

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	6
Report No	SR/27/25

Committee: Isle of Skye & Raasay

Date: 1 December 2025

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund – Funding request

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 To present current funding requests to the Isle of Skye & Raasay Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) allocation for discussion and decision by Members.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **agree** to approve an award of £50,000 of CRF to the Young Carers New Build – Design Stage 4 project, subject to approval of the funding proposal submitted for consideration as part of the Islands Programme 2025/26.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – Isle of Skye & Raasay area has available funding of £517,973.29 from the current CRF allocation. Grant requests under consideration total £50,000 therefore there are no resource implications in approving the CRF funding award 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 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 advance 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** - No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.

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/organizations' 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:-

- Increasing community resilience.
- Tackling poverty & inequality.
- Addressing the causes of rural depopulation.
- Helping economic recovery & sustaining growth.
- Tackling the climate emergency and working towards net zero.

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:

- Sustainable/viable.
- Providing value for money.
- Providing additionality.
- Able to evidence positive impacts and wide community benefit.

- 5.3 Within Isle of Skye and Raasay, the table below highlights the funding remaining available for investment:-

HCCF (actual as at 10.11.25)	£517,973.29*
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**includes annual allocation amounts and amounts generated through underspends.*

One request is under consideration by Members today with a total grant request value of £50,000.

6 Islands Programme – Young Carers New Build – Design Stage 4

- 6.1 The Islands Programme is a Scottish Government challenge fund, underpinned by the National Islands Plan identified objectives, and aimed at improving community resilience and developing critical infrastructure on Scottish islands. The 2025/26 Islands Programme closed for applications on 22 July 2025.

Four applications in total were submitted for consideration, one of which is from the Young Carers New Build – Design Stage 4 project. This is the final design phase for the Young Carers new build project – led by the Skye and Lochalsh Community Care Forum – which will support the completion of the detailed building warrant drawings and tendering documentation for the capital phase of the build.

- 6.2 The total value of the work for this project is £129,735. This report seeks to secure the match funding to deliver the project, subject to approval of the Islands Programme grant award request of £70,000, and to agree this will be funded via an award of £50,000 from the Isle of Skye and Raasay CRF allocation. The balance of £9,735 is the subject of a current application to Skye Renewables.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 10 November 2025

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Background Papers: None

Appendices: None