawing thousands of competitors, families, and spectators to the area. Local accommodation providers, restaurants, retailers, and transport services will benefit from the increased activity. Based on previous Mòds, economic impacts in the region of £2 million+ can be expected, with long-term gains from increased visibility and repeat visits.

### 3. Community Cohesion and Pride:

The event promotes civic pride and social inclusion, bringing people together through volunteering, music, sport, and cultural celebration. The Local Organising Committee has been deliberately designed to reflect local demographics and priorities, ensuring the Mòd is a community-led event. Opportunities for volunteering and local business involvement will promote a sense of ownership and cohesion. The Mòd will

also bring fringe events to smaller communities across Lochaber, sharing the benefits and spreading cultural engagement.

#### **4. Opportunity for Young People and Creative Sector:**

The Mòd supports skills development for young people in areas such as event management, media production, hospitality, and performance. Collaborations with UHI North, West and Hebrides (Fort William campus), local arts organisations, and creative freelancers will foster new work opportunities and career pathways. The Mòd will also offer a major stage for local musicians, artists, and performers to reach national audiences, helping grow the creative economy in a rural context.

#### **5. Strategic Alignment with Local and National Priorities:**

The project aligns with Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan, local cultural and economic strategies, and the Scottish Government's National Plan for Gaelic. It supports objectives around cultural participation, tourism development, language sustainability, and rural regeneration.

The Royal National Mòd 2025 in Lochaber responds directly to local priorities—from supporting Gaelic language and cultural revitalisation to creating economic opportunities and engaging young people. It also presents a unique opportunity to showcase Lochaber as a place of living culture, community strength, and creative energy to both national and international audiences.

To deliver an event of this scale effectively, additional infrastructure is essential. As the event continues to grow in scale and reputation, the marquee helps lay the groundwork for future expansion (future-proofing the event). Investing in this infrastructure not only addresses current limitations but also positions the event to accommodate larger audiences and broader programming in years to come.

#### **(b) Has this need been recognised in a local place plan?**

Yes, the need for cultural regeneration, support for the Gaelic language, and economic diversification through events like the Royal National Mòd has been recognised in several local and regional plans relevant to Lochaber. These strategic documents highlight the value of Gaelic as both a cultural asset and an economic opportunity, while also identifying community cohesion and rural economic sustainability as ongoing priorities.

##### **1. Lochaber Locality Plan (Highland Council / Community Planning Partnership):**

The Lochaber Locality Plan recognises the importance of strengthening cultural identity and promoting Gaelic language and heritage. It identifies Gaelic as a key element of community life and states the need to increase opportunities for cultural participation across age groups. It also highlights a need to support youth engagement, inclusive events, and initiatives that contribute to well-being and local pride — all of which are integral to the aims of the Royal National Mòd.

The plan further identifies economic regeneration as a critical need for Lochaber. It calls for greater collaboration between public, private, and third-sector organisations to stimulate the local economy through tourism, events, and creative industries. Hosting the Mòd directly supports this aim, especially by drawing visitors in the shoulder season and generating spending across multiple sectors.

##### **2. Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan (2023–2027):**

This statutory plan underlines the Council's commitment to increasing the visibility and use of Gaelic across the region. It specifically encourages support for national events such as the Royal National Mòd as a way to raise the profile of the language and encourage local participation. The plan stresses the importance of promoting Gaelic through education, arts, media, and tourism — all areas which the Mòd actively strengthens. The return of the Mòd to Lochaber is an opportunity to deliver on multiple strategic Gaelic commitments.

##### **3. Highland Council Culture Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy:**

The Highland Culture Strategy recognises major events as key tools for community engagement and

economic resilience. It encourages event-led regeneration, especially in rural areas, and highlights the role of creative and cultural industries in community well-being and identity. The Mòd brings high-profile national attention and offers a direct response to the strategy's call for greater visibility of Gaelic and cultural activity in Highland communities.

The Highland Economic Strategy emphasises the need to support rural and fragile communities through events that generate income and promote the region as a destination for cultural tourism. The Mòd's proven economic impact aligns with this goal.

#### **4. Fort William 2040 Masterplan:**

Although more focused on infrastructure and development, this vision document includes a clear ambition to promote Fort William as a destination that celebrates its cultural assets, including Gaelic. Supporting high-quality cultural events is listed as a way to help diversify the economy and improve quality of life.

#### **4.3 How do you know there is local support for the project? How can you evidence this? Provide evidence as supporting documents as requested at 8.2**

There is strong and widespread support within the Lochaber community for hosting the Royal National Mòd in 2025. This is based on direct community engagement, support from local organisations and elected representatives, and the positive legacy of previous Mòds in the area.

A series of public meetings and stakeholder consultations were held in Fort William and surrounding areas during 2023–2024 as part of the early planning for the 2025 Mòd. These events were attended by representatives from local schools, businesses, cultural organisations, and community councils. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing enthusiasm for the return of the Mòd and its role in celebrating Gaelic culture and boosting the local economy.

Support has been indicated from a wide range of local stakeholders, including Fort William Community Council, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, local Gaelic groups, Comunn na Gàidhlig, and local tourism bodies. This demonstrates both cultural and economic support, highlighting the anticipated benefits in terms of increased footfall, hotel bookings, and engagement with Gaelic arts and language.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the 2025 Mòd includes representatives from Highland Council, local cultural groups, Gaelic education stakeholders, and local businesses, ensuring the event is shaped and delivered by the community it serves. Local schools, particularly those delivering Gaelic Medium Education, have committed to participating in competitions and fringe activities, further embedding the Mòd in the fabric of community life.

The success of the Royal National Mòd held in Lochaber in 2017 continues to resonate locally. An evaluation of that event highlighted high levels of community involvement, strong volunteer participation, and tangible economic benefits. Businesses reported increased trade, and there was a notable rise in local interest in Gaelic activities following the event.

The projected economic and cultural impact for 2025 is significant. Drawing on evaluations from recent Mòds — including the 2023 event in Paisley — we anticipate a similar positive outcome for Lochaber. Plans are already in place to commission a local impact study in partnership with VisitScotland, which will help measure this effectively.

In summary, support for the Royal National Mòd 2025 in Lochaber is broad-based, well evidenced, and growing. It reflects both the cultural pride of the community and the proven value of the Mòd as a platform for Gaelic and a catalyst for local economic benefit.

4.4	<b>Outputs and outcomes – Please refer to the application guidance for further information and a definition of what constitutes “outputs” and “outcomes”.</b>  <b>(a) Please select below ONE of the CRF main strategic objectives that you believe your project’s outputs and outcomes will best align with.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increasing community resilience	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling poverty and inequality	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addressing causes of rural depopulation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping economic recovery and sustaining growth	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling the climate emergency and working towards net zero	
	<b>(b) What are the immediate and short-term outputs that your project will achieve? How will you measure them?</b>	
<p>The Royal National Mòd in Lochaber 2025 will deliver a range of immediate and short-term outputs that reflect its cultural, linguistic, and community objectives. These outputs will support Gaelic language revitalisation, foster community cohesion, and generate cultural and economic benefits for the Lochaber area. Outputs will be tracked using both quantitative and qualitative methods, including attendance figures, participant feedback, media analysis, and stakeholder reports.</p> <p><b>1. Increased Gaelic Language Participation</b></p> <p>One of the key immediate outputs will be a measurable increase in the number of people actively using and engaging with Gaelic. This will be evidenced through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number of competitors in Gaelic song, music, and spoken word competitions</b> (target: 2,500+ participants)</li> <li>• <b>Increased enrolment in Gaelic learning opportunities</b>, supported by local schools and community groups</li> <li>• <b>Public use of Gaelic signage and announcements across venues</b></li> </ul> <p>Measurement will include registration data, language usage surveys, and post-event evaluations from participants and audiences.</p> <p><b>2. Delivery of a Diverse Cultural Programme</b></p> <p>The Mòd will provide a rich cultural programme featuring competitions, concerts, workshops, and exhibitions. Outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Over 200 individual events</b> over the course of 9 days</li> <li>• <b>Delivery of a Fringe programme</b> involving local musicians, artists, and community groups</li> <li>• <b>Commissioning of new Gaelic content</b>, including songs, poetry, and performances</li> </ul> <p>Outputs will be measured by programme completion, ticket sales, and participant numbers, with post-event data collected through audience surveys and digital engagement metrics (e.g., social media interactions).</p> <p><b>3. Community Engagement and Volunteer Involvement</b></p> <p>Short-term community development is central to the Mòd. Expected outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recruitment and training of over 150 local volunteers</b></li> <li>• <b>Delivery of community workshops and school engagement sessions</b> with 15 schools in Lochaber receiving tuition in the run-up to the event</li> <li>• <b>Involvement of at least 15 local groups</b> (e.g. choirs, youth groups, cultural associations)</li> </ul>		

These will be measured via volunteer registration databases, workshop attendance logs, and feedback forms.

#### 4. Economic and Tourism Uplift

The event will create a short-term economic boost for the Lochaber area through visitor spend, accommodation bookings, and local vendor engagement. Outputs include:

- **Attracting 8,000–10,000 visitors** to the region
- **Increased bookings in local hotels and guesthouses**
- **Local business participation** in vendor stalls, catering and services

Measurement will be carried out using data from accommodation providers, VisitScotland, and local business feedback surveys.

#### 5. Media Reach and Publicity

The Mòd will achieve broad regional and national media coverage, promoting both Lochaber and Gaelic culture. Outputs:

- **National TV, radio and press coverage** (e.g., BBC Alba, local papers)
- **Social media reach exceeding 500,000 impressions** across platforms
- **Event website traffic and newsletter engagement**

These will be measured using media monitoring tools, analytics platforms, and press clipping services.

**(c) What do you think the outcomes of your project will be and how will you measure them? Please note an outcome is the longer-term change that your project will achieve. What will be the lasting benefits and legacy?**

The Royal National Mòd in Lochaber 2025 is expected to generate a range of meaningful long-term outcomes that will extend well beyond the event itself. These outcomes will contribute to the cultural, linguistic, economic, and social fabric of the region. The legacy of hosting the Mòd will be measured through both qualitative and quantitative indicators, in collaboration with local partners, Gaelic organisations, and community stakeholders.

#### 1. Strengthened Use and Visibility of the Gaelic Language

A key long-term outcome will be the normalisation and increased everyday use of Gaelic across Lochaber. Hosting the Mòd places the language at the forefront of public life, encouraging both learners and fluent speakers to engage more actively in Gaelic culture.

##### Measurement:

- Increased uptake in Gaelic classes (e.g. adult learners, school enrolment)
- Growth in Gaelic-medium activities offered in local schools and communities
- Follow-up language attitude surveys among residents

The legacy will include improved confidence in using Gaelic in public settings, more visible bilingual signage, and sustained Gaelic engagement initiatives supported by local authorities and cultural groups.



## **2. Enhanced Cultural Confidence and Local Pride**

Hosting the Mòd empowers the local community by celebrating its unique linguistic and cultural identity. The event builds pride in Gaelic heritage and fosters a stronger sense of place.

### **Measurement:**

- Post-event community feedback and interviews
- Number of local participants who continue engaging in cultural or artistic activities
- Increased attendance at Gaelic events and festivals in the region post-Mòd

The legacy will be a more culturally confident community with ongoing participation in music, performance, and language-based activities.

## **3. Capacity Building and Skills Development**

The Mòd will build lasting capacity in the local community through volunteer development, event management experience, and leadership opportunities. Volunteers, especially young people, will gain transferable skills in areas such as planning, communications, and hospitality.

### **Measurement:**

- Number of volunteers who continue in community or cultural roles
- Post-event volunteer surveys assessing skills gained and future involvement
- Case studies of youth or community members who have gone on to lead initiatives

This investment in people will strengthen community resilience and leadership for future events and projects.

## **4. Economic Impact and Sustainable Tourism**

In the longer term, the Mòd will leave a legacy of increased awareness of Lochaber as a Gaelic cultural destination, supporting a more sustainable, year-round visitor economy.

### **Measurement:**

- Follow-up tourism data from VisitScotland and local authorities
- Development of new Gaelic-related tourism products (e.g. trails, tours, festivals)
- Continued partnership working between local businesses and cultural bodies

The Mòd will create a foundation for cultural tourism growth rooted in authenticity and community benefit.

## **5. Strengthened Partnerships and Community Cohesion**

The collaborative planning process will create lasting partnerships between local authorities, Gaelic organisations, schools, and community groups. These relationships will endure, enabling further joint initiatives and capacity for future events.

### **Measurement:**

- Continued partnership working post-Mòd
- Number of joint cultural or educational projects developed after the event
- Ongoing involvement of local stakeholders in Gaelic development strategies



#### **4.5 How will the project be supported/maintained/sustained after CRF funding?**

The Royal National Mòd in Lochaber 2025 is designed not only as a week-long celebration of Gaelic culture, but as a catalyst for long-term cultural, linguistic and economic development in the region. While CRF funding is critical for the delivery of the event, robust plans are in place to ensure that its impact is sustained well beyond the funding period.

##### **1. Community Capacity and Legacy Planning**

A key part of the Mòd's sustainability lies in the capacity built within the local community. Through extensive volunteer recruitment, training and engagement with local groups, schools, and cultural bodies, the event will leave a lasting legacy of skills, experience and enthusiasm. Volunteers trained during the Mòd will be encouraged to remain active in local cultural initiatives, with many likely to contribute to future events, Gaelic activities, or community development projects.

A Local Mòd Legacy Group will be established post-event, involving representatives from local authorities, Gaelic organisations, schools, and community groups. This group will focus on building on the momentum of the Mòd to maintain engagement, oversee legacy activities, and support future Gaelic-led projects in the area.

##### **2. Long-Term Gaelic Development Initiatives**

The Mòd provides a platform to embed Gaelic more fully into local public life, creating demand for continued language learning and cultural activities. In partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, local education providers and An Comunn Gàidhealach, legacy activities will include:

- Continued promotion of Gaelic learning for all age groups
- Support for schools to offer more Gaelic-medium education and extracurriculars
- Ongoing cultural workshops and events hosted by local arts and heritage groups

Many of these initiatives may be supported by existing Gaelic development frameworks and funding schemes, such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd (Community Grants), and Highland Council's Gaelic Strategy.

##### **3. Sustainable Cultural Tourism**

One of the most tangible long-term impacts will be the promotion of Lochaber as a Gaelic cultural destination. VisitScotland and local tourism bodies will be engaged to build on the increased profile and visitor interest generated by the Mòd. Initiatives could include:

- Development of Gaelic-language heritage trails, signage and guided experiences
- Integration of Gaelic into marketing materials and place-branding
- Support for local artists and performers to continue delivering Gaelic-focused work

By leveraging increased tourism interest, local businesses and attractions can continue to benefit from the cultural capital generated during the Mòd.

##### **4. Strengthened Partnerships and Funding Streams**

The partnerships formed through the planning and delivery of the Mòd will remain active and focused on future opportunities. These include local councils, Creative Scotland, HIE, and education providers, who may co-develop follow-on projects.

An Comunn Gàidhealach will also continue to support local Mòd-related activities through its annual Local Mòds network, ensuring sustained cultural engagement and youth participation across the region.

<b>4.6</b>	<b>Describe how you intend to mitigate negative environmental impacts that may arise in delivering the project. It may be that the project specifically seeks to address climate change issues or implement net zero ambitions/solutions.</b>
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We are committed to delivering a sustainable and environmentally responsible event, placing a strong emphasis on minimising environmental impact and fostering long-term ecological awareness within the community. The Royal National Mòd in Lochaber 2025 will adopt a range of integrated sustainability practices to ensure that the event reflects Scotland's broader net zero ambitions and contributes meaningfully to climate change mitigation efforts.

One of our central environmental strategies is the implementation of robust waste reduction systems. This includes clearly marked recycling and composting stations at all event venues, managed in partnership with Highland Council's waste services. We are working closely with venue partners and contractors to significantly reduce single-use plastics, with a particular focus on catering, merchandising, and audience areas. Food vendors will be required to use biodegradable or reusable packaging, and single-use cutlery and straws will be prohibited.

To reduce emissions from transport, we are collaborating with Highland Council's Transport Department to encourage sustainable travel options for performers, audiences, staff, and volunteers. Building on the successful model trialled at the 2024 Mòd in Oban, we will again partner with HiTrans to provide a fleet of hire bikes stationed at key venues throughout Fort William. These bikes proved highly effective in Oban, particularly for staff and volunteers commuting between venues, offering a greener, faster, and more cost-effective alternative to vehicle travel. The bike hubs will be located at two major venues and will be available to the public, making active travel both practical and appealing for the duration of the event.

The compact layout of Fort William further supports this aim, with many venues situated within easy walking distance. Signage and maps will encourage walking routes, and incentives will be offered to attendees who arrive on foot, by bike, or via public transport.

In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we will eliminate single-use plastic water bottles by issuing reusable stainless steel or aluminium water bottles to all performers. In addition, refill stations will be installed across major venues to promote hydration without waste. We are also in active discussions with Scottish Water to provide free reusable bottles to competitors, volunteers, and visitors, as part of their ongoing Tap Water Top Up campaign. These actions not only reduce plastic waste but help promote sustainable habits among thousands of attendees.

Our commitment extends to ethical procurement practices. Where possible, we prioritise suppliers and contractors who can demonstrate strong environmental credentials, such as low-emission transport, responsible sourcing, and minimal packaging.

These initiatives will be actively promoted through our marketing and communications strategy, with support from Highland Council and our PR partner Campbell Communications. Messaging across our website, printed materials, signage, and social media channels will inform and encourage all participants to engage with our environmental goals, making sustainability a visible and celebrated part of the Mòd experience.

Through these efforts, we aim not only to reduce the event's carbon footprint but to inspire lasting environmental consciousness within the wider community.

<b>4.7</b>	<b>In developing the project, explain how you have considered equalities issues and taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development/delivery of the project. How will you ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project? Will the project target specific groups?</b>
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The marquee will be fully accessible for people with additional needs, with features such as step-free access, accessible flooring, clear signage, and nearby accessible toilets. We are committed to making the Royal National Mòd a welcoming and inclusive environment for all attendees.

- **Step-free entry and exit:** Ramps or level flooring to allow wheelchair access.
- **Wide doorways:** Suitable for mobility aids and pushchairs.
- **Accessible flooring:** Stable, non-slip surfaces throughout the marquee.
- **Seating arrangements:** Flexible layouts to accommodate wheelchair users or those requiring additional space or assistance.
- **Clear signage:** High-contrast, multilingual and visual signage for wayfinding.
- **Lighting and acoustics:** Adequate lighting and consideration of sound levels for people with sensory sensitivities.
- **Accessible toilets nearby:** Located in or adjacent to the marquee area.
- **Support staff or stewards:** On hand to assist with access needs and provide information.

The Royal National Mòd in Lochaber 2025 is being developed with a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. As Scotland's premier celebration of Gaelic language and culture, it is vital that the Mòd is welcoming, accessible and beneficial to people from all backgrounds, and that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from participating or engaging with the event. Our planning and delivery processes are being guided by the principles of fairness, respect, and representation, and informed by relevant equalities legislation and best practice.

### **Inclusive Planning and Representation**

From the outset, we have prioritised inclusive representation in our local organising committee, which includes members from across the community, including Gaelic speakers, educators, youth representatives, and people with lived experience of disability. We have engaged with local equalities organisations and Highland Council's Equalities and Diversity Officer to ensure the event is planned in a way that recognises the needs of people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

### **Accessibility and Physical Inclusion**

All major venues for the Mòd will be fully accessible to people with mobility challenges, with step-free access, accessible toilets, priority seating areas and clear signage. We are working with AccessAble and local disability advocacy groups to carry out access audits of each site prior to the event. Volunteers and staff will be trained to provide appropriate support and guidance for disabled attendees and performers.

To support people with sensory impairments, we are exploring the use of British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters for key events and providing hearing loops in selected venues. Large-print and digital versions of programmes and timetables will be available, and event staff will be briefed on inclusive communication practices.

### **Financial and Social Inclusion**

We recognise that cost can be a barrier to participation. Therefore, the Mòd will include a wide range of free and low-cost events, including family-friendly workshops, street performances, and community ceilidhs. Concession pricing will be offered to low-income individuals, students, and older people. We are also working with local schools and community groups to provide free tickets and travel support for young people and families who may otherwise be unable to attend.

## Engagement with Underrepresented Groups


We are taking proactive steps to engage with groups traditionally underrepresented in Gaelic culture and the arts. This includes outreach to:

- Young people, through partnerships with schools and youth organisations
- Ethnic minority communities, encouraging involvement in workshops and cultural exchanges
- LGBTQ+ individuals, through inclusive marketing and safe space policies
- Older people, via local care providers and intergenerational activities


Our outreach strategy will be delivered in partnership with Highland Council's community planning teams and local third-sector organisations to ensure it is effective and meaningful.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

We will gather equalities data through anonymous surveys and feedback forms, and use this to evaluate how inclusive the event has been. Findings will be shared with partners and used to improve future events.

<b>4.8</b>	<p><b>All applicants are required to provide a statement on how the organisation is committed to advancing the <a href="#">Fair Work First Policy</a> including the 'Real Living Wage' and 'Effective Workers Voice' criteria. The statement should be agreed jointly by the employer and an appropriate workplace representative or a trade union representative if one is in place.</b></p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE- This statement is applicable to all groups and organisations even if you do not employ staff and/or only work with volunteers. Projects cannot progress without a signed statement - refer to the <a href="#">Fair Work First guidance</a> for more information. Complete the following Fair Work First Statement and Declaration form and submit with the application. Double click the icon to download.</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>FWF statement and declaration template.doc</p> </div>	
<b>Have you provided a Fair Work First statement in a separate document with this application? Please ensure it is signed by an appropriate workplace representative.</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Can you confirm if you have the Living Wage Accreditation or are planning to be certified?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applied <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is the Fair Work First statement on your organisation's website?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have a website <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>How many people do you employ or how many volunteers do you have?</b>	<b>5.6 FTE</b>	
<b>Do you currently pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>As part of your procurement assessment process, do you ensure that traders/suppliers also pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>How do you provide channels for Effective Voice in the workplace for staff and/or volunteers?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line Management Relationship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff /Engagement Surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestions Schemes <input type="checkbox"/> Intranet/Online Platforms <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Forums / Networks <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Recognition/Collective Bargaining	

## SECTION 5: PROJECT BUDGET

<b>5.1</b>	<b>Main project expenditure – costs should be as accurate and current as possible from recent quotations or price comparisons.</b>  <b>Please refer to the guidance note on eligible expenditure. Only download and complete the overheads and management fees summary spreadsheet below, if you would like to claim more than 10% of total project costs as overheads.</b>		
	 <small>CRF overheads and management fees summary spreadsheet</small>		
<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Detailed Costs</b>	<b>Revenue/Capital</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Hire of marquee	The hire and provision of a high-quality marquee, measuring 15 metres by 40 metres, to be installed adjacent to the Nevis Centre		£24,890.05
Total revenue expenditure			£24,890.05
Total capital expenditure			£0.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>			<b>£24,890.05</b>
<b>Is VAT included in these costs?</b>			<b>Yes   No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Can you confirm that the costs above have not already been incurred or committed to?</b>			<b>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   No <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Reasonableness of cost – Are the project costs listed in 5.1 based on valid quotes as per the procurement guidance provided?</b> <b>Please provide any quotes as supporting documents to this application .</b>		<b>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   No <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Please explain how your project will achieve value for money.</b>	<p>The Royal National Mòd 2025 will deliver excellent value for money by combining efficient planning, strong partnerships, and long-term community benefit. Every aspect of the event is designed to maximise impact while minimising cost.</p> <p>We will use public funding to leverage additional income, including ticket sales, sponsorship, merchandise, and in-kind contributions such as volunteer time, venue support, and services from local partners. This approach multiplies the value of grant investment and ensures sustainability.</p> <p>We are committed to supporting the local economy by prioritising local suppliers, accommodation providers, and service contractors. The Mòd will bring a significant increase in footfall and visitor spend, with previous events showing economic returns of over £3 million to host communities—far exceeding the cost of delivery.</p> <p>Our experienced team, supported by a large volunteer network, will deliver the event efficiently using existing infrastructure and proven systems from previous Mòds. This keeps operational costs low and ensures resources are directed where they have the most impact.</p>	

		Finally, the Mòd creates long-term cultural and educational legacy, including increased Gaelic language use, skills development, and strengthened community networks. These benefits continue well beyond the event itself, ensuring that investment generates lasting value.	
<b>SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING (if applicable)</b>			
Please note match funding for this round is not essential, however efforts to secure match funding for the project is reflected within the assessment criteria.			
6.1	Please provide details of any match funding applied for and whether it is awaiting a decision or confirmed.		
<b>Name of funder</b>		<b>Confirmed?</b>	<b>Date Confirmed or Decision Expected</b>
Scottish Government		Yes x No <input type="checkbox"/>	March 2025
		<b>Total match funding</b>	<b>15,022.05</b>
		<b>CRF requested</b>	<b>9,867.55</b>
		<b>Total funding</b>	<b>24,890.05</b>
6.2	Will the project involve “in kind” support?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3	If yes, please detail.		<p>Officer support from Highland Council (communications, licensing, marketing, roads, environmental dept.)</p> <p>150 volunteers to support the delivery of the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber.</p>
6.4	Please explain why public funding is required to deliver the project.		<p>An Comunn Gàidhealach is requesting funding support to address the significant financial pressures associated with delivering a safe, accessible, and high-quality Royal National Mòd 2025 in Lochaber. Our most pressing challenge is the significant increase in operational costs—most notably, a significant rise in accommodation expenses and venue hire costs for the Nevis Centre, the only venue capable of hosting our flagship live-broadcasted events.</p> <p>However, in addition to these core expenses, we require further support to meet the needs of our expanding event and ensure the safety and comfort of all attendees, we are seeking support specifically for the hire and provision of a</p>

		<p>marquee to be installed adjacent to the Nevis Centre. This 15m x 40m structure is essential to expand available space for catering, exhibitors and media that cannot be accommodated inside the venue. It will also enable us to manage crowd flow more effectively, maintaining a secure environment throughout the event.</p> <p>We are also required to bring in two external modular accommodation units as temporary production office accommodation for our staff. The scale of increased venue and infrastructure costs has created a funding gap and additional support is vital to help bridge this gap and ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the Mòd.</p> <p>Investment in this infrastructure will contribute to the event's long-term viability by enhancing the visitor experience, enabling future scalability, and supporting our mission to promote Gaelic language and culture in an inclusive and safe environment.</p> <p>These infrastructure requirements and their associated costs are clearly outlined in the submitted budget.</p>
6.5	<b>Please explain what the remaining bank balances are for in your accounts.</b>	<p>The remaining bank balances shown in our accounts are allocated for a combination of ongoing organisational commitments and essential operational reserves. These funds are not surplus or uncommitted but are carefully designated to support the sustainable delivery of An Comunn Gàidhealach's core activities and long-term obligations.</p> <p>Specifically, the balances include: Operational Reserves, Restricted and Designated Funds, Pre-allocated Costs for the Royal National Mòd and Committed Expenditure.</p>



6.6	Please explain why unrestricted funding in your annual accounts cannot be used to deliver the project and/or used as match funding.	The organisation's reserve policy puts required unrestricted reserves at £300,000. We currently have just over £309,000 in unrestricted investments but we cannot liquidate the remaining £9,000 as the funds are in investments and return much needed income so therefore do not reflect a working capital. They are also important should they be required as a contingency should funding be severely delayed
6.7	If you are applying for 100% funding for your project, please explain why no match funding is available.	n/a

## SECTION 7 – INCOME GENERATION

7.1	Will the project generate income?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.2	If yes, how will the income benefit the organisation? Will it be re-invested to help with the sustainability of the project – if so, how? A copy of a business plan and/or budget forecast must be provided with the application.	<p>The Royal National Mòd 2025 will generate income through a combination of ticket sales, merchandise, sponsorship, advertising, and stallholder fees. This earned income plays a vital role in supporting both the delivery and long-term sustainability of the event and the wider work of An Comunn Gàidhealach.</p> <p>1. Sources of Income</p> <p>The projected income streams include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition entry fees.</li> <li>• Membership fees.</li> <li>• Investment dividends.</li> <li>• Programme sales.</li> <li>• Music sales.</li> <li>• Ticket sales from concerts, competitions, and evening events</li> <li>• Merchandise sales, including branded goods and publications</li> <li>• Sponsorship and advertising from national and local businesses</li> <li>• Stallholder and vendor fees as part of the Mòd exhibition.</li> </ul> <p>These revenue sources help to diversify our funding base, reduce reliance on public grants, and contribute to a more financially resilient model.</p> <p>2. How the Income Will Benefit the Organisation</p> <p>All income generated from the event will be used to support the charitable aims of An Comunn Gàidhealach, particularly:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of high-quality cultural programming during the Mòd</li> <li>• Supporting Gaelic language development and education through year-round activities</li> <li>• Strengthening community engagement and volunteer programmes across Scotland</li> <li>• Building organisational capacity to run future Mòds and local events</li> </ul> <p>This reinvestment approach ensures that income generated from one year's event contributes to the development of infrastructure and capacity needed for future festivals and community outreach.</p> <p>3. Reinvestment for Sustainability</p> <p>Any surplus income will be reinvested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future Mòd planning and early-stage development, reducing the need for front-loaded external funding</li> <li>• Expanding the Local Mòds network, which nurtures grassroots talent and increases year-round participation in Gaelic culture</li> <li>• Further investment in environmental sustainability, such as improving digital infrastructure, reducing physical printing, and increasing accessibility to remote audiences through live streaming and hybrid events</li> <li>• Supporting training and development opportunities for volunteers and young people involved in the event</li> </ul>
7.3	How will you ensure that local organisations/ businesses are not disadvantaged because of the project? Are they supportive of the project?	<p>We are fully committed to ensuring that local organisations and businesses are not only protected from any potential disruption caused by the Royal National Mòd 2025 in Lochaber, but that they are actively included and able to benefit economically, culturally, and socially from the event.</p> <p>1. Close Engagement and Early Communication</p> <p>From the early planning stages, we have engaged with a range of local stakeholders, including business associations, tourism</p>

		<p>groups, hospitality providers, and community organisations. We are working closely with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lochaber Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Fort William Bid</li> <li>• Local accommodation and hospitality providers</li> <li>• Local arts, cultural, and voluntary groups</li> </ul> <p>This ongoing dialogue ensures we understand their needs and concerns, can provide clear and timely information, and can design the event in a way that aligns with local priorities.</p> <p>2. Maximising Economic Opportunities for Local Businesses</p> <p>Rather than compete with local businesses, the Mòd is designed to drive footfall and increase local spending. We are committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using local suppliers and service providers wherever possible for catering, print, transport, technical support, and venue services.</li> <li>• Encouraging performers, staff, and visitors to shop locally, dine locally, and stay in local accommodation.</li> <li>• Promoting local businesses in our official Mòd programme, social media channels and website, offering advertising opportunities and listing services.</li> </ul> <p>We are also offering local businesses the opportunity to host or sponsor events, take vendor stalls at our Mòd exhibition, or run Mòd-themed promotions and activities to draw in attendees.</p> <p>3. Supporting Local Cultural and Community Organisations</p> <p>The event will include a Fringe Programme that provides performance and participation opportunities for local musicians, choirs, artists, and youth groups. Many community organisations will be involved in shaping and delivering this programme, which helps to raise their profile and expand their reach.</p> <p>We are also working with schools, heritage organisations and voluntary groups to ensure</p>
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		<p>that the Mòd complements, rather than duplicates, existing activities and creates lasting benefits for the area.</p> <p>4. Minimising Disruption</p> <p>We are actively planning to minimise disruption to town centre operations, particularly regarding parking, traffic, and venue use. We are working with Highland Council and Police Scotland on clear traffic management plans, and we will provide early, clear communication to businesses and residents about any temporary changes.</p> <p>5. Local Support</p> <p>Feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive. Local businesses and organisations recognise the significant opportunities the Mòd brings in terms of increased visibility, economic impact, and cultural vibrancy. Many are already involved in planning and delivery and see the Mòd as a chance to showcase Lochaber on a national stage.</p>
7.4	Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.5	If not, please state why?	<p>We have considered all potential funding options. However, after careful consideration, we have determined that a loan is not an appropriate or sustainable option for funding the Royal National Mòd 2025.</p> <p>As a charity and non-profit organisation, An Comunn Gàidhealach operates within tight financial parameters, and we are committed to delivering the event without incurring debt that could impact our long-term viability or divert resources from our core charitable activities. The nature of the Mòd is that it is a cultural and community-focused event, not a commercial project designed to generate profit. Therefore, taking on repayable finance would pose a significant risk to the organisation and is not aligned with our financial strategy or governance responsibilities.</p>
7.6	Have you previously received public funding?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>7.7</b>	<b>If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 fiscal years and if any were awarded under Public Subsidy.</b>		
	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
	Bòrd na Gàidhlig	01/04/2024	133,300.00
	Scottish Government	01/04/2024	62,000.00
	Event Scotland	01/05/2024	20,000.00
	Argyll & Bute Council	01/04/2024	140,000.00

<b>SECTION 8 – SIGNATURE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</b>			
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Main applicant, chairperson or equivalent – the person signing this application has the authority within the organisation to apply for grant funding.</b>		
<p><i>I declare that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the guidance notes and understand and accept the terms and conditions noted within them.</i></p> <p><i>The data provided in the application (and claim) forms are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.</i></p>			
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Signature:</b>    <b>Print:</b> </td> <td style="width: 20%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Date:</b>  25/06/2025 </td> </tr> </table>		<b>Signature:</b>   <b>Print:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 25/06/2025
<b>Signature:</b>   <b>Print:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 25/06/2025		

**Please Ensure You Also Complete the Attachments Checklist Below**

8.2	You must enclose the following supporting documents (where applicable) with the application. If they are not available, please state why.	Yes / No / Not applicable
1	Bank statement – please provide a full bank statement with the organisation address. It must be the latest statement at the time of application submission.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Annual financial accounts – latest available.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Constitution or articles and memorandum.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Committee Members or Directors List.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Policies – relevant organisational policies applicable to the project such as child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities, Fair Work First policy.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Valid organisation insurance policy.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Evidence of need and demand i.e. letters of support, community consultation reports, photos, feasibility study	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Confirmation of match funding letters	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Permissions – i.e. planning, building warrants, marine licences	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Business plan (income generation projects only)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Job descriptions (for CRF funded posts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Evidence of control/ownership of asset – i.e. lease, title deeds	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Partnership agreement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reason for missing documentation:		

**Completed forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to [communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk) quoting your unique project reference number.**

**Please ensure you have labelled the supporting documents as per 8.2 of the guidance note:**

The application form should follow the naming convention example:

**(Name of organisation) final application form**

Supporting documentation should be labelled as: **document type followed with the title** – for example:

- Match funding – The Highland Council
- Match funding – National Lottery
- Insurance – Zurich 2022/23 annual policy
- Organisational policy – health and safety
- Organisational policy – Fair Work First statement
- Permissions – Planning granted July 2022
- Permissions – Building warrant granted Aug 2022
- Bank statement – Bank of Scotland Nov 2022
- Letter of support – name of Councillor
- Letter of support – community council/group
- Letter of support – name of local business

Appendix 2: Lochaber Summary RAG Assessment																						
Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Area Place Plan Priority	Total Project Cost	Grant Requested	Capital	Revenue	Project Start Date	Project End Date	% Rate	Project Robustness	Engagement & Support	Meeting a need/demand	Legacy & Exit Strategy	Equalities issues/ impacts	Environmental sustainability	Value for Money	Match funding	Meets Local Priorities	Additionality	Score
4088	Glencoe Folk Museum	New Local History Exhibitions	Glencoe Folk Museum will create and install all-new exhibition space in its upgraded premises. Existing displays in the museum are at the end of their lifespan, having been created in-house several decades ago, and do not meet modern visitor expectations, standards of collections care, and require wholesale replacement and upgrading.	Economic- 4-	£ 435,642.00	£ 100,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ -	01/09/2025	31/07/2026	22.95%	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
4154	Highland Council	Corran Ferry Flit Boat	The Corran Ferry flit boat, or crew transfer launch, requires replacing and upgrading due to the age and inadequacies of the current vessel	Transport- 10, 11	£ 115,000.00	£ 82,500.00	£ 82,500.00	£ -	01/09/2025	28/08/2026	71.74%	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	27
4155	An Comunn Gàidhealach	The Royal National Mòd 2025, Lochaber	Support for the hire and provision of a high-quality marquee, measuring 15 metres by 40 metres, to be installed adjacent to the Nevis Centre. This is a part of the Royal National Mod, taking place in Fort William in October 2025. Due to the scale and popularity of the event, the existing indoor capacity of the Nevis Centre is insufficient to meet the growing demands of attendees, participants, exhibitors, and media personnel.	Activities- 15, 17 Economic- 6	£ 24,890.05	£ 9,867.55	£ -	£ 9,867.55	11/10/2025	19/10/2025	39.64%	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30

#### RAG Assessment

All projects are given a rating of red, amber or green against key assessment criteria. As part of the application paperwork applicants are made aware of the criteria for these. These ratings are then converted into scores as follows:

Red – 1, amber – 2, green – 3. This allows a total score for each project to be provided.

Ratings are based on information provided during the application process and are provided as a guide only.

All projects presented are eligible but if Members wish to approve projects that have red or amber ratings it would usually suggest that additional conditions will be attached to the award to address these concerns.