



APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND

Applicant / Organisation:	Inverness BID Ltd		
Project Title:	Best Foot Forward Project		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID (City Centre) 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Contact Name(s):	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Email Address(es):	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Inverness Central Ward		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	✓

What type of organisation are you? *(Please tick all that apply)*

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number		Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
Other ✓ Company Limited by Guarantee, Non-Profit/Non-Shareholder Capital			

Amount applied for	£ 17,950
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Start Date of Project	1 st September 2025
End Date of Project	31 st March 2026

Project summary – please provide a brief outline of your project and the outcomes it will deliver. *example:*

- *Aims of the project and how you are going to do it*
- *Is this a new project/service or an additional activity to an existing project or service?*
- *Help with running costs or for a specific project or activity?*
- *Please include details of how you know there is a need for this project*
- *Who will benefit? It is important to state in your application how your project will benefit the citizens of the City of Inverness*
- **Please note** that the Council (ICGF) will be unable to provide any resources towards activities/items not specified on this form or supporting information

Aims of the Project:

The **Best Foot Forward Project** aims to bring together four practical, place-focused improvements designed to make Inverness City Centre cleaner, safer, and more welcoming for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

Developed in partnership with city stakeholders, and Highland Council this coordinated programme will compliment wider city regeneration efforts and contributes directly to placemaking and public realm enhancements.

1. Stephen's Brae Bin Store

The first activity is the creation of a new shared-use bin store for businesses on Stephen's Brae to address long-standing issues caused by the current ad hoc bin location at the bottom of the brae.

The existing arrangement creates operational difficulties for businesses, restricts the use of outdoor seating, attracts gulls and other vermin, and prompts regular complaints relating to mess, odour, and noise.

Due to turning restrictions, Highland Council is currently the only waste contractor able to service uplifts from the top of the brae. A shared bin store at this location therefore offers a practical and proportionate solution, with ongoing operational benefits for the local authority through securing of additional contracted waste uplifts on an ongoing basis.

A new local business working group has been formed with Highland Council and BID representatives facilitating, to support wider improvements of the area, including exploring improvements for the Brae.

The proposed bin store complements these efforts as part of a coordinated enhancement of the street environment.

The relocation is supported by Highland Council Environmental Health and Roads officers and is expected to reduce littering, improve visual impact, and support trade and tourism while also helping to deter scavenging from breeding gulls.

2. Noticeboards Replacement

A second element of the application proposes to replace four City Centre metal notice boards located presently at Union Street, Church Street, Inglis Street, and Bridge Street with two redesigned, branded parish-style noticeboards.

These will be similar to the Riverside Way notice board and will be more aesthetically pleasing with colours aligned with the city's new wayfinding signage which will help to reinforce Inverness's identity as a connected, vibrant place.

The new boards will serve as trusted, low-tech community information point in high-footfall areas offering continuity of communication and resilience, for events, and also as may be required in the event of power outages or cyber incidents, where digital communications may be compromised as a go-to point. City Centre noticeboards, with content managed by BID at own cost, provide an accessible point for all including for those who do not have digital access.

The current noticeboard on Inglis Street sits at a 45-degree angle having been collided with by a delivery vehicle and in addition the current boards are a H&S hazard when changing content due to the method of opening (bottom to top) and risk of falling on staff so currently are maintained with two-persons to ensure this risk is minimised.

With the finger posts being due to be installed prior the ICE opening, having matching and complimentary noticeboards would complete full information and way finding for the centre.



Above: Existing Noticeboard (Inglis St)



Right: Example Replacement –
Parish Style

3. Updated Community Safety, Amenities and Key Information Guide

The third element is that funding is sought to print a new City Centre Safety, Amenities and Key Information Guide for businesses and organisations.

The practical, easy-to-use resource is designed to encourage compliance, promote positive behaviours, and support pride in the city centre to ensure that wider efforts can be supported with organisations being able to contribute and also apply best practices.

The Guide, with input from respective Highland Council Teams, covers key messaging but importantly areas that are not already covered in respect to:

- Waste Management
- Bin Storage/Trade Waste Policy
- Gull Management
- A-Board and Signage
- Street Café Licencing
- See It? Report It!
- Roads and Pavement Issues

As well as being a key resource, this will also allow us to actively encourage and support positive day-to-day behaviours such as keeping bin lids closed, reducing street clutter, and maintaining tidy shop frontages while reinforcing civic pride and shared responsibility. An online version will also be available and the content draft is already completed with funding requested solely for printing. Delivery, updates, and digital access will be managed by BID team.

4. Smart Scape 2025-26

The final component is a small but high-impact investment to support continuation of the **Smart Scape** initiative.

This activity complements but does not replace core Council cleaning services by focusing on tasks that fall outside statutory duties, as additionality, such as removing ingrained grime, graffiti, fly-posters, and vape stickers. The service also enables rapid-response interventions, using a mobile power washer (previously grant-funded) and helps address practical issues in hard-to-reach areas such as those shielded from rainfall or under benches and supports a cleaner, more cared-for public realm. Previous interventions have included the following (examples):





ALLEY BETWEEN HIGH STREET TO LOMBARD STREET **BEFORE AND AFTER**



GRAFFITI ACADEMY STREET



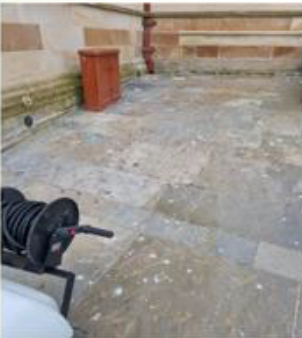
HIGH STREET BENCHES **BEFORE AND AFTER**



Fire Door – Graffiti removal



SIDE OF TOWN HOUSE – POWER WASH



BIRD MESS REMOVAL WITH POWER WASHER



Smart Scape funding for 2025-26, at a much reduced amount than in previous years, will allow BID to continue, albeit on a smaller scale this activity which in Winter 2024 was extended to also include pavement gritting for target areas when required, again as an occasional and responsive measure.

Together, these targeted actions represent a pragmatic and cost-effective investment in improving the city centre environment (with previous private quotes for similar being several times most costly).

The **Best Foot Forward Project** is rooted in partnership, responds directly to need, and reflects the aspiration (with other measures) to further develop and embed collective action and civic pride in respect to our City Centre. With modest support, this project will be able to deliver visible and meaningful impact to the people and businesses who live, work, and spend time in the city as well as to our visitors.

Please give a summary of expected outcomes from your project.

Please include details:

- *How your project will continue beyond the period of ICGF support?*
- *How your project or activity will help the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **Please Note** *you will be expected to submit an Evaluation Report (a form will be supplied) at the conclusion of your project and prior to the payment of the final instalment of grant.*
- **Please Note** *If successful your grant will be valid for a period of six months from the date of the letter confirming Project Funding your award. Extensions can be applied for in writing if made within the period of validity.*

The Best Foot Forward Project will deliver immediate as well as long-lasting benefits for Inverness City Centre.

The bin store at Stephen's Brae will, once established, become a permanent feature managed in partnership with Highland Council and benefiting from operational efficiencies due to ongoing contracted waste uplifts.

The funding allocated for the bin store will be assigned directly to the relevant Highland Council team, ensuring it is a one-off cost and allowing integration into local authority operations.

Similarly, any funding allocated for costs for the replacement of the noticeboards will be assigned to the appropriate Council team to facilitate installation and removal, aligned with the city's new wayfinding signage programme ongoing as an additional placemaking measure.

The updated City Centre Safety, Amenities, and Key Information Guide is a one-off print initiative, with content to thereafter be managed online, the requirement for print however will ensure that all businesses receive the same update which cannot be guaranteed when solely online is available.

There is scope for Smart Scape to receive some support from alternative funding streams if and when these may become available.

Overall, the project actively contributes to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by improving access to clear, non-digital information in the city centre through well-placed, easy-to-read noticeboards. These provide a vital communication channel for individuals who may not use digital platforms, including older residents and those with limited connectivity. The project also promotes


an inclusive, clean, and accessible environment for all, particularly benefiting people with disabilities by addressing trip hazards, reducing street clutter, and enhancing overall safety and highlighting accessibility requirements in respect to for example any street café licence application.

A contribution to the promotion of the Gaelic language is embedded in the project, with bilingual signage planned for the new parish-style noticeboards. These will reflect and reinforce the language use seen across the city's wayfinding infrastructure, promoting visibility of Gaelic and its role in Inverness's civic and cultural identity.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Stephen's Brae Bin Store and Associated Costs (£s to relevant HC Team)	£8,750
Removal and Replacement of City Centre Notice Boards (£s to relevant HC Team)	£5,900
Business Key Information Guide (Operation Sparkle)	£350
Smart Scape 1st October 2025 – 31st March 2026	£2,950
Total Project Cost	£17,950

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 st April 2008
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	Inverness City Centre: 
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with	We engage with a diverse range of communities of interest including vulnerable individuals such as young people,

an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	individuals with alcohol or drug dependencies, people with disabilities including mental health or learning disability, and individuals from various ethnic backgrounds. We also work with individuals facing socio-economic challenges and those involved in anti-social behaviour. Our focus is on supporting and addressing the needs of these communities with care, respect, and tailored interventions
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Yes – all BID Levy Payers (business/property owners and owner occupiers) are eligible.
Has your organisation received any funding from the Inverness Common Good Fund over the last 3 years. If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	Yes – please appendix A (paper apart) for details.
Has your organisation received any other funding from the Highland Council or any Common Good Fund over the last 3 years? If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	No.

Bank Details

Name of Bank	██████████
Account Name	██████████████████
Account Number	██████████
Sort Code	██████████

Checklist

To ensure that the Highland Council can consider your application please tick to show what you have enclosed. Please ensure that you have enclosed the following information:	
Externally verified Statement of Accounts as presented to your AGM for the last 3 years OR	✓

TABLE A 2022/23/24/25	
COMMUNITY SAFETY - ICGF	
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2025 Task Team	£14,804
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2024 Task Team	£13,403
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2023 Task Team	£11,596
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2022 Task Team	£10,795
Safe Inverness	
Safe Inverness Project 1.4.25 - 31.3.26	£10,750
Inverness Community Safety Partnership period 1.4.24-31.03.25	£9,700
Inverness Community Safety Partnership period 1.4.23-31.03.24	£9,700
Inverness Community Safety Partnership period 1.4.22-31.3.23	£9,700
Gull Project	
Gull Project 2025	£27,050
Gull Project 2024	£23,269
Gull Project 2023	£12,839
Gull Project 2022	£12,000
Floral Displays	
Floral Display City Centre 2025	£54,272
Floral Display Wider City 2024	£22,872
Floral Display City Centre 2024	£52,410
Floral Display Wider City 2024	£23,631
Floral Displays Summer 2023	£64,150
Floral Displays Summer 2022	£64,150
CITY CENTRE RECOVERY - ICGF	
Here to Help Ambassadors 2020	£5,973
COACH AMBASSADOR - ICGF	
Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project 2025	£23,847
Coach Friendly Project 2024	£19,865
Coach Friendly Project 2023	£12,987
Coach Friendly Project 2022	£10,800
INVERNESS LOVES LOCAL CAMPAIGN - ICGF	
Additional Gift Card Marketing - 2022	£5,900
SMART SCAPE - ICGF	
Smart Scape City Centre Project - 2023-24	£8,484
Smart Scape City Centre Project - 2022-23	£9,997
INVERNESS FESTIVE PARKING - ICGF	
Inverness Festive Parking (Rose St) - December 2022	£9,950

OP RESPECT WINTER	
Task Team Winter 2025	£4,539
Task Team Winter 2024	£4,539
Task Team Winter 2023	£4,266
Task Team Winter 2022	£4,834



**APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO
THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND FOR FUNDING**

Applicant organisation:	Visit Inverness Loch Ness		
Project title:	Business Tourism		
Project location <i>(inc. postcode):</i>	Visit Inverness and Loch Ness		
Contact name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. postcode):</i>	Wasps, Midmills Bldg, Stephens St, Inverness IV2 3JP		
Email address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Organisation Website:	https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/		
Council Ward: <i>(check guidance for link)</i>	Inverness		
Does the main contact have any communication needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	X

What type of organisation are you? *(Please tick all that apply)*

Third Sector (voluntary or community) organisation		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes – Registration number		Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number SC474489	X
Other - please specify			

Amount applied for £20,000	
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Start date of project:	April 1 st 2025
End date of project:	31 st March 2024

Project summary – please provide a brief outline of your project and the outcomes it will deliver. *example:*

- *Aims of the project and how you are going to do it*
- *Is this a new project/service or an additional activity to an existing project or service?*
- *Help with running costs or for a specific project or activity?*
- *Please include details of how you know there is a need for this project*
- *Who will benefit? It is important to state in your application how your project will benefit the citizens of the City of Inverness*

Please note that the Council (ICGF) will be unable to provide any resources towards activities/items not specified on this form or supporting information

Attracting conferences and events is very positive for the area but this can only be successful by attracting conferences and events in the first place. Using a holistic approach, the Destination and business development manager will both attract and attend events, conferences and meeting to the region.

The benefit of applying for funding for business and incentive travel will be for the entire Inverness area and businesses within such as accommodation providers, venues with function spaces, transport providers, food and beverage outlets, local attractions and activity companies.

This is an opportunity to increase the awareness of Inverness as a go-to destination for Business Tourism and success would give us all a great story to tell. We will encourage all types of events with no barriers to any group.

This will include conference, meetings, conventions, incentive travel and sporting events – not just general tourism

Target business sectors:

1. Incentive Travel Buyers
2. Associations
3. Meeting Planners
4. Conference Planners

Target Markets:

1. North America
2. UK & Ireland – direct flight access (esp. London, Manchester, Dublin)
3. Europe
4. Asia – (esp. China)

We will do this by attending and supporting;

- Occasional trade show attendance both virtual and in person live events
- Increase awareness of Business Tourism opportunities in the area
- Support potential buyers with venue visits, proposals and funding applications
- Look for new business opportunities

Target Business	Event	Target Market
Incentive Travel Buyers	Visit Connect Scotland	Global
	World Travel Market attendance	Global
	Famtastic events – multiple	Global
	Global Incentive Summit	Global/ North America
Associations	Bringing Fam Trips and incentive buyers to Highlands, SITE Scotland local showcases	Global
	Membership to UK Inbound	Global
Meeting Planners	Visit Connect	Global
Conference Planners	Conference and Hospitality Show, Birmingham	UK market

Events coming to the city:

- DTTT Conference – October <https://www.thinkdigital.travel/campus/home> - The finances will be venue, catering and other key aspects related to the in-destination delivery of the event. **£5K estimated**
- UKInbound Conference (Possibly now Feb 2026 TBC) which will be a considerable amount – will need to be a separate application
- UKInbound Discover Programme – February 2025 – Applications are now in for £5K from Common Good and also HIE – expected to cost around £16-20K
<https://www.ukinbound.org/events/discover-inverness/>
- Visit Britain Fam Trip – Jan 27th 2025 – No cost to us at this point other than staff time
- Visit Scotland North of England Fam Trip – confirmed as Feb 23-25 2025 – Transport will need to be paid for so expect around **£1k** for this
- Possible Youth Summit conference in October 2025 TBC – Around £1k estimated for this, all TBC so not applying for funding at this point

Familiarization trips can be organized at any point in the year and where possible, we would like these in the shoulder months. We seek a pot of funding to enable this to happen as and when. A pot of around £10,000 would be a fantastic starting point for this.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness Business Plan strives to;

- Continue to work with members to retain existing Business Events, whilst identifying and developing new opportunities for the growth of conferencing and business events in the area
 - To work with our members in highlighting the benefits of working with the Travel Trade and ensuring they are equipped to make the most of the opportunities available
 - To respond to enquiries and provide support with proposals, contacts and funding options
- To promote the area as a location for television, movies & media. Assist with location finding/suggestions. Facilitate contact with local authority and landowners regarding approvals

By attending the proposed events, and bringing the proposed events to the destination, we are working towards these aims by;

- Representing businesses globally offering more opportunities for growth and creating new business relationships
- Bringing more business to the area itself, with fewer visits outwith the destination compared to previous years – focusing on who we can bring here and when
- Ensuring businesses that are travel trade ready are promoted as much as possible at travel trade shows
- Ensuring facilities on offer are promoted at shows we attend representing the destination
- Showcasing that Inverness is a fantastic conference location for organisations, and that with a little creative thinking, it could be just the location they have been looking for

With DTTT and UK Inbound conference already in the planning stages, we are confident we can bring more conferences, business events and familiarisation trips to the area. Fam trips – Visit Britain Brazilian, Visit Scotland North of England and UK Inbound Discover, are already planned before March, with more to come throughout the year, really focusing on out of season.

For 2024/2025 overview of business tourism expenditure, please see the dedicated sheet.

Please give a summary of expected outcomes from your project.

Please include details:

- *How your project will continue beyond the period of ICGF support?*
- *How your project or activity will help the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **Please Note** *you will be expected to submit an Evaluation Report (a form will be supplied) at the conclusion of your project and prior to the payment of the final instalment of grant.*
- **Please Note** *If successful your grant will be valid for a period of six months from the date of the letter confirming Project Funding your award. Extensions can be applied for in writing if made within the period of validity.*

The project on business events is hugely beneficial for local, economic growth and we will always strive to increase business to the area and economy within it. As laid out in the plans, we aim to cover different target markets to be able to represent the business sectors and represent our membership at Visit Inverness Loch Ness plus wider business. This includes accommodation, food and drink tourism, adventure tourism, conference and activity companies.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Events to attend (see above)	£14,000
Destination development events	£6,000
Pot for all incoming Familiarization Trips	£10,000
Total Project Cost	£30,000

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? <i>(What other organisations have you applied to?)</i>	Amount (£)	Confirmed
Visit Inverness Loch Ness	10,000	Yes
Total Match Funding	10,000	
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	20,000	
Own Contribution		
Total Project Funding	30,000	

If there is a shortfall in funding, how do you propose to fund it?

We are hopeful to apply for external funding with HIE. Members may also be expected to pay towards familiarisation trips within the region, as we do not have the cash to support.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	2014
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	Inverness and Loch Ness
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Inclusive to all
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	No
Has your organisation received any funding from the Inverness Common Good Fund over the last 3 years. If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	Yes - business events £20K each year Food and drink tourism – £10k for 2 years
Has your organisation received any other funding from the Highland Council or any Common Good Fund over the last 3 years? If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	ICGF/09/25

Committee: Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Date: 6 August 2025

Report Title: Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities 2026

Report By: Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider applications for Town Twinning funding from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Consider the funding requests listed in the attached Appendix 1;
- ii. make recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 18 August 2025 for £26,350 to be drawn from ICGF Reserves to fund the 2026 Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities.

3 Implications

3.1 Resource

There is £10k available in the Town Twinning budget and £6k available in the Civic Contingencies budget for 2025/26, the funding requests detailed in Appendix 1 amount to £26,350 and are in respect of activity taking place in 2026/27.

Noting that these funding requests are in excess of the available budgets for Town Twinning and the Civic Contingency and that these activities will take place next financial year 2026/27, should Members support these funding requests, a recommendation to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 18 August 2025 for the use of ICGF reserves will need to be made.

The Sub-Committee have no power to award grants in excess of the available budget.

- 3.2 **Legal** – All relevant Governance and Standing Orders will be complied with in respect of the civic event activity set out in this report. There are no other Legal implications contained in this report.

- 3.3 **Risk** - Projects have been impacted by recent rises in costs and steps have been taken to monitor deliverability. This will help ensure that funds awarded remain focused on supporting deliverable Town Twinning activity.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - Consideration will be given to ensuring that appropriate standards are applied to any town twinning activity approved for financial support from the Inverness Common Good Fund.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - Where appropriate, town twinning activity and civic events will comply with the Councils policy in respect of supporting Gaelic language and culture.

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 **Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary**
- 4.3.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken, and the conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.
- 4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that there are positive impacts identified in relation to socio economic impacts as a result of this funding request. Members are asked to consider the Integrated Impact Assessment Summary in **Appendix 2** to support the decision-making process.
- 4.3.3

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening/Full Assessment
Equality, poverty	<i>No impact</i>
Socio-economic	<i>Positive</i>
Human rights	<i>No impact</i>
Children's rights & well-being	<i>No impact</i>
Island and mainland rural	<i>No impact</i>
Climate change	<i>No impact</i>
Data rights	<i>No impact</i>

5 Background

- 5.1 Inverness and Augsburg, Germany, have a town twinning partnership that began in 1956. The twinning was established after a football match between the two cities. Whilst we are a smaller city with a tourist-driven economy and Augsburg is a larger city with a strong industrial base, the recent developments of the Freeport and UHI

Inverness have led Augsburg to have a significant interest in developing mutually beneficial economic links focussed on green energy.

- 5.2 The general aims and objectives of town twinning are to promote friendship, better mutual understanding and social, cultural and commercial exchange between the partners. This was initially intended to help post-war reconciliation and social reconstruction, but has evolved over time into an informal network and process for forging better pan-European education, understanding and social and commercial relationships at the grass roots level.
- 5.3 There is strong anecdotal evidence in Inverness of success in fulfilling these aims: as successive generations of school children, students and apprentices, sportsmen, musicians, youth organisations and other civic groups have enriched their lives and broadened their horizons through their international experiences. Tangible evidence of commercial benefits is harder to identify and impossible to quantify, although mutual promotion of tourism is a constant theme.

6 Proposed 2026 Town Twinning Activity

- 6.1 **Civic Exchange Visit** - A reciprocal exchange comprising of civic and citizen representatives is proposed to take place in May and July 2026 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Twinning arrangements between our two cities as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 6.2 **Augsburg Celebration of 70th Anniversary** - The Sporting Alliance Youth Exchange has been initiated by the Federation of Sports Clubs in Augsburg and will see reciprocal visits take place in May and June 2026 with up to 10 young people from Inverness travelling to Augsburg and a reciprocal group visiting from Augsburg. Full details are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 6.3 The proposed 2026 Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities set out in this report will underpin the Alliance between the two cities and is especially important, noting the 70th anniversary of the twinning alliance taking place in 2026.
- 6.4 Members are asked to support these Town Twinning activities and make a recommendation to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 18 August 2025 for £26,350 to be drawn from ICGF Reserves to fund the 2026 Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities.

Designation: Senior Community Development Manager Inverness and South

Date: 23 July 2025

Author: David Haas, Snr Community Development Manager
Lewis Hannah, Community Development Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Town Twinning Funding Requests
Appendix 2 - Integrated Impact Assessment Summary

Town Twinning Funding Requests

INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND HIGHLAND COUNCIL INTERNAL APPLICATION FORM

Applicants should note:

If applying for over £10,000 a report will also be required for the City of Inverness Area Committee.

The Inverness Common Good Fund cannot be used in place of Council funding.

Applicant	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South
Service and Service Function	Community Support & Ward Management, Place
Project	<p>Inverness: Augsburg Celebration of 70th Anniversary <u>Background</u> Inverness and Augsburg, Germany, have a town twinning partnership that began in 1956. The twinning was established after a football match between the two cities. Whilst we are a smaller city with a tourist-driven economy and Augsburg is a larger city with a strong industrial base, the recent developments of the Freeport and UHI Inverness have led Augsburg to have a significant interest in developing mutually beneficial economic links focussed on green energy.</p> <p>Augsburg stands at the intersection of major trade and travel routes and is the third largest city in Bavaria. In 1892 Rudolph Diesel invented the Diesel engine and the patent was given to the machine factory in Augsburg; eventually production spread around the world.</p> <p>Augsburg is an University City and administrative centre. It is an important location for advanced computer and electronics technology. At any one time a quarter of the population (some 60000 people) are taking an educational course.</p> <p>Germany's most beautiful Synagogue is in Augsburg and the Cathedral has five stained glass windows dating from the 11th Century.</p>

Town Twinning in Augsburg is the responsibility of the Mayor's office in the Rathouse.

Proposal

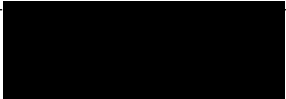

A reciprocal exchange comprising of civic and citizen representatives is proposed to take place in May and July 2026 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Twinning arrangements between our two cities.

1. Augsburg Invitation – the City of Augsburg are proposing to invite a civic/citizen delegation from the City of Inverness, led by the Provost, to visit in May 2026. Details to be confirmed but likely dates are May 7th to 11th inclusive.
2. Inverness Invitation – The Provost wishes to invite a civic/citizen delegation from the City of Augsburg led by Mayor Weber arriving Friday 10th July 2026, departing Tuesday 14th July to coincide with the Inverness Highland Games on Saturday 11th July.

We have suggested the following schedule for the visit:

Friday, 10 July 2026	Arrival in Inverness
Saturday, 11 July 2026	Participation in the Highland Games
Sunday, 12 July 2026	Cultural program in and around Inverness (including a visit to Loch Ness)
Monday, 13 July 2026	Expert talks regarding economic cooperation
Tuesday, 14 July 2026	Return to Augsburg

	<p>Town Twinning in Augsburg is the responsibility of the Mayor's office in the Rathouse.</p> <p><u>Proposal</u></p> <p>A reciprocal exchange comprising of civic and citizen representatives is proposed to take place in May and July 2026 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Twinning arrangements between our two cities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Augsburg Invitation – the City of Augsburg are proposing to invite a civic/citizen delegation from the City of Inverness, led by the Provost, to visit in May 2026. Details to be confirmed but likely dates are May 7th to 11th inclusive. 2. Inverness Invitation – The Provost wishes to invite a civic/citizen delegation from the City of Augsburg led by Mayor Weber arriving Friday 10th July 2026, departing Tuesday 14th July to coincide with the Inverness Highland Games on Saturday 11th July. <p>We have suggested the following schedule for the visit:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Friday, 10 July 2026</td><td>Arrival in Inverness</td></tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, 11 July 2026</td><td>Participation in the Highland Games</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, 12 July 2026</td><td>Cultural program in and around Inverness (including a visit to Loch Ness)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Monday, 13 July 2026</td><td>Expert talks regarding economic cooperation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday, 14 July 2026</td><td>Return to Augsburg</td></tr> </table>	Friday, 10 July 2026	Arrival in Inverness	Saturday, 11 July 2026	Participation in the Highland Games	Sunday, 12 July 2026	Cultural program in and around Inverness (including a visit to Loch Ness)	Monday, 13 July 2026	Expert talks regarding economic cooperation	Tuesday, 14 July 2026	Return to Augsburg
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Project Cost	<p>£20,000 for the reciprocal exchange noting that it is customary for the German delegation to include a maximum of 5 political representatives. This cost will also accommodate flight costs for the Inverness party for the reciprocal visit to Augsburg.</p> <p>Please note the above cost is inclusive of meals, travel and activities during their stay</p>										
Service Contribution	N/A										
Budget Holder											

Do you have Budget Holder/Committee approval? Preferably this should be agreed prior to lodging Application. Yes	
ICGF Contribution Requested	£12,000 to be drawn from reserves noting that there is insufficient funds in the Civic Contingencies budget and the importance of visit in the 70 th Anniversary year of the Twinning.
Other Funding/Partner Contribution	The city of Augsburg will be hosting a large group from the City of Inverness on a reciprocal basis.
Is this Other Funding/Partner Contribution approved? Yes	
Please note evidence will be required to be submitted.	
Justification for use of ICGF Funds (with focus on the benefit for the residents of the Burgh of Inverness)	Noting the significance of this Twinning Arrangement the application is competent as the links between the two cities bring a range of cultural and potentially economic benefit to the citizens of Inverness.
Signature	
Service Budget Holder Signature	
Date	11 June 2025



INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND HIGHLAND COUNCIL INTERNAL APPLICATION FORM


Applicants should note:

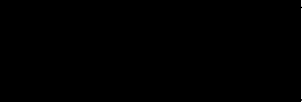
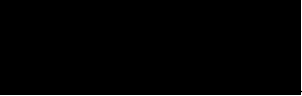
If applying for over £10,000 a report will also be required for the City of Inverness Area Committee.

The Inverness Common Good Fund cannot be used in place of Council funding.

Applicant	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South
Service and Service Function	Community Support & Ward Management, Place
Project	<p>Inverness: Augsburg Sporting Alliance Exchange</p> <p><u>Background</u> Inverness and Augsburg, Germany, have a town twinning partnership that began in 1956. The twinning was established after a football match between the two cities. Whilst we are a smaller city with a tourist-driven economy and Augsburg is a larger city with a strong industrial base, the recent developments of the Freeport and UHI Inverness have led Augsburg to have a significant interest in developing mutually beneficial economic links focussed on green energy.</p> <p>Augsburg stands at the intersection of major trade and travel routes and is the third largest city in Bavaria. In 1892 Rudolph Diesel invented the Diesel engine and the patent was given to the machine factory in Augsburg; eventually production spread around the world.</p> <p>Augsburg is a University City and administrative centre. It is an important location for advanced computer and electronics technology. At any one time a quarter of the population (some 60000 people) are taking an educational course. Germany's most beautiful Synagogue is in Augsburg and the Cathedral has five stained glass windows dating from the 11th Century.</p>

	<p>Town Twinning in Augsburg is the responsibility of the Mayor’s office in the Rathouse.</p> <p><u>Proposal</u></p> <p>The Sporting Alliance Youth Exchange has been initiated by the Federation of Sports Clubs in Augsburg and will see reciprocal visits take place in May and June 2026 with up to 10 young people from Inverness travelling to Augsburg and a reciprocal group visiting from Augsburg.</p> <p>This type of exchange underpins the Alliance between the two cities and is especially important, noting the 70th anniversary of the twinning alliance to be celebrated by the two cities in 2026, which is the subject of a separate application.</p> <p><u>Goals for this exchange would be:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting to know Inverness and Augsburg as our twin city and learning how sports clubs are structured, noting that the BSJ (Bavarian Sport Youth) function as a sports union for clubs that offer sports programmes specifically for the youth.• Volunteers attending who participate in the exchange will deliver a presentation and potentially an interactive lesson in their chosen discipline. This will include an exchange in training methods, giving an insight into how sports training works in our respective countries and will act to connect volunteers from the two countries• Additionally, it is hoped that the exchange will result in sustainable exchange arrangements being set up across a network of sports clubs within Inverness & Augsburg. <p><u>Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age – We are targeting young people within various sporting disciplines all who have shown an inclination to take up sport. We're not implementing an age limit, but we would prefer applicants that are under 30.• Group from Augsburg -> Inverness: we'd like to propose the 30th of May until the 6th of June 2026• Group from Inverness -> Augsburg: one week in between 20th of June and 25th of July 2026• The groups from both cities will be supported by a co-ordinator and Highlife Highland are working closely with us in this regard.						
Project Cost	<p>Any External Quotes should be submitted along with your Application.</p> <table><tr><th>Description</th><th>Cost Per Person</th><th>Total Cost</th></tr><tr><td>Return Flights from Inverness to Munich for our Party of 10</td><td>£400</td><td>£4000</td></tr></table>	Description	Cost Per Person	Total Cost	Return Flights from Inverness to Munich for our Party of 10	£400	£4000
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Return Flights from Inverness to Munich for our Party of 10	£400	£4000					

	Accommodation for visiting group from 30 th May 2026 to 6 th June 2026 – 7 nights	£400	£4000
	Food Allowance – 7 Days x 10	£ 400 per day	£ 2800
	Group Teambuilding Activity	£ 60	£ 1200
	Loch Ness Cruise	£ 35	£ 350
	Transport Costs		£ 2000
Total Proposed Costs		£ 14,350.00	
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be a reduction on accommodation costings, budget price is based on possible pricing increases before ability to confirm. • Flight costs based on current costings, may be opportunity to also save on these charges if booked early. • Teambuilding activity costings is based on all 20 guests attending. • Other activities would be sports based and arranged through Highlife Highland. 			
Service Contribution	N/A		
Budget Holder			
Do you have Budget Holder/Committee approval? Preferably this should be agreed prior to lodging Application. Yes			
ICGF Contribution Requested	£14,350 to be drawn from reserves noting that there is insufficient funds in the Civic Contingencies budget and the importance of this Youth exchange visit in the 70 th Anniversary year of the Twinning.		
Other Funding/Partner Contribution	The city of Augsburg will be hosting a large group from the City of Inverness on a reciprocal basis.		
Is this Other Funding/Partner Contribution approved? Yes			
Please note evidence will be required to be submitted.			
Justification for use of ICGF Funds (with focus on the benefit for the residents of	Noting the significance of this Twinning Arrangement the application is competent as the links between the two cities bring a range of cultural and potentially economic benefit to the citizens of Inverness.		

the Burgh of Inverness)	
Signature	
Service Budget Holder Signature	
Date	11 June 2025

Integrated Impact Assessment Summary

Socio-economic – There are positive socio-economic benefits connected with the funding requests presented in this report. The 2026 Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities proposed within this report will enhance the established economic links with Augsburg which will continue to provide benefits to the citizens of Inverness in terms of the cultural and potentially economic links between our two areas.