

Agenda Item	8
Report No	ICGF/09/25

The Highland Council

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



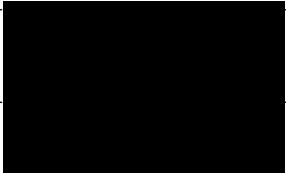
**INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND
HIGHLAND COUNCIL INTERNAL APPLICATION FORM**

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.

	<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" data-bbox="493 1012 1378 1500"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 1012 774 1102">Friday, 10 July 2026</td><td data-bbox="774 1012 1378 1102">Arrival in Inverness</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 1102 774 1192">Saturday, 11 July 2026</td><td data-bbox="774 1102 1378 1192">Participation in the Highland Games</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 1192 774 1327">Sunday, 12 July 2026</td><td data-bbox="774 1192 1378 1327">Cultural program in and around Inverness (including a visit to Loch Ness)</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 1327 774 1417">Monday, 13 July 2026</td><td data-bbox="774 1327 1378 1417">Expert talks regarding economic cooperation</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="493 1417 774 1500">Tuesday, 14 July 2026</td><td data-bbox="774 1417 1378 1500">Return to Augsburg</td></tr> </tbody> </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**

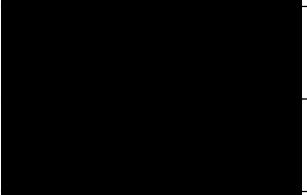
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	<p>Town Twinning in Augsburg is the responsibility of the Mayor's office in the Rathouse.</p> <p><u>Proposal</u></p> <p>The Sporting Alliance Youth Exchange has been initiated by the Federation of Sports Clubs in Augsburg and will see reciprocal visits 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 border="1" data-bbox="504 1866 1378 2050"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="504 1866 949 1949">Description</th><th data-bbox="949 1866 1203 1949">Cost Per Person</th><th data-bbox="1203 1866 1378 1949">Total Cost</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="504 1949 949 2050">Return Flights from Inverness to Munich for our Party of 10</td><td data-bbox="949 1949 1203 2050">£400</td><td data-bbox="1203 1949 1378 2050">£4000</td></tr> </tbody> </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	
	Notes:		
	<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	[REDACTED]		
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	
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Signature	
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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 Ausburg which will continue to provide benefits to the citizens of Inverness in terms of the cultural and potentially economic links between our two areas.