

Agenda Item	10C
Report No	CIA/35/25

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 18 August 2025

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

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current applications for grant funding over £10,000 to be determined by Committee and updates the Committee of the recommendations made by the ICGF Sub Committee.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee of 6 May 2025 considered all applications presented on their merits. On this occasion there were insufficient funds available in the ICGF budget to fund all approved applications under 'Poverty and Inequality' category.
- 1.3 The Sub Committee agreed to support those applications with a reduced amount allowing applications to be supported.
- 1.4 There was sufficient budget available under 'Other' Grants and Conference Funding categories to proceed as usual and make recommendations for full amounts applied for.
- 1.5 The application detailed in **Appendix 2** has been recommended to be drawn down from the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) allocated for the City and Area.
- 1.6 The balance after awards are considered for the Other Grants category is £0.042m. The Sub-Committee wishes to reallocate £0.030m from Other Grants to Poverty and Inequality noting that the current balance following awards is £300.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
 - i. **Consider** the application detailed in Appendix 2 noting that if approved, funding would be drawn down from the Community Regeneration Fund allocation to Inverness and Area;
 - ii. **Consider** the application for funding detailed in Appendix 3;
 - iii. **Consider** the applications for funding in support of our Town Twinning arrangements with Augsburg in Appendix 4 noting that approval will require funds to be drawn down from reserve balances; and
 - iv. **Agree** to transfer £0.030m from Other Grants to Poverty and Inequality.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource - ICGF** funding is provided by the Inverness Common Good Fund budget for 2025/26. Members are reminded that the Grants Budget was allocated £0.160m for Poverty and Inequality projects and £0.080m for all other requests. The 2025/26 ICGF budget also contained provision for £0.030m conference Support and £0.065m City Destination Projects. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee (The Sub-Committee) have taken steps to carefully assess each application as to which category it sits within to ensure an appropriate allocation of funds.
- 3.1.1 **Budget Reallocation** - The balance after awards are considered for the Other Grants category is £0.042m. The Sub-Committee wishes to reallocate £0.030m from Other Grants to Poverty and Inequality noting that the current balance following awards is £300.
- 3.1.2 **CRF** - Within Inverness and Area the following CRF funding for 2025/26 is shown in the table below:-

HCCF- Tranche 5	Revenue or Capital	£58,506.74
HCCF – Tranche 6	Revenue or Capital	£59,536.16
PBIP (confirmed to date) 2025/26	Capital only	£303,270.07

Therefore, presently Members have a total of £421,312.97 available to allocate.

In line with the process agreed at the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) on 19 May 2025, the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee (ICGF) will make recommendations on project approvals and funding awards from the Community Regeneration Fund. Final decisions on project approvals remains with the CIAC. The agreed priority outcome for CRF funding in the Inverness area is projects that meet the outcome of reducing poverty and inequality.

- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no legal implications as a result of this report.
- 3.3 **Risk** - There are no known risk implications in respect of this report.
- 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 projects that are approved for grant support come at all in terms of Council policy.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** – Applications, if successful, will be required to meet expectations set by Council Policy in this regard.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

- 4.3 A separate screening for impact for each project is not required, however applications applying to the ICGF must specifically show how their project or activity will help the Council meet its public sector equality duty, including how it may address any barriers and promote social inclusion. This supports the decision-making process.
- 4.4 Impact assessment screening was carried out in respect of the 2025/26 ICGF Budget including the grants funding categories. The outcome of this screening was detailed in the ICHG budget setting report to this Committee in February 2025.

5 Grant Applications

- 5.1 The current summary of funds available following the Sub-Committee meeting on 6 August 2025 is set out within **Appendix 1**.
- 5.2 **Appendices 2, 3 and 4** include details of current grant applications for more than £10,000. Members are invited to consider the applications detailed in sections 5.3 and 5.4.
- 5.3 Partnership Working Applications
- i. **Inverness BID Ltd (Appendix 2)** - The Sub-Committee recommends approval of a grant of **£17,950** to be drawn down from the CRF towards the Best Foot Forward Project; and
 - ii. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness (Appendix 3)** - The Sub-Committee recommends approval of a grant of **£20,000** towards Business Tourism to be drawn from the City Destination Projects Budget.
- 5.4 **Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities 2026 (Appendix 4)** - The Sub-Committee recommends approval of:-
- i. **Inverness: Augsburg Celebration of 70th Anniversary Reciprocal Exchange - £12,000;** and
 - ii. **Inverness: Augsburg Sporting Alliance Exchange - £14,350**

The report to the Sub-Committee is also attached within **Appendix 4** to give further information on the exchange visits. Noting that the Provost has been invited to Augsburg by way of reciprocal celebration.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 7 August 2025

Author: Lewis Hannah, Community Development Manager
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(Inverness and South)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICGF resources available for allocation
Appendix 2 – Inverness BID Ltd Application
Appendix 3 – Visit Inverness Loch Ness Application
Appendix 4 – Town Twinning Augsburg Anniversary Year Activities 2026 Report and Applications

APPENDIX 1

Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available		Poverty & Inequality	160,000		
		Other	80,000		240,000
Carry Forward from 2024/25					
		Poverty & Inequality	66402		
		Other	21031		87,433
					327,433
Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting		
(Committed from previous financial years)					
	Grants < £10k		38,683		
	Grants > £10k		<u>48,750</u>		87,433
					240,000
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	53,371			
Other	Grants < £10k	<u>35,300</u>	88,671		151,329
19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee -					
Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880		87,449
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	42,444			
Other	Grants < £10k	2,750	45,194		42,255
Poverty & Inequality Grants					
					160,000
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
	Grants < £10k	53,371	53,371		106,629
19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee					
	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880		42,749
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
	Grants > £10k	42,444	42,444		305
Other Grants					
					80,000
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
	Grants < £10k	35,300	35,300		44,700
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee					
	Grants < £10k	2,750	2,750		41,950

Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants				
Available Resource for Allocation				£
Budget Balance Available			30,000	
Carry Forward from 2023/24			<u>9,600</u>	39,600
Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)			<u>9,600</u>	30,000
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000	21,000
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	8,688	8,688	12,312

Inverness Common Good Fund - Partnership Working Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

City Desination Projects	80,000
Operation Respect - Community Safety	11,000
Operation Respects Campaigns	25,000
City Flowering	75,000
Budget Balance Available	191,000

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for Meeting	
City of Inverness Area Committee 3				
February 2025				
City Destination Projects	Grants > £10k	50,897		
Operation Respect - Community Safety	Grants > £10k	10,750		
Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants > £10k	14,804		
City Flowering	Grants > £10k	77,144	153,595	37,405

06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund				
Sub-Committee				
Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants < £10k	4,970	4970	32,435

City of Inverness Area Committee 18				
August 2025 - Recommended for Approval				
City Destination Projects	Grants > £10k	20,000	20000	12,435