

Agenda Item	13d
Report No	CIA/18/26

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area

**Date:** 2 February 2026

**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 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee.

## 2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Consider** the 4 applications for funding detailed in Appendix 2 relating to the 2026/27 budget;
- ii. **Consider** the application for funding in support of the Inverness Gull Project 2025/26 Q4; and
- iii. **Consider** the application for funding in support of the Inverness in Bloom – Community Grow Project noting that this application had been agreed in principle subject to the 2026/27 budget being available.

## 3 Implications

3.1 **Resource - ICGF** Subject to Committee approving the Common Good Fund Budget for 2026/27 funds will be provided from the 2028/27 budget after 1 April 2026.

Inverness Gull Project Q4 - £5k is available from the Other Grants (£1k) and Conference Support (£4k). If Members were to agree this application, then these balances would be utilised, with the sum of £4,763 being drawn from reserves.

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 2026/27 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 2026.

In addition, Impact assessment screening was carried out in respect of the applications presented by Inverness BID within the covering report contained within **Appendix 2**.

## **5 Grant Applications**

5.1 The current summary of funds available following the Sub-Committee meeting on 27 October 2025 is set out within **Appendix 1**.

### **Inverness BID – Partnership Working – 2026/27**

The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee made the following recommendations regarding the applications submitted by Inverness BID as detailed in **Appendix 2**:-

- a. Operation Respect Easter/Summer/Autumn 2026 – **£24,328 – Approval** from the Operation Respect Campaigns Budget;
- b. Safe Inverness Project 2026/27 - **£12,995 – Approval** from the Operation Respect Community Safety Budget;
- c. Coach and Visitor Ambassador Project 2026 - **£28,500 – Approval** from City Destination Projects Budget;
- d. Inverness City Centre Gift Card - **£9,500 Approval** from the City Destination Project Budget subject to the receipt of further information clarifying economic benefit to the city; and
- e. Inverness in Bloom – Community Grow Project – **£69,428 - Approval** from the City Flowering Budget

If the Committee approves the applications funding would be provided from the 2026/27 Budget subject to the approval of the 2026/27 Budget.

### 5.3 Inverness Gull Project 2025/26 Q4

The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee made the following recommendation regarding the application submitted by Inverness BID for the Inverness Gull Project 2025/26 Q4 as detailed in **Appendix 2:-**

- **£9,763 – Approval** - £5,000 drawn from the Other Grants (£1k) and Conference Support (£4k) and £4,763 being drawn from reserves.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 15 January 2026

Author: David Haas, Senior Community Development Manager  
(City of Inverness & South)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICGF Resources available for allocation  
Appendix 2 – Inverness BID Grant Applications 2026/27 Report

**APPENDIX 1**

**Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants  
Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available

Poverty & Inequality	160,000	
Other	80,000	<b>240,000</b>

Carry Forward from 2024/25

Poverty & Inequality	66402	
Other	21031	87,433
		<b>327,433</b>

<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Total for meeting</b>
(Committed from previous financial years)	Grants < £10k	38,683	
	Grants > £10k	<u>48,750</u>	87,433
			<b>240,000</b>

**06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	53,371	
Other	Grants < £10k	<u>35,300</u>	88,671

**19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee -**

Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880	<b>87,449</b>
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**06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	42,444		
Other	Grants < £10k	2,750	45,194	<b>42,255</b>

**27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	17,150		
Other	Grants < £10k	9,948	27,098	<b>15,157</b>

**Homologated 12/01/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	6000	6000	<b>9,157</b>
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**12/01/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Other	Grants < £10k	1000	1000	<b>8,157</b>
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<b>Poverty &amp; Inequality Grants</b>				<b>160,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants < £10k	53,371	53,371	<b>106,629</b>
<b>19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee</b>				
	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880	<b>42,749</b>
<b>06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants > £10k	42,444	42,444	<b>305</b>
<b>18/08/25 City of Inverness Area Committee</b>				
	Transfer from Other Grants		30,000	<b>30,305</b>
<b>27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants > £10k	17,150	17,150	<b>13,155</b>
<b>To be Homologated 12/01/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	6000	6000	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Other Grants</b>				<b>80,000</b>
<b>06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants < £10k	35,300	35,300	<b>44,700</b>
<b>06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants < £10k	2,750	2,750	<b>41,950</b>
<b>18/08/25 City of Inverness Area Committee</b>				
	Transfer to Poverty & Inequality		30,000	<b>11,950</b>
<b>27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee</b>				
	Grants < £10k	9,948	9,948	<b>2,002</b>

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# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

**Date:** 12 January 2026

**Report Title:** Inverness BID Grant Applications 2026/27

**Report By:** Senior Community Development Manager – Inverness & South

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report invites Members to consider applications from Inverness BID.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Members are asked to consider the applications from Inverness BID as detailed in the Appendices to this report and to make a recommendation to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 2 February 2026 to either accept or refuse the applications for funding; and
- ii. Consider the application contained in Appendix 6 noting the available budgets remaining within the Poverty & Inequality and Conference Funding budgets.

## 3. Implications

3.1 **Resource** - Members will be invited to approve the inclusion of a Resilient Inverness Budget when the 2025/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Budget is presented to the meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee on 2 February 2026. The applications can be accommodated in the event of the budget being approved however, should it be adjusted, it may be necessary to reduce the awards made within this report on a pro rata basis.

3.2 **Legal** - Grant conditions require recipients to meet all legal obligations ensuring that the funds allocated are applied to the relevant project.

3.4 **Risk – None**

3.5 **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.

3.6 **Gaelic** - Where appropriate, projects are required to meet with the Council's 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 on 15 December 2025. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.

4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that there are no negative impacts of these projects. 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

Members are asked to consider the summary in **Appendix 1** to support the decision-making process.

4.3.3

<b>Impact Assessment Area</b>	<b>Conclusion of Screening/Full Assessment</b>
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People – <i>no impact</i></li> <li>• Children affected by disability – <i>no impact</i></li> <li>• Older adults – <i>no impact</i></li> </ul>
Socio-economic	<i>no impact</i>
Human Rights	<i>no impact</i>
Children's Rights and 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 BID have submitted four applications for funding from the Inverness Common Good Fund for 2026

1. Operation Respect Task Team Easter/Summer/Autumn 2026 see **Appendix 2**
2. Safe Inverness Project 2026 see **Appendix 3**
3. Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project 2026 see **Appendix 4**
4. Inverness City Centre Gift Card see **Appendix 5**

5.2 **Appendix 6** contains an application which relates specifically to the Q4 Gull Management Programme City Centre (and Immediate Surrounding Area). The request covers work through February and March which act as early prevention works.

5.3 **Appendix 7** contains an application for Inverness in Bloom – Community Grow Project which was considered at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and recommended for approval to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 which was then subsequently approved in principle.

5.4 **Appendix 8** contains supporting information relating to the applications.

5.4 A total of £144,752 (including the Inverness in Bloom application) is being applied for (as detailed in **Appendix 9**). This is a decrease of £8,843 on the 2025/26 approvals based on no forthcoming Gull Project 2026 application. Discussions involving Council officers, Inverness BID and NatureScot are ongoing in relation to the preparation of a Gull Management plan for the City. This will be presented to Members potentially to CIAC set for 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The Plan will set out a considered approach and will include a Gull Action Plan for 2026. It is anticipated that funding will be sourced from NatureScot, the Council with a request for an element of funding being made to the ICGF.

## 6. Partnership Working

6.1 The Partnership with BID is now well established. Members should be aware that the proposals within this report are subject to the funds being confirmed within the ICGF 2026/27 budget which is set to be presented to CAIC on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. In the event of the Sub-committee wishing to support approval of all the applications approval may leave any further partnership applications to be financed from other potential budgets such as the grants budget.

## 7. BID Projects 2025/26

7.1 Comparative costs per project are set out in **Appendix 10**.

Designation: Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness & South

Date: 16 December 2025

Author: David Haas, Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness & South  
Mark Greig, Community Development Manager, Inverness & South

Background Papers:

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment  
 Appendix 2 – Operation Respect Easter, Summer, Autumn 2026  
 Appendix 3 – Safe Inverness 2026-27  
 Appendix 4 – Coach Friendly Project 2026  
 Appendix 5 – Inverness City Centre Gift Card  
 Appendix 6 – Q4 Gull Management Programme City Centre 2025  
 Appendix 7 – Inverness in Bloom – Community Grow Project  
 Appendix 8 – Supporting Information  
 Appendix 9 – Bid Applications 2026  
 Appendix 10 – Comparison 2026/27 and 2025/26

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening

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## About proposal

**What does this proposal relate to?** Inverness Common Good Fund Applications

**Proposal name:** Inverness BID Grant Application 2026/27

**High level summary of the proposal:** Multiple applications to the Inverness Common Good Fund which provide additionality to city centre vibrancy and tourism.

**Who may be affected by the proposal?** users of the Inverness City Centre which include children, young people, tourists, business staff, and older people.

**Start date of proposal:** 01/04/2026

**End date of proposal:**

**Does this proposal result in a change or impact to one or more Council service?** No

**Does this relate to an existing proposal?** No

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## Author details

**Name:** Mark Greig

**Job title:** Community Development Manager

**Email address:** Mark.Greig@highland.gov.uk

**Service:** Place

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## Responsible officer details

**Name:** David Haas

**Job title:** Senior Community Development Manager

**Email address:** David.Haas@highland.gov.uk

**Sign off date:** 2025-12-15

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## Equalities, poverty, and human rights

### Protected characteristics

Select what impact the proposal will have on the following protected characteristics:

**Sex:** Positive

**Age:** Positive

**Disability:** Positive

**Religion or belief:** Positive

**Race:** Positive

**Sexual orientation:** Positive

**Gender reassignment:** Positive

**Pregnancy and maternity:** Positive

**Marriage and civil partnership:** Positive

**Protected characteristics impact details:**

## **Poverty and socio-economic**

What impact is the proposal likely to have on the following?

**Prospects and opportunities:** No impact

**Places:** No impact

**Financial:** No impact

**Poverty and socio-economic impact details:**

## **Human rights**

**Which of the below human rights will be affected by this proposal?** Other human rights will be affected

**What impact do you consider this proposal to have on the human rights of people?** No impact

**Human rights impact details:**

## **Equalities, poverty and human rights screening assessment**

**What impact do you think there will be to equalities, poverty and human rights?** No impact

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No

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## **Children's rights and wellbeing**

**What likely impact will the proposal have on children and young people?**

**Which of the below children's rights will be affected by the proposal?** No children's rights will be affected

**Explain how the children's rights selected above will be affected:**

### **Children's rights and wellbeing screening assessment**

**What impact do you think there will be to children's rights and wellbeing?** No impact

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No

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## **Data protection**

**Will your proposal involve processing personal data?** Yes

**Is any of this data already processed by the Highland Council?** Yes

**What is the purpose of the personal data being processed?** Financial data within the applications

**Is there an up-to-date privacy notice available on the Highland Council website?** Yes

### **Data protection screening assessment**

**What change will there be to the way personal data is processed?** Significant change to current processing

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No

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## **Island and mainland rural communities**

**Does your proposal impact island and mainland rural communities?** No

### **Island and mainland rural communities screening assessment**

**What impact do you think there will be to island and mainland rural communities?** No difference

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No

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## **Climate change**

**Does the proposal involve activities that could impact on greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e)?** No

**Does the proposal have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?** No

**Does the proposal have the potential to influence resilience to extreme weather or changing**

**climate? No**

**Provide information regarding your selection above:**

**Climate change screening assessment**

**Have you identified potential impact for any of the areas above or marked any as not known? No**

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No**



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Operation Respect Spring, Summer, Autumn 2026		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Wider City		
<b>Contact Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      X			

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>	<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>	<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>		

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£24,327.90
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
<b>End Date of Project</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 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

The Operation Respect, City Centre Programme has operated very successfully during the Easter, Summer, Autumn and Winter school holiday periods for the past 14+ years.

The community safety initiative aligns closely with the aims of the Inverness Community Partnership, the respective Inverness Locality Plans and the wider partner Operation Respect programme, all of which focus on improving community safety, reducing anti-social behaviour and enhancing public reassurance within the City Centre and wider city.

For 2026, alongside its established safety and reassurance objectives, the project will incorporate a strengthened role in promoting community cohesion including to reduce incidents of hate crime through increased public awareness, positive engagement, and early identification of emerging concerns.

The Project Team will also work with partners to provide reassurance, guidance and support to individuals or groups who may be impacted by community tensions or targeted behaviour including regular messaging on how to report incidents.

This additional focus reflects the changing nature of City Centre policing and public safety, with increases in protests, spontaneous gatherings and wider societal pressures that can affect the urban environment.

At the time of application, the Operation Respect partnership are due to launch the NO PLACE FOR HATE campaign, w/c 15<sup>th</sup> December 2026 and this coordinated approach will be key for the funded period in 2026 to build on this collaborative and measured response to any emerging or escalating issues.

The Task Team will therefore continue to provide a visible presence but will also contribute to early intervention through dialogue, education and signposting where appropriate.

Working closely with Police Scotland, Highland Council services and community partners, the Team will offer a responsive and flexible resource capable of adapting to community need as circumstances evolve.

### **New Project or Additional Activity:**

This is not a new project but the continuation and extension of an established and highly effective operational element of the Operation Respect City Centre Programme.

For 2026, the project reflects expanded responsibilities and measures (presence) due to the evolving needs of the City Centre, particularly in relation to ASB, retail crime, community cohesion and rising public concern about hate-related incidents.

These additional conditions do not alter the core purpose of the Task Team but ensure the project remains necessary to be responsive to current conditions and able to support the community holistically.

### **Support Requested: Running Costs or Specific Activity**

Funding is requested to support the running costs of delivering the BID Security Task Team during the Easter, Summer and Autumn 2026 deployment periods. This includes the operational resource required to maintain a two-person Team at key times 6-7 days per week, with the capacity to provide additional support where necessary in response to emerging issues such as protests, heightened tensions or unplanned incidents requiring immediate intervention.

No costs beyond those directly related to the delivery of this project are being sought at this time but if minded to support the application we trust elected members will be understanding that there are at the time of writing a number of unknowns in terms of the extent that additional security will be needed.

For example; provision of the May to July 2025 pilot was essential.

### **Evidence of Need**

The requirement for this project continues to be clearly demonstrated by operational data, business and partner feedback.

Street Scene was a successful pilot funded by ICGF and Police Scotland in 2025-26.

Over the three-week period Inverness BID worked with over 30 partners to provide a suite of diversionary activities to reduce youth anti-social behaviour in the city centre. During this period over 400 youths attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from the youths themselves, police, businesses and schools.

During the pilot there was no recorded ASB on day one, 2 incidents on day two and no incidents on day three. Street Scene was developed to build positive relationships between young people, businesses and the emergency services while giving them the opportunity to engage with youth charities.

In the summer several elected members undertook a walk round of the city centre to hear of the anti-social behaviour that retailers must deal with first hand.

One national retailer of that engaged with the councillors following street scene explained the difference the initiative made:

'We'd love to see 'Street Scene' continue as it made such a positive impact on the High Street.'

The recent 'Street Scene' initiative in Inverness City Centre made a colossal difference on each of the Friday's it was running! We had no trouble outside our shop as we usually do, which was really surprising and exciting for us to witness!'

Throughout 2025 the Team managed 233 recorded incidents involving criminal behaviour, anti-social conduct, disturbances and retail crime. They also addressed public safety concerns such as nuisance busking, aggressive begging and alcohol or drug-related incidents. They were also on hand to help locals and visitors to Inverness. Only the most serious incidents were recorded but the Task Team presence cannot be underestimated in terms of operational effectiveness of ensuring a safe and connected city centre.

In recent months, increases in public protests, demonstrations and politically or socially motivated gatherings have highlighted the need to remain alert to how such activity may affect the City Centre environment. While the Task Team have not been deployed during these events to date, the situation will continue to be monitored throughout 2026. Should community tensions, public reassurance needs or wider impacts require additional visibility or support at any stage.

Similarly, increasing national attention on hate crime and community division highlights the need for local early intervention. A visible, trusted and approachable Task Team helps to reassure affected individuals and enables quicker reporting, response and support.

## Who Will Benefit

The project delivers benefits across the whole City Centre community:

- **Residents of Inverness**, through a safer, more cohesive environment with reduced anti-social behaviour and improved community relations.
- **Local businesses and employees**, who receive rapid support for incidents affecting their premises or staff, including issues linked to tensions, protests or targeted behaviours.
- **Visitors**, who benefit from enhanced safety, reassurance and assistance during periods of high footfall.
- **Individuals or groups vulnerable to hate-related incidents**, who will receive increased visibility of support, awareness messaging and improved early intervention.
- **Partner agencies**, including Police Scotland and local authority teams, who are supported by an additional dedicated resource helping to manage both routine and emerging issues.
- **The wider economy**, with tourism, hospitality and retail strengthened by a safe and welcoming City Centre atmosphere.

With the opening of the Northern Meeting Park and Inverness Castle Experience during the 2026 programme period, increased visitor numbers and footfall will heighten the importance of maintaining a strong, proactive safety and cohesion presence as incidents of concern can also impact on the wider economy and/or give a negative impression of the city.

## Additional Information

The 2026 programme will operate during the Easter holiday period, the Summer holiday period covering the Scottish and UK school holidays, and the Autumn holiday periods. Additional PPE and new Uniforms are required to ensure that the security teams remain professional and fully

equipped to undertake the role. Additional training is required to assist the Teams to play a role in community cohesion and to help ensure that safety can be ensured for all.

These are the times at which the City Centre requires the most intensive reassurance presence. The Task Team will remain flexible in 2026 to be able to respond to unplanned issues that may arise due to increased protest activity, community tensions or wider social pressures that impact the City Centre.

Prevention, partnership working, education, raising awareness and bringing people together via the Operation Respect Partnerships will be a further element of the 2026 programme in line with ongoing NO PLACE FOR HATE foundations.

All activities within this proposal are fully defined within the submission, and no funding is requested for activity out with the stated scope herein.

**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?*

Inverness BID is also seeking external support to deliver a Street Scene 2026 programme, during term time. While Street Scene and the Security Task Team have distinct purposes, the programmes are complimentary and operate in support of one another in terms of aims and objectives.

When Street Scene is funded and operating, BID is able to invest in additional Task Team presence out with the ICGF-funded Operation Respect deployment periods i.e. term time.

This allows the City Centre via BID to respond more effectively to emerging issues, seasonal fluctuations and periods of increased business or public concern, particularly during times of high footfall. External Street Scene investment strengthens the overall delivery of community safety and reassurance across the year without duplication.

BID and businesses also continue to match fund, in so far as resources allow the current programme.

Public Sector Equality Duty:

This project assists the Council in meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty in several key-ways:

**Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation:** the Task Team contribute to a safer, more inclusive City Centre by supporting early intervention in incidents of anti-social behaviour and helping to deter harassment. In 2026 the Team will also support efforts to increase awareness of hate crime, encourage reporting and provide reassurance to individuals or groups affected by hostility or targeted behaviour.

**Advancing equality of opportunity:** A visible and approachable safety presence helps all users of the City Centre, including disabled people, older residents, young families, minority groups and visitors who may feel less confident or secure in busy environments. Their ambassadorial

role and assistance to the public improve access and confidence in using the City Centre.

**Fostering good relations between communities:** Through daily engagement with businesses, residents and visitors, the Team help build trust, reduce tensions and support positive interactions across different groups. Their role in promoting community cohesion, particularly at times of heightened sensitivity or increased public gatherings, strengthens overall community wellbeing.

By contributing to a safe, welcoming and equitable environment, the project directly supports the Highland Council's duty to promote equality and uphold the rights and dignity of all who use the City Centre.

## PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Task Team	<b>£28,637</b>
No Place for Hate (Additional Campaign Activity – 2026 including Training)	<b>£1,000</b>
Communications, Additional PPE and Uniform (Clothing)	<b>£2,049</b>
	<b>£31,686</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£31,686</b>

## PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Inverness BID Ltd	<b>£7,358.10</b>	Yes
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	<b>£7,358.10</b>	Yes
<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	<b>£24,327.90</b>	
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>£31,686.00</b>	

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

## About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008
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<p><b>What geographic area does your organisation cover?</b></p> <p>Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.</p>		Academy Street Academy Street Arcade Bank Lane Bank Street Baron Taylor's Street Bridge Street Castle Street Castle Wynd Church Lane Church Street Drummond Street Eastgate Eastgate Shopping Centre	Falcon Square Falconer Building Fraser Street High Street Inglis Street Lombard Street Manse Place Margaret Street Market Brae Market Close Market Hall Millburn Road Post Office Avenue	Queensgate Queensgate Arcade Railway Terrace Raining Stairs Rose Street School Lane Station Square Stephen's Street Stephen's Brae Strothers Lane Union Street Victorian Market
<p><b>What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?</b></p>				<p>We work with the Inverness city centre business community and the wider public who use the area, including young people, families, older people and visitors.</p> <p>It is important that community cohesion measures are extended in 2026 and this will include additional activities such as No Place for Hate campaign and actions, as it is concerning that there has been a reported increase in race related incidents, See It? Report It! campaigns, as well as a Youth Operation Respect extension of activities for young people.</p> <p>The Task Team further have been integral in keeping vulnerable people safe at busy periods including assisting for example to help locate a missing child or adult with dementia in the centre, when they become lost from care givers.</p>
<p><b>Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.</b></p>	<p>Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible to apply for BID membership. Associate Members have the option to join BID.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>Yes please see attached Appendix A.</p>			

## Bank Details

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<b>Name of Bank</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Sort Code</b>	[REDACTED]

### 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>OR</b>	
For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's Constitution/Company Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND (if applicable)</b>	
Three quotes for goods or services	
<b>AND</b>	
A Business Plan (where requested)	
<b>AND</b>	
Any other supporting information	

**Declaration:** We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award.

The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same, signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:**

**Print Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatory 2:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatures:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Role:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">Privacy Notice</a>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	SAFE Inverness 2026-27		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Wider City		
<b>Contact Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	X

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>		<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>		<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>			

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£12,995
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
<b>End Date of Project</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2027

**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

### **Background and Context**

SAFE Inverness is a partnership-led community safety project delivered by Inverness BID on behalf of the city centre business community and wider partners. The initiative has developed and evolved from earlier community safety arrangements and, since 2023, has been fully aligned with the Inverness Community Partnership (ICP) following the integration of the former Inverness Community Safety Partnership.

BID acts as a central coordination and key activity and intelligence point for community safety across the city centre, working closely with Police Scotland, Highland Council, NHS Highland, the Third Sector and others.

The project delivers the day-to-day city centre safety management and coordination function including the Crime Reduction Partnership, Pub Watch (secretariat), Best Bar None accreditation scheme, City Centre Task Group, Retail Security Group, Operation Respect, Operation Youth Respect, and coordination/management of the responsive, seasonal BID Security Task Team.

SAFE Inverness ensures that businesses and partners have a clear and trusted way to raise issues, influence local responses and shape city centre safety priorities and activities. SAFE Inverness also plays a key role in public reassurance, information sharing (via the dedicated SAFE Inverness database), early intervention, and overall helps to keep our centre as safe, connected and well-managed, within current resources as possible.

### **Project Aims**

**Keep the city centre safe:** Delivers practical, coordinated action that reduces crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder in and around the city centre.

**Be a key point of contact for businesses on safety issues:** Give businesses a clear route to report concerns, share information, be assisted with raising issues and an opportunity to influence local responses.

**Support partners to respond quickly and effectively:** Work directly with Police Scotland, Highland Council, NHS Highland and others to address issues as they arise and avoid duplication.

**Coordination and Facilitation:** Of key community safety functions.

**Communication and Liaison:** Share accurate information, promote timely incident reporting, and provide a visible point of contact for businesses and their staff or volunteers, including by provision and coordination of the Shop Safe Radio system.

**Help protect vulnerable people:** Work with partners to identify and support individuals at risk and tackle behaviours that impact safety and wellbeing.

**Support a safe and successful evening economy:** Work with licensed premises and partners to maintain high standards, prevent problems and promote responsible management including via Pub Watch (secretariat) and the BID coordinated Best Bar None accreditation programme.

**Promote Community Cohesion:** Support campaigns such as NO PLACE FOR HATE and Street Scene to encourage positive behaviour and reduce ASB and other incidents in the city centre.

Provide a representative, balanced voice during periods of tension or change and help partners understand the impacts on local businesses.

### **Project Delivery (2026)**

In 2026, SAFE Inverness will continue to provide a coordinated and reliable city centre safety service for businesses, partners and the public.

The project will deliver:

#### **Monthly City Centre Task Group (CCTG) meetings:**

Regular multi-agency problem-solving with Police Scotland, Highland Council, CCTV, Street Pastors and others to address issues quickly and avoid duplication.

#### **Monthly Pub Watch meetings:**

Secretariat, coordination and follow-up actions for 42+ premises, and undertake the assessments to uphold the Best Bar None accreditation scheme standards.

#### **Quarterly Inverness Community Partnership (ICP) Community Safety & Resilience meetings:**

Representing city centre business interests and ensuring local issues feed directly into partnership priorities.

#### **Quarterly Retail Security Group meetings:**

Bringing major retailers, security teams and Police Scotland together to address shoplifting, repeat offenders and loss-prevention measures.

#### **Quarterly SAFE Inverness meetings:**

For businesses and organisations to provide an effective voice. This will be in addition to the day-to-day issues reported to the BID office and responded to in real time.

#### **Manage the roll out of an upgraded ShopSafe radio system and Data Recording Portal:**

BID will manage the migration to a modern digital platform to future-proof the service, improve coverage and ensure fast, reliable communication during incidents.

**Delivery of business training and awareness sessions:**

Including Martyn's Law preparedness/refresher, Action for Terrorism ASB awareness, crime prevention, personal safety for staff, and other priority topics identified through the Steering Group.

**Annual City Centre Safety Survey:**

Capturing business and public views to inform priorities and measure change.

**Operation Respect coordination (seasonal):**

Assisting with coordinating elements of the Operation Respect partnership over Easter, Summer, October and Festive periods.

**Support for Operation Youth Respect:**

Working with Highland Council, Police Scotland and over 30 other partners to deliver engagement activity and youth-focused prevention.

**Campaign activity:**

Leading on **ASB Awareness Week** and **See It Report It** campaigns, and co-designing the **No Place for Hate** and other key messages agreed with partners.

**Ongoing business engagement and representation:**

Acting as the first point of contact for safety concerns and ensuring business views are represented locally and nationally in terms of wider strategic responses.

**Evidence of Need**

There is strong and consistent evidence that SAFE Inverness is needed operationally to support businesses, partners and the public in keeping Inverness City Centre safe and well managed.

Daily demand shows the scale of need. The BID office handles calls daily from businesses seeking help with crime or safety concerns, and on occasion welfare issues involving vulnerable people.

More than 108 businesses rely on the ShopSafe radio network, which requires coordination, guidance and compliant data recording from BID.

The five city centre Defibrillators are managed and serviced by the SAFE Inverness Team.

The BID Security Task Team which SAFE Inverness coordinates provides further clear evidence of need. During school holidays, weekends and the festive season, the Task Team responds to incidents throughout the day, often preventing issues from escalating and regularly assisting Police Scotland with real-time information, early intervention, and reassurance patrols.

Without this support, many businesses would struggle to manage incidents safely and police resources would be under greater pressure with additional costs to partners

Businesses and partners consistently highlight the need for a single, trusted coordination point. SAFE Inverness fulfils this role by linking businesses with Police Scotland, Highland Council, Street Pastors, NHS Highland, Eastgate Management and others.

The City Centre Task Group, chaired by BID, prevents duplication, shares intelligence and ensures issues are dealt with quickly and collectively on an ongoing basis.

The need for this work is also reflected in wider trends, including increased demand on public services, community tensions around some current difficulties, and the importance of clear communication and reassurance in advance of changes such as the proposed asylum seeker accommodation at Cameron Barracks.

The evidence shows that the demand for this support may be more needed than ever in 2026 and it is important that partners plan early to support a safe, cohesive and connected centre.

### **Grant Activities**

This application is for running costs to support the SAFE Inverness programme. Funding contributes directly to the role of the BID Senior Community Safety Coordinator, who is essential for managing daily liaison with businesses, partners, managing the BID Security Task Team, leading or attending multi-agency meetings, and ensuring the smooth running of all SAFE Inverness functions.

The grant if supported would also help to cover part of the wider operational costs needed to deliver crime reduction and community safety activities throughout the year within resources available.

### **Beneficiaries:**

SAFE Inverness benefits local and regional residents, businesses, visitors and partners.

**Residents** benefit from a safer, more reassuring environment with coordinated action on anti-social behaviour, vulnerability and crime prevention.

**Businesses and staff** receive direct support, rapid responses and practical assistance that reduces disruption, improves safety, and helps maintain a welcoming city centre. It takes time to develop relationships, and a key function of SAFE Inverness is to ensure that businesses and their staff feel confident to report issues.

**Visitors** benefit from a safer experience, particularly during busy periods and major events ensuring that the tourism sector is not adversely impacted by ASB incidents for example, in so far as may be possible.

**Young people** benefit from positive engagement through Operation Youth Respect and initiatives such as Street Scene as part of SAFE Inverness's wider diversionary early-intervention work.

The **night-time economy** benefits through Pub Watch, Best Bar None and enhanced safety standards.

All **partners** benefit from better coordination, clearer communication and reduced duplication of effort. Overall, SAFE Inverness helps ensure that **Inverness City Centre remains safe, connected and well managed**, supporting the wellbeing of the whole community.

**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?*

SAFE Inverness is a long-standing and core part of Inverness BID's work. The project already has strong partnerships with Highland Council, Police Scotland, NHS Highland, Street Pastors, Eastgate Management and others, and this joint working will continue regardless of funding cycles.

ICGF support helps sustain the Senior Community Safety Coordinator post and core programme delivery, but the wider project is supported through BID resources, partnership contributions, the Shop Safe network and ongoing operational collaboration. As community safety is a priority for the Inverness Community Partnership's Locality Plan, SAFE Inverness will continue to play a key role in delivering those commitments.

Over time, we expect the new SAFE Inverness Steering Group, improved digital Shop Safe platform, and strengthened partnership structures to help share responsibilities and secure additional funding opportunities where appropriate. This will help ensure the programme remains sustainable in the longer term, even as activities expand or evolve.

SAFE Inverness supports meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping to prevent discrimination, promote fair access and foster good relations across all groups in the city centre including those who may be disadvantaged or harmed due to having a protected characteristic.

The project to date has been active in equality-focused work, including co-designing and developing the No Place for Hate campaign with the Inverness Community Partnership, Highland Council and Police Scotland and encouraging incident reporting through the "See It, Report It" campaign.

SAFE Inverness provides a visible, supportive presence for people who may feel more vulnerable—such as women, people with disabilities, minority ethnic communities, older people and LGBTQ+ people and helps ensure incidents of harassment or hate are responded to quickly.

By improving safety and reassurance in shared public spaces, supporting inclusive standards in hospitality venues through Pub Watch and Best Bar None, and coordinating early intervention work with young people, the project helps ensure different groups can use the city centre with confidence and equal access.

SAFE Inverness also contributes to community cohesion by supporting clear communication during periods of public tension and by working with partners on inclusion and reassurance work around emerging issues which may be required increasingly going forward including to reduce misinformation and promote constructive, respectful relationships between different groups.

## PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
SAFE Inverness Staffing Costs	<b>£23,257</b>
SAFE Inverness Programme Costs	<b>£2,733</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£25,990</b>

## PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount( £)	Confirmed
Inverness BID Ltd	<b>£12,995</b>	Yes
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	<b>£12,995</b>	Yes
<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	<b>£12,995</b>	
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>£25,990</b>	

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

## About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008																																							
<b>What geographic area does your organisation cover?</b> Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	 <table border="0" data-bbox="794 1596 1429 1931"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Academy Street</td> <td>Falcon Square</td> <td>Queensgate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Academy Street Arcade</td> <td>Falconer Building</td> <td>Queensgate Arcade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Lane</td> <td>Fraser Street</td> <td>Railway Terrace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Street</td> <td>High Street</td> <td>Raining Stairs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baron Taylor's Street</td> <td>Inglis Street</td> <td>Rose Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridge Street</td> <td>Lombard Street</td> <td>School Lane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Street</td> <td>Manse Place</td> <td>Station Square</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Wynd</td> <td>Margaret Street</td> <td>Stephen's Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Church Lane</td> <td>Market Brae</td> <td>Stephen's Brae</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Church Street</td> <td>Market Close</td> <td>Strothers Lane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drummond Street</td> <td>Market Hall</td> <td>Union Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastgate</td> <td>Millburn Road</td> <td>Victorian Market</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastgate Shopping Centre</td> <td>Post Office Avenue</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Academy Street	Falcon Square	Queensgate	Academy Street Arcade	Falconer Building	Queensgate Arcade	Bank Lane	Fraser Street	Railway Terrace	Bank Street	High Street	Raining Stairs	Baron Taylor's Street	Inglis Street	Rose Street	Bridge Street	Lombard Street	School Lane	Castle Street	Manse Place	Station Square	Castle Wynd	Margaret Street	Stephen's Street	Church Lane	Market Brae	Stephen's Brae	Church Street	Market Close	Strothers Lane	Drummond Street	Market Hall	Union Street	Eastgate	Millburn Road	Victorian Market	Eastgate Shopping Centre	Post Office Avenue	
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<b>What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?</b>	<p>SAFE Inverness supports the local authorities Public Sector Equality Duty by helping create a city centre that is safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone. Through our partnership role we actively challenge discrimination and harassment, support victims and ensure that protected groups can access and enjoy the city centre without barriers.</p> <p>Our work includes co-designing the NO PLACE FOR HATE messaging with Police Scotland, coordinating Operation Respect and Operation Respect Youth, and supporting businesses to recognise and respond to hate crime, safeguarding concerns and the needs of vulnerable groups. The "See It, Report It" campaign improves reporting routes and ensures people know how to seek help.</p> <p>SAFE Inverness has an important role in promoting community cohesion, providing balanced information, reassurance and early liaison with partners to promote equality, fairness, and to help individuals and different groups feel confident, safe and connected in Inverness.</p>
<b>Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.</b>	<p>Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible to apply for BID membership. Associate Members have the option to join BID.</p>
<b>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.</b>	<p>Yes please see attached Appendix A.</p>

## Bank Details

<b>Name of Bank</b>	<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>
<b>Account Name</b>	<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>
<b>Account Number</b>	<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>

Sort Code	[REDACTED]
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### 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	
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A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Three quotes for goods or services	
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Any other supporting information	

**Declaration:** We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award. The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom

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Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same, signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:**

**Signatory 2:**

**Print Name:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Signatures:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Role:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <u>Privacy Notice</u>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)**



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Coach Friendly Project 2026		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Immediate Surrounding Area (IV1 and IV3)		
<b>Contact Name:</b>			
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>			
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>			
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	X

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>		<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>		<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>			

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£28,500
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>End Date of Project</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> October 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

### **Project Background**

The joint report of the Director of Community Services and the Inverness City Manager to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 cited the aim of "Developing Inverness as a Coach Friendly City" and reported on the success of the use of Ardross Street as a designated Coach/Drop Off/Pick up point for visitors during 2015 which included the important role undertaken by the designated BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador/s to:

- "Act as a liaison between residents and businesses on Ardross Street with the Coach Operators and Staff to ensure that any concerns are addressed timeously and effectively."
- "Welcome visitors to the City, provide directions, answer questions visitors, to promote a positive view of the City and its people to encourage return visits and to facilitate our guests to visit the many points of interest to them in the City Centre."

In 2015 at the request of the Highland Council, Inverness BID agreed to staff and manage the Coach Ambassador Programme initially on the basis of the costs being fully funded by the Inverness Common Good Fund.

The service involves having a Coach and Visitor Ambassador on hand to co-ordinate parking, traffic management, to provide a knowledgeable and warm welcome (whatever the weather) to the now >3,800 coaches and their visitors and this project operates on a 7-day basis increasing to 2 or 3 ambassadors when a large number of coaches from cruise liners or British/non-British tours are scheduled to visit Inverness.

The Coach and Visitor Ambassadors further provide an important role in assisting visitors with issues such as missing their return coach, obtaining emergency medical assistance when needed, as appointed persons for first aid purposes and also by being responsive to passenger needs including those pertaining to accessibility and compliance with the PSED.

The project serves as the primary co-ordination and liaison point for cruise and coach companies, in respect to any traffic disruption including to ensure that the facility achieves a safe, welcoming and effective service.

The project co-ordinates any change in location for drop offs as may be occasionally required and regularly works in partnership with other agencies to ensure optimal use of resources.

In recognition of the excellent service provided and following a joint BID/HC application, in Summer 2024, Inverness was awarded official 'Coach Friendly' status by The Confederation of Passenger Transport UK (CPT) due to "the commitment made by Inverness to meet the needs of coaches, their drivers and their passengers to the City Centre".

The accreditation process identified that the Inverness facility did not just meet but exceeded the stated requirements, and due to this, representatives from BID and Highland Council have been liaising with other areas at the request of CPT to share best practice. CPT are currently exploring the option for commencing a 'Coach Friendly Plus' accreditation for Inverness.

For the 2025 the project delivered a new 'Drivers and Tour Operators Guide' to all personnel and also supported the employment of three young people from Inverness High School as part of an employability initiative for 8 weeks primarily over the Summer months. The new posts of Trainee Coach and Visitor Ambassador, were highly successful in giving young people aged 16-18 supported and structured work experience and if funded, this additional element of the project will be replicated in 2026.

In liaison with HLH and HC, new Coach and Visitor Uniforms will be procured and potential that BID/HLH will liaise in respect to any Coach and Visitor Ambassador requirements for the Inverness Castle Experience separately to this project.

The success of the initiative is demonstrated by the numbers of coaches now accommodated across the 11 designated bays:

**Table – Coach and Visitor Ambassador Project 2022 – 2024:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Coaches</b>	<b>Est. Visitors</b>
2022	2672	125,000
2023	3804	150,000
2024	3874	160,000
2025	3412	155,000

For the 2025 season, the BID Coach & Visitor Ambassadors welcomed a total of 3412 coaches equating to approximately 155k visitors being assisted and issued with the BID designed Inverness City Centre Map and Visitor Guide.

In comparison to 2024, this marked a decrease of 12% in number of coaches visiting with the majority being attributed to Viking Cruises opting to dock in Aberdeen for commercial reasons.

Taking account of this decrease, it is noted that visiting coach numbers still equated to a 22% increase on 2023 levels indicating aside from one cruise liner company, that Inverness remains a key destination of choice.

Visit Scotland estimate that average day coach passenger spend is £55-60 per person making estimated direct economic gain to the local economy to be between £8.5. - £9.3m.

The reopening of the Northern Meeting Park created a welcome opportunity to reconnect coach servicing with a revitalised civic asset. While there was an early expectation that the Coach & Visitor Ambassadors would be able to operate from a small base at the NMP, which could further have assisted with emergency or medical situations as arise from time to time, this has not been accommodated but it is hoped subject to funding, that in 2026 coach passengers will still be able to access to on-site Northern Meeting Park, WC facilities.

The project staff have further assisted with additional tasks for the greater good of the City including with the regular assisting with the clean-up of litter or removal of graffiti on Ardross Street to ensure that the area is well managed, kept and optimally presentable.

The team further have excellent relationships with surrounding businesses and residents which helps facilitates the presentation of Inverness and our community as the 'friendly City' at its best and encourages our guests to return for a longer repeat visit at a later stage with feedback to date being extremely positive (as recorded by the 2023 and 2025 visitor surveys) with most common comments citing that Inverness is 'clean, friendly and beautiful'.

For 2026, it is anticipated that due to change in coach arrival times, volume of coaches and related demand, that projected average weekly ambassador staff hours (in total and shared across 3-4 staff) will equate to 1250 hours for the 28-week season.

The application has match funding via BID of 20% of service costs to reflect the contribution of the business community with current available resources.

Overall the project represents a successful partnership which sustainably adds value at a vital time for our local economy, including supporting local employment and our local economy and is aligned with the Tourism and wider Inverness Strategies.

**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?*

The project is designed to remain sustainable through a combination of ongoing partnership support and diversification of funding sources. Inverness BID will continue to provide match funding, reflecting the contribution of local businesses in so far as current resources permit.

Looking beyond the period of ICGF support, should an acceptable Visitor Levy be agreed for Highland in due course, and given that its remit is intended to fund activities that benefit visitors and the tourism economy, this project, if approved by the Visitor Levy Reference Group has potential to be supported from this alternative funding stream from 2028 onwards.

This would provide a natural and aligned long-term funding route for a service whose core purpose is to enhance the visitor experience and support the local economy.

In the interim, BID and its partners will continue to explore complementary funding mechanisms

and efficiency improvements to ensure continuity of delivery.

The project helps the Council meet its Public Sector Equality Duty by ensuring that all visitors, including those who may be disadvantaged due to a protected characteristic, can access clear information, assistance and support when arriving into the city.

The Coach and Visitor Ambassadors routinely assist passengers who may have limited English language skills, mobility or other disability or health issues including sensory impairments and other accessibility requirements, helping them to navigate safely and confidently between coaches and the city centre.

The team also responds to situations where individuals may require medical help, have become separated from their group, have lost key items (such as passport or wallet) and/or need additional reassurance or guidance.

The presence of trained, approachable staff contributes to a welcoming environment for all visitors and helps to prevent or manage any issues that could lead to discrimination, exclusion or distress.

The project facilitates good relations by maintaining positive engagement with nearby residents and businesses, supporting a respectful and inclusive atmosphere in a busy public area also contributing to a vibrant centre but also strong community links.

Through these activities, the project advances equality of opportunity, supports the safety and dignity of all visitors, and contributes directly to the Council's responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

## PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Project Staffing Costs x 28 weeks	£28,125
55k Visitor Guide/Maps, Clothing, Communications, FCR, First Aid Training & Equipment, Uniforms, Drivers Guide etc	£7,500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	£35,625

## PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Inverness BID Ltd	£7,125	Yes
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	£7,125	Yes

<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	£28,500	TBC
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	£35,625	TBC

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

## About your Organisation

<b>When did your Organisation start?</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008																																									
<b>What geographic area does your organisation cover?</b>  Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	 <table> <tr><td>Academy Street</td><td>Falcon Square</td><td>Queensgate</td></tr> <tr><td>Academy Street Arcade</td><td>Falconer Building</td><td>Queensgate Arcade</td></tr> <tr><td>Bank Lane</td><td>Fraser Street</td><td>Railway Terrace</td></tr> <tr><td>Bank Street</td><td>High Street</td><td>Raining Stairs</td></tr> <tr><td>Baron Taylor's Street</td><td>Inglis Street</td><td>Rose Street</td></tr> <tr><td>Bridge Street</td><td>Lombard Street</td><td>School Lane</td></tr> <tr><td>Castle Street</td><td>Manse Place</td><td>Station Square</td></tr> <tr><td>Castle Wynd</td><td>Margaret Street</td><td>Stephen's Street</td></tr> <tr><td>Church Lane</td><td>Market Brae</td><td>Stephen's Brae</td></tr> <tr><td>Church Street</td><td>Market Close</td><td>Strothers Lane</td></tr> <tr><td>Drummond Street</td><td>Market Hall</td><td>Union Street</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastgate</td><td>Millburn Road</td><td>Victorian Market</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastgate Shopping Centre</td><td>Post Office Avenue</td><td></td></tr> </table>			Academy Street	Falcon Square	Queensgate	Academy Street Arcade	Falconer Building	Queensgate Arcade	Bank Lane	Fraser Street	Railway Terrace	Bank Street	High Street	Raining Stairs	Baron Taylor's Street	Inglis Street	Rose Street	Bridge Street	Lombard Street	School Lane	Castle Street	Manse Place	Station Square	Castle Wynd	Margaret Street	Stephen's Street	Church Lane	Market Brae	Stephen's Brae	Church Street	Market Close	Strothers Lane	Drummond Street	Market Hall	Union Street	Eastgate	Millburn Road	Victorian Market	Eastgate Shopping Centre	Post Office Avenue	
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<b>Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.</b>	Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible to apply for BID membership. Associate Members have the option to join BID.																																									
<b>Has your organisation received any funding from the Inverness</b>	Yes please see attached Appendix A.																																									

<b>Common Good Fund over the last 3 years.</b> If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	
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### Bank Details

<b>Name of Bank</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Sort Code</b>	[REDACTED]

### 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>OR</b>	
For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's Constitution/Company Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND (if applicable)</b>	

Three quotes for goods or services	
------------------------------------	--

**AND**

A Business Plan (where requested)

**AND**

Any other supporting information

<b>Declaration:</b> We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:
---

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award. The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same, signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:**

**Print Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatory 2:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatures:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Role:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">Privacy Notice</a>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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**Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)**



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Inverness City Centre Gift Card		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Immediate Surrounding Area (IV1)		
<b>Contact Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	X

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>		<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>		<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>			

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£9,500
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
<b>End Date of Project</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2027

**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

The Inverness City Centre Gift Card was introduced following the allocation of £60,000 from the Scottish Government (via the Highland Council) as part of Covid recovery measures (£20k per annum) until March 2024. This funding enabled BID to deliver an initiative that had been included in several BID Business Plans but was previously not achievable due to the absence of start-up funding.

The Scottish Government support covered the complete set-up of the scheme, including staff and project development time, marketing, launch activity and full operational costs for the first three years.

The Gift Card is operated in partnership with Miconex and functions as a debit Mastercard, which allows it to be used across both national and independent retailers. Each business outlet has a unique merchant identification number, and the process for signing up businesses is extensive. More than 188 Inverness-based businesses now accept the card, demonstrating the value and confidence placed in the scheme by the local business community.

The project is well established and is already generating measurable benefit. A new kiosk, opened in the Eastgate Centre beside Unit 8 in December 2026, has further improved visibility, access and sales, providing a consistent presence to support residents, businesses and visitors. The Gift Card particularly supports new and small businesses and BID supports the option on an ongoing basis via dedicated marketing, with an additional Festive Marketing Campaign in December.

The card has also supported community wealth building, strengthened local supply chains and encouraged spending within Inverness rather than online or out of area. Schools, charities and community groups have made use of the "Love Local" branding to support messaging around local resilience and community benefit. Encouraging people to shop and buy locally also contributes positively to climate outcomes by reducing the need for longer-distance travel.

The cost to operate and service the Gift Card is approximately £19,000 per annum. As Scottish Government funding was start-up only, there is now a need to secure sustainable ongoing financial support.

Some Love Local gift card schemes elsewhere in Scotland have closed due to a lack of continued funding, and it is important that Inverness supports what has proven to be a valuable, economically impactful and local economic measure to assist with City Centre vibrancy.

This is not a new activity but a continuation and further development of an existing project. The request represents support for ongoing operational costs which cannot easily be absorbed by BID alone due to a number of financial pressures including reduced levy revenue, reduced levy collection rates, the impact of the 2026 non-domestic rates revaluation and the reduction in collecting levy income as a result of economic pressures on local businesses.

A modest 50% contribution is therefore sought, matched by BID, to ensure the project remains viable and can continue to deliver economic benefit for the city centre and wider Inverness area. Partner and corporate support for the Gift Card in terms of sales and making local the go-to choice is further essential.

There is strong evidence of need for this project. The Gift Card directly retains spend within Inverness, supports local jobs, contributes to community wealth building and provides a simple and effective mechanism for encouraging residents and visitors to shop locally.

The high uptake among businesses, proven return on investment and steady sales all indicate that the scheme fulfils an important role within the local economy. The project benefits citizens of Inverness by supporting a vibrant and resilient city centre, maintaining employment, promoting sustainable local economic activity and offering a practical tool that residents can use to support businesses within their own community. It also benefits visitors, who increasingly seek local and meaningful purchasing options, and strengthens the wider perception of Inverness as a supportive and cohesive place to live, work and shop.

Looking ahead, should a Community and Visitor Information Point be established in 2026, subject to funding there is scope for further development of both the Love Inverness App and the Gift Card, creating a joined-up digital and physical platform promoting local businesses.

Overall, the Inverness City Centre Gift Card is a proven and valued mechanism for retaining local spend, supporting businesses, strengthening community wealth, promoting sustainable local shopping and contributing directly to a thriving city centre.

Continued match funding support will allow this successful initiative to be sustained and further developed for the benefit of Inverness residents, businesses and the wider economy.

**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?*

BID will continue to operate and support the Gift Card through match funding, sales growth and business participation. Additional options such as sponsorship and integration with a potential Community and Visitor Information Point will also be explored to strengthen sustainability. If a Visitor Levy is introduced for Highland, the Gift Card, because it directly supports visitors and the local economy, could be considered by the Visitor Levy Reference Group as a suitable longer-term funding route from 2028 onwards.

The project supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by ensuring that the Gift Card is accessible to all users, including older people and those with disabilities. Each December, face-to-face support is provided to assist individuals who may find online purchasing difficult, ensuring they can still benefit from the scheme.

The Gift Card also offers flexibility where needed, such as extending expiry dates on request, which is not normally possible with standard commercial gift cards. By helping more people to participate in local spending and supporting an inclusive approach to shopping locally, the scheme contributes to building community, fostering good relations and ensuring that the benefits of the initiative are available to everyone.

### PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Annual Costs: Annual Fee, Replacement Cards, Card Holders, Till Wobblers, Retraining of Retailers, Marketing and Promotion, Kiosk/Support.	£19,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	£19,000

### PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
<b>Inverness BID Ltd</b>	£9,500	Yes
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	£9,500	Yes
<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	£9,500	TBC
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	£19,000	TBC

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

### About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008
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<p><b>What geographic area does your organisation cover?</b></p> <p>Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.</p>		<p>Academy Street Academy Street Arcade Bank Lane Bank Street Baron Taylor's Street Bridge Street Castle Street Castle Wynd Church Lane Church Street Drummond Street Eastgate Eastgate Shopping Centre</p>	<p>Falcon Square Falconer Building Fraser Street High Street Inglis Street Lombard Street Manse Place Margaret Street Market Brae Market Close Market Hall Millburn Road Post Office Avenue</p>	<p>Queensgate Queensgate Arcade Railway Terrace Raining Stairs Rose Street School Lane Station Square Stephen's Street Stephen's Brae Strothers Lane Union Street Victorian Market</p>
<p><b>What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?</b></p>				<p>Older people, children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and others who have reduced mobility, health conditions and individuals and groups who may have limited English Language skills are given additional support to purchase and use the card.</p>
<p><b>Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.</b></p>	<p>Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible to apply for BID membership. Associate Members have the option to join BID.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>Yes please see attached Appendix A.</p>			

## Bank Details

<p><b>Name of Bank</b></p>	
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<b>Account Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Sort Code</b>	[REDACTED]

### 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>OR</b>	
For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's Constitution/Company Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>AND (if applicable)</b>	
Three quotes for goods or services	
<b>AND</b>	
A Business Plan (where requested)	
<b>AND</b>	
Any other supporting information	

**Declaration:** We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award. The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same, signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:**

**Print Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatory 2:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Signatures:**

**Role:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <a href="#">Privacy Notice</a>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)**



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Q4 Gull Management Programme City Centre (and Immediate Surrounding Area)		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Immediate Surrounding Area (IV1 and IV2)		
<b>Contact Name:</b>			
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>			
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>			
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> X			

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>	<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>	<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>		

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£9,763
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026
<b>End Date of Project</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> 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 aim of this project is to maintain continuity of the Inverness Gull Management Programme during the critical pre-nesting period of February and March 2026, ahead of the full pilot (TBC) programme commencing in April 2026.

Early season measures are essential to manage behaviour (pairing and nesting), reduce conflict, and preserve the progress achieved during the 2025 season.

The focus for Q4 is to deter gulls from establishing nests in high-impact City Centre (and surrounding) locations and to support the development of a wider Pilot Programme as announced by Nature Scot and the Scottish Government for the City.

Building on learning from 2025, the use of a gyrfalcon combined with daily intensive lasering proved to be effective as one measure (though not fully) in creating conditions that encouraged some gulls to nest elsewhere.

Those gulls that did attempt to nest in 2025 often did so in hidden or more obscure locations, indicating that the deterrent measures altered behaviour and reduced confidence around traditional nesting sites at least to some extent.

Maintaining pressure during February and March is therefore crucial.

Once pairings and nesting sites become established, the legal limitations on removal of eggs and nests and intervention increase significantly, and early disruption remains one key effective tool to disrupt at least some colony activity.

The programme will also involve monitoring activity, preparing evidence for licensing where appropriate, continuing strategic planning work with Highland Council and NatureScot, and progressing outstanding returns from the 2025 season (final returns).

This short Q4 activity aims to provide the bridge required between the 2025 programme and the new pilot, ensuring no loss of momentum and safeguarding the investments already made by the ICGF, local businesses via BID and residents in some cases.

## **Additional Detail**

This is not a new project. It is an essential continuation of the existing and long-running Inverness Gull Management Programme which has been undertaken for 10+ years. The request current request is for funding of essential activity within that programme to cover the pre-nesting period that falls outside the scope of the forthcoming pilot.

This interim period requires dedicated and targeted intervention, as the national funding landscape and the final pilot design remain in development following the national Gull Summit held at Nature Scot HQ on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

It was announced prior to the Summit that up to £100k would be made available nationally for local authorities to support the development of their Gull Management Programmes, and the Minister, Jim Fairlie, confirmed in the Scottish Parliament also that a pilot programme would be collaboratively developed and implemented for Inverness.

As Inverness BID and Nairn Connects BID had highlighted the need for national funding to support both strategic planning and operational delivery, it will be essential that the pilot from April 2026 is funded primarily through these national sources. This is consistent with the expectations set during the Summit and the commitment made to develop an Inverness-focused pilot.

Formal discussions regarding the allocation and structure of this national support have not yet begun, though Highland Council has sought to proactively convene a meeting in January 2026 due to increasing time pressures.

At the time of writing, there remains an interim funding gap that must be managed, and it is hoped that this application can help bridge that gap until national arrangements are in place.

### **Activities:**

The application seeks support for a specific set of Q4 activities relating to pre-nesting deterrence and preparatory work for the 2026 Pilot programme. These activities are operational and time limited, falling between the close of the 2025 interventions and the formal commencement of the new pilot programme.

This support will enable delivery of essential deterrent measures, ongoing monitoring, the completion of 2025 returns, and continued strategic coordination with partners. Specifically, hawking via gyr falcon patrols 3 times weekly, daily AVIX lasering, monitoring, rotation of scaring devices and human disturbance as well as an area based programme of removal of old nests and nesting materials.

Activities will also include extensive final returns, evaluation of 2025 data to help inform the pilot development and additional communications to businesses and residents in respect to responsible and responsive Waste Management.

### **Evidence of Need:**

The need is evidenced both in terms of previous interventions and most notably the collaborative work over the past two years. Changes to national guidance in 2023-2024 reduced the number of

nests and eggs that could be removed, with the impact being considerable in terms of increased gull and human impact and conflict.

The Gull Incident Reporting Portal launched by BID in 2024 and reopened in 2025 demonstrated that impacts within the City Centre remain significant, and it is reasonable to note, would be worse but for the coordinated efforts of partners given some reduction in incidents (around one third) was recorded in the most recent year.

In May 2025, a breeding survey was undertaken jointly by NatureScot and Highland Council which noted that population levels remain broadly consistent with those recorded in 2012, confirming that the issue has not diminished for our area.

Learning from 2025 demonstrated that deterrent measures, including the use of a gyrfalcon and lasering especially, had a measurable effect on nesting behaviours. Some gulls were displaced from traditional nesting sites, with those that did nest choosing more concealed locations, indicating that the programme influenced behaviour.

No measure in the hierarchy of interventions however is definitive, and Nature Scot recommend that a number of measures are combined and run concurrently.

Without pre-season interventions over February and March in advance of the pilot activities, there is a clear risk that gulls will return to previous nests, re-establish past nesting patterns and undermine the progress as has been, in challenging circumstances been made.

The December 2025 site visit with Highland Council and a leading gull specialist confirmed that a short break in seasonal activity risks reversing gains and that plan-based approaches, unless supported by consistent deterrent action, can displace the issue rather than resolve it.

Maintaining early-season intervention is therefore necessary to avoid a deteriorating situation.

### **Community Benefit:**

The citizens of Inverness, including residents, workers, businesses and visitors, will benefit directly from continued efforts to manage negative gull behaviour which is a health and safety risk ahead of the 2026 breeding season.

Gull activity affects public health and safety in a number of ways, impacts the visitor experience, access to outdoor spaces, and the operation of businesses, particularly those trading in food or hospitality.

Interruptions to the programme risk an escalation in complaints and a return to the high-impact conditions experienced prior to the structured interventions supported by the Common Good Fund.

Reducing early-season nesting reduces later-season incidents, protects building fabric and roofs, lowers cleaning and repair needs, and improves the overall perception of the City Centre. Businesses that have invested heavily in their own deterrent measures, including some with significant expenditure on netting, benefit from a coordinated approach that protects and strengthens their individual investments. The continued partnership between Highland Council

and BID ensures that Inverness remains a leader in developing effective, collaborative responses to this complex issue.

It is hoped that the ICGF will not be expected to primarily resource the required activities beyond those clearly set out within this application. The request therefore covers only the defined Q4 activities for February and March which are essential to maintain momentum until the full 2026 pilot programme begins but at the time of application, what (if any) national funding will be made available is still, as with the wider programme detail, to be confirmed.

**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?*

**Future Funding:**

The activities are designed to continue beyond the ICGF Q4 support period through the forthcoming national pilot programme announced by the Scottish Government and NatureScot in partnership with Highland Council and BID. The early-season Q4 work funded through this application provides the essential bridge into that pilot and safeguards the progress made in 2025.

Given the national importance of establishing a replicable approach for other areas, the announced Inverness Pilot will require strategic and operational funding support at a national level, including as it is reasonable to highlight that Highland Council, BID and the ICGF are not in a position to deliver or maintain the programme without wider resource.

This interim period for Q4 is the only gap until arrangements are hopefully confirmed. Once the pilot begins, continued delivery should form part of a nationally supported model that enables long-term solutions, improved coordination, and protection of communities, businesses, residents, visitors, BIDs and local authorities, including as we have made extensive representations regarding, reducing pressure on common good funds.

It is the applicant's understanding that Nature Scot may be developing national Do NOT Feed campaign messaging and so no funding for this element of activity has been sought.

**Public Sector Equality Duty:**

The project supports the Council in meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty by reducing risks and barriers that disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including older people, pregnant women or those on maternity leave, children, people with disabilities etc.

High-impact gull behaviour affects safe access to the City Centre, restricts use of outdoor spaces, and increases hazards such as fouling, obstruction, and aggressive behaviour leading to distress, injury and other negative outcomes in some cases.

Early-season intervention directly improves safety, accessibility and confidence for those who are most impacted, and who may be already disadvantaged or vulnerable due to having a protected characteristic helping to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and promote a safer and more inclusive environment for residents, workers and visitors.

By maintaining continuity between programmes and preventing a deterioration in conditions, the project also helps protect equal access to services, businesses, public spaces and travel routes that would otherwise be compromised.

## PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
<b>Removal of all old Nests and Nesting Materials</b> – February 2026 Mapping, Hire of MEWP, Contractor and Related Costs	£2,815
<b>Bird of Prey/Hawking</b> – Gyr Falcon deployment February/March 2026: three times per week and related intervention costs.	£3,990
<b>Lasering Programme</b> , 1 Trained Operative daily – February/March – dusk or dawn (in rotation), day-time monitoring, <b>Human Disturbance, Rotation of Scaring</b> devices (on accessible roof spaces and other key locations) and	£2,958
<b>Operation Sparkle Leaflet and Comms</b> – Waste Management	£350 (CRF)
<b>Final Returns</b> , strategic and administrative development of Pilot Programme (operational elements) with partners. Programme Management costs.	£1,750
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£11,863</b>

## PROJECT FUNDING

<b>How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)</b>	<b>Amount(£)</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Inverness BID Ltd</b>	£1,750	Yes
<b>Operation Sparkle</b>	£350	Yes (CRF)
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	£1,750	Yes
<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	£9,763	TBC
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	£11,863	TBC

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

## About your Organisation

<b>When did your Organisation start?</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008
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<p><b>What geographic area does your organisation cover?</b></p> <p>Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.</p>		Academy Street Academy Street Arcade Bank Lane Bank Street Baron Taylor's Street Bridge Street Castle Street Castle Wynd Church Lane Church Street Drummond Street Eastgate Eastgate Shopping Centre	Falcon Square Falconer Building Fraser Street High Street Inglis Street Lombard Street Manse Place Margaret Street Market Brae Market Close Market Hall Millburn Road Post Office Avenue	Queensgate Queensgate Arcade Railway Terrace Raining Stairs Rose Street School Lane Station Square Stephen's Street Stephen's Brae Strothers Lane Union Street Victorian Market
<p><b>What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?</b></p>				Older people, children, pregnant women or those on maternity leave, people with disabilities, and others who have reduced mobility, health or terminal illness when accessing private or public spaces due to risk of H&S harm via gull strikes, conflict and impacts.
<p><b>Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.</b></p>	Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible to apply for BID membership. Associate Members have the option to join BID.			
<p><b>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.</b></p>	Yes please see attached Appendix A.			

## Bank Details

<b>Name of Bank</b>	[REDACTED]
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<b>Account Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Sort Code</b>	[REDACTED]

### 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>OR</b>	
For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's Constitution/Company Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<b>AND (if applicable)</b>	
Three quotes for goods or services	
<b>AND</b>	
A Business Plan (where requested)	
<b>AND</b>	
Any other supporting information	

**Declaration:** We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award. The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same, signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:**

**Print Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatory 2:**

[REDACTED]

**Signatures:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Role:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <u>Privacy Notice</u>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)**



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

<b>Applicant / Organisation:</b>	Inverness BID		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Inverness in Bloom - Community Grow Project		
<b>Project Location (inc. Postcode):</b>	Inverness City Centre and Wider City		
<b>Contact Name:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV3 8RY		
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Council Ward (check guidance for link):</b>	Central		
<b>Does the main contact have any communications needs?</b> E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	X

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

<b>Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation</b>		<b>Community Council</b>	
<b>Registered Charity</b> <b>If yes Registration Number</b>		<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b> <b>If yes – Company Number</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify</b>			

<b>Amount applied for</b>	£69,429
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<b>Start Date of Project</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
<b>End Date of Project</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> September 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

### **Background and Context**

Inverness BID Limited is a not-for-profit company established in 2008. The organisation coordinates a number of projects and initiatives which support the overall development and improvement of Inverness City Centre.

Since 1993, floral displays have been a visible and welcoming feature hosted in the heart of the centre and surrounding areas. The project was originally coordinated by Highland Council, with Inverness Common Good Fund support. Since 2009, Inverness BID has coordinated the displays at the initial request of Highland Council.

Over time, the project has grown to include other surrounding areas with there also being some privately funded displays supported in addition and as part of the wider programme. BID and City Centre traders contribute financially directly and in addition, in-kind alongside ICGF support.

The displays are carefully designed and sited to maximise visual impact, to enhance and reinforce successful placemaking, and to ensure cohesion across the city. The arrival of the displays each summer is now a recognised event, valued by residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

The project is undertaken in partnership with the Botanic Gardens run by Highlife Highland and the sub-contractor who undertakes the siting, removal, maintenance and watering under the management and coordination of the programme partners.

Link to Botanics Video: [Nursery&Potting Cutdown 1x1 on Vimeo](#)

### **Project Aims**

The **Inverness In Bloom – Community GROW Project** combines the provision of floral displays with extensive wider community benefits generated through the valued GROW initiative at Inverness Botanic Gardens (Highlife Highland).

The project aims are to:

- 1. Enhance Inverness's identity and placemaking** – providing attractive, colourful streetscapes which encourage active travel, improve civic spaces, and strengthen community pride and wellbeing in the city.
- 2. Support employment and inclusion** – The growing activity involved in the project helps to sustain 5.6 FTE jobs, 2.5 FTE supported employment roles targeted at creating pathways and opportunities for individuals with Additional Support Needs (ASN) or other disability or health conditions to take part in preparation of the plants.
- 3. Deliver education and skill development** – The project enables **40** ASN learners and other disadvantaged volunteers to gain practical horticultural experience and qualifications such as the coveted Grow & Learn Award in a structured and safe environment that supports skill building for future employability. The Floral project also involves participation of an additional 30 volunteers who regularly deliver over 150 hours of activity per week.
- 4. Promote physical and mental health wellbeing and enhance social connection** – offering volunteering opportunities, dementia-friendly pilot sessions, and Friday afternoon youth sessions for ASN/ASD participants in 2026 by way of a pilot programme will add to the wide range of community benefits already supported.
- 5. Contribute to sustainability** – operating a circular model with composting and reuse of materials from the project supporting wider operation of the gardens; peat-free growing, and pollinator-friendly planting as well as initiatives for community food growing, the project exemplifies best practice in these important areas.

### **Project Delivery (2026)**

If the application herein is supported, Botanic Gardens (Highlife Highland) will be the main funding beneficiary as has been the case in previous years to enable this important work and project to be executed.

The HLH Botanic Gardens Team will oversee the design, propagation, and basket planting from November through June. Each October, the Team also coordinates composting and recycling to ensure the project is delivered as sustainably as possible, with strong green credentials.

Elected Members were given a tour of the operations in May 2025 and the feedback received included how wide and impressive the initiative is in scale and in respect to the extensive work which is undertaken behind the scenes which has a marked wider community benefit.

The role of Inverness BID will be to coordinate and manage the floral displays across the City Centre and Wider City, including in planning, siting, management, administration, invoicing and facilitating ongoing maintenance and remedial actions as required.

The main partners are supported also by the work of an experienced sub-contractor for erection/removal of displays, maintenance work, and bi-weekly watering as well as ensuring H&S compliance.

Equipment for the displays (baskets, brackets, tubs, etc.) was originally purchased via the Common Good Fund and remains its asset.

## **Evidence of Need**

- **Community demand:** BID member and visitor surveys consistently (2022 and 2025) have found that floral displays have an approval rating between 90-100%.
- **Inclusion gap:** The GROW Project supports ASN individuals who have limited access to equivalent pathways. Without the project, opportunities for confidence building, independence, and skills development could not be supported.
- **Volunteer engagement:** The project involves 30 regular volunteers contributing 150 hours weekly for the project duration.

The direct feedback from **Grow Volunteer Gardeners** highlights the benefits to skills development, physical and mental wellbeing, improved confidence and enhancing social connections that the project as part of the wider community benefits delivers:

### **Volunteer Experiences:**

*“Volunteering at the Botanics has played a huge part in my recovery after my stroke. Working with plants has been therapeutic, and the skills I’ve learned here have given me the confidence to take on other gardening opportunities in the community.”*

*“When I first moved to the area I didn’t know a soul. Since joining the Gardens as a volunteer, I’ve met people of all ages and backgrounds. It’s given me friendships, a real sense of belonging, and the feeling that I’m contributing to something positive for Inverness.”*

*“Volunteering here has improved my health and wellbeing. Being outside, active, and part of a team has given me structure and purpose each week.”*

*“I’ve gained new skills in horticulture and teamwork that I never expected. It’s boosted my confidence and even opened up career opportunities I would not have thought possible before.”*

*“The Gardens are such a supportive environment. No matter your ability or background, you’re welcomed and valued. That makes a huge difference – not just to the volunteers, but to the wider community that benefits from the projects we deliver.”*

**Participant outcomes:** ASN learner volunteer gardeners also describe the benefits and their sense of achievement:

*“It is good and really interesting. There’s a pattern for the hanging baskets to follow, and I enjoyed dealing with all the different plants. The thing that was really nice was the outcome. The design of it all was so colourful and it looked great.”*

*“I loved washing the pots, and potting the wee plants.”*

*“Who needs to go to the gym when you can come here and do this?” (on emptying tubs and baskets)*

*"I think everyone really likes helping out in different parts of the site. Working on the nursery project is fast and it's great work experience to be able to offer people at Grow a taste of this work."*

*"I love my work. We all empty and reuse the potting material when it comes back in to grow on seeds and seedlings for our vegetable plot and tomato tunnel."*

**Environmental need:** Peat-free planting saves c.25m<sup>3</sup> of peat annually, and surplus produce supports Inverness Foodstuff to help address food insecurity.

### **Beneficiaries**

The project delivers broad direct and indirect wider community benefits across the city:

- **Residents** – improved public realm, active travel encouragement, civic pride, and enhanced overall community wellbeing.
- **People with ASN/ASD, or other mental or physical impairments** - supported volunteering, training, and structured activities to help build skills, confidence and social connections.
- **Local businesses** – welcoming and positive city profile.
- **Visitors** – a welcoming and memorable experience of Inverness.
- **Environment** – biodiversity support, sustainable practices, and reduced peat use.
- **Economy** – a key wider benefit of the project is the impact the displays have on the Inverness brand including via our many visitors which can encourage new, longer or repeat stays helping to support local employment and enterprise.

### **Visitor Impact**

With the Inverness Castle Experience opening in 2025, there is scope and potential that the project can be extended in subsequent years to optimise making a focus and feature of this key area.

The displays are extremely well received by our visitors with it being a regular occurrence that the photos and images of Inverness which are shared with family and friends following a trip via social media include for example the florals and castle as a backdrop. This is important as studies have shown that recommendations from family and friends can be a key driver of new trip generation to the benefit of our community and local economy.

August 2025 Visitor Feedback:

*"We were only here for the day but wish we had longer. The hanging baskets made the whole city centre look brighter and more welcoming. Even the rain didn't spoil it."*

*"The colours of the flowers were stunning like a rainbow running through the city. Inverness is our favourite port so far and everyone we met was so friendly and the city looks so clean and beautiful."*

*"We took our photos of the flowers on the bridge. They were stunning. We can't wait to come back to see the Castle and go to Loch Ness."*

*"This is our second trip and it's even more stunning than we remembered. The people are so helpful, and the baskets made the whole experience feel special. I love that the city takes pride in its appearance.."*

Academic research also confirms that urban florals deliver tangible community benefits beyond their visual impact including to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall wellbeing.

By sustaining Inverness's community floral programme, the project makes a direct contribution to the improved health and quality of life of residents and visitors.

Evidence also shows that street greenery as part of placemaking strategies encourages walking and cycling by making routes more attractive and comfortable with strategically placed displays along key city routes therefore supporting active travel uptake.

Ensuring a positive and lasting impression of the Capital of the Highlands moreover assists with civic and commercial visits to help our city put its best foot forward when hosting events.

An additional benefit of the project is that as well as the baskets, the monies granted also supports bedding flowers in a number of areas which otherwise could not be supported.

### **Proposals for 2026**

The applicant and partners recognise that the Inverness Common Good Fund is facing significant financial pressures.

In 2025 the City Centre and Wider City arrangements were supported at a combined value of £77,144 for over 600 displays. For 2026 the project partners have built in a 10% reduction, and the current application therefore seeks an ICGF contribution of **£69,429** to account for this position.

The location plan for the 2026 programme is still to be finalised and will be developed and agreed collaboratively by Highland Council Ward and Area Managers, Inverness BID and High Life Highland.

Given budget constraints, and reduction in baskets, if the application is supported, priority will be given to maintaining floral displays at key civic and visitor locations including Castle Street, Bridge Street, Bank Street, High Street, the Victorian Market, Church Street, the Town House, Ness Bridge, Cavell Gardens, Stephen's, Ardross Street, and other prominent sites within the city centre.

Alongside this, and separately 45 privately funded displays were also hosted in 2025. It is anticipated this figure will reduce to under 40 displays in 2026.

Inverness BID propose to contribute in-kind financial support in the form of administrative support valued at £5,554 (equating to the same pro-rata % as in 2025) and will in addition administratively manage and coordinate the project in its entirety for any costs incurred in all administrative areas over and above this allocation, as has been the case in previous years.

Final decisions will be required on which baskets in the wider city can be hosted within any budget constraints going forward for 2026.

Where displays are not supported through the ICGF allocation, there is scope for local Ward funds to be used should communities wish to retain specific features.

## Conclusion

The **Inverness In Bloom – Community GROW Project** provides visible value through floral displays and deeper, lasting community benefit through volunteering, employment, education, inclusion, wellbeing, economic enhancement and sustainability.

By continuing to support this project, the Inverness Common Good Fund will ensure that Inverness not only looks its best, but also delivers tangible community, social, economic, and environmental outcomes for its residents and visitors alike.

## 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?*
- **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.*

## Outcomes

### How the project will continue beyond ICGF support:

The Inverness In Bloom – Community GROW Project is a long-established initiative with a proven record of delivery since 1993.

Continuation is underpinned by:

- Annual financial and in-kind contributions from Inverness BID and local traders (2026 matched contributions confirmed at £5,554 to maintain previous % contribution).
- Ongoing partnership with High Life Highland (Inverness Botanic Gardens), whose operations integrate the GROW Project into their wider educational and environmental programmes.
- Volunteer and community involvement, which ensures continuity and local ownership of the project.
- This blended funding and delivery model will enable the project to remain viable in future years, while continuing to seek efficiencies through economies of scale.

*NB: In the event that an acceptable Visitor Levy model be agreed at a later date, this project may be eligible for consideration for support via this alternative funding stream and at the current time, supporting its continuation, albeit on a reduced scale for 2026 could moreover ensure that this option can in due course be fully scoped and if viable, pursued for long term continuation and sustainability.*

## Contribution to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty:

The project directly supports the Council's duties to:

- **Eliminate discrimination** – by providing supported employment and volunteering opportunities for individuals with Additional Support Needs (ASN), who may be Neurodivergent, have dementia, and/or other health or disability conditions which may be barriers to social life participation is directly supported.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** – through accredited training (Grow & Learn Award), structured learning, and skill development that improves employability and independence for ASN participants is a key benefit and would not otherwise be possible.
- **Foster good relations** – by creating inclusive volunteering opportunities where individuals of all ages and backgrounds and abilities can work together, enhances social cohesion and reduces isolation. Improved wellbeing can further in turn reduce demand on our health services.

## Monitoring and Reporting:

Inverness BID and partners commit to submitting an Annual Report on completion, in line with ICGF requirements and in addition to a dedicated Annual Elected Members Briefing.

This will include:

- Quantitative data (e.g. numbers of volunteers, ASN participants, hours contributed, visitor feedback).
- Qualitative evidence (case studies, participant and volunteer testimonials).
- Financial monitoring to demonstrate effective use of funds and matched contributions.

## PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure, <b>Please Note</b> grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Inverness BID: Project Co-ordination: Administration, Personnel, Overheads, FCR	<b>£5,554</b>
Highlife Highland: Botanic Gardens. Grow Project, associated costs, + plants, propagation, watering. 501 Units x £111.	<b>£55,611</b>
Sub-contractor: Installation and removal of displays, inspection, survey, maintenance and remedial action. Additional or replacement brackets, painting and other works as may be required.	<b>£13,950</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b> NB: Any privately funded displays are self-sustaining and so not included in the ICGF programme budget.	<b>£74,983</b>

## PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
<b>Inverness BID Ltd</b>	<b>£5,554</b>	Yes
<b>Total Own Contribution</b>	<b>£5,554</b>	Yes
<b>Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested</b>	<b>£69,429</b>	
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>£74,983</b>	

**If there is a shortfall in funding, how do you propose to fund it?** Any shortfall in funding would require a further reduction in numbers of displays which could reduce overall community benefit.

## About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008			
What geographic area does your organisation cover?		Academy Street Academy Street Arcade Bank Lane Bank Street Baron Taylor's Street Bridge Street Castle Street Castle Wynd Church Lane Church Street Drummond Street Eastgate Eastgate Shopping Centre	Falcon Square Falconer Building Fraser Street High Street Inglis Street Lombard Street Manse Place Margaret Street Market Brae Market Close Market Hall Millburn Road Post Office Avenue	Queensgate Queensgate Arcade Railway Terrace Raining Stairs Rose Street School Lane Station Square Stephen's Street Stephen's Brae Strothers Lane Union Street Victorian Market
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Inverness BID runs a number of other projects and events which in addition to the business community further benefits young people (Street Scene), people with disabilities (training and accessibility guidance), we have helped develop and support the No Place for Hate Campaign as part of Operation Respect and via this project direct beneficiaries via the highly regarded Grow Project will support individuals with learning disability, mental or physical disability or other health conditions as well as older people and others with a protected characteristic which may be disadvantageous.			
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Yes. All BID Levy Payers are eligible for membership. Associate Members can opt in.			

<b>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.</b>	Yes please see attached Appendix A.
<b>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.</b>	Yes, £300 towards the NPFH campaign.

### Bank Details

<b>Name of Bank</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Account Number</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Sort Code</b>	[REDACTED]

**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	<b>OR</b>	<b>X</b>
For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure	<b>AND</b>	
A copy of your organisation's last 3 months bank statements (for very new organisations a single bank statement will be sufficient)	<b>AND</b>	<b>X</b>
A copy of your organisation's Constitution/Company Documentation	<b>AND</b>	<b>X</b>
Three quotes for goods or services	<b>AND</b>	
A Business Plan (where requested)	<b>AND</b>	
Any other supporting information	<b>AND</b>	

**Declaration:** We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:

**Name of Organisation** Inverness BID Ltd

We undertake to ensure that all the necessary enclosures are included, that the information is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and that this application complies with the Highland Council's Conditions of Award. The data you have provided in the application and claim forms will be recorded on an electronic data base and are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide 2 signatures. Signatory 1 should be the Chairperson of the Organisation and signatory 2 should be the person who has filled out the form. If these two people are the same,

signatory 2 should be another member of your organisation's committee.

**Signatory 1:****Signatory 2:**

**Print Name:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Signature:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**

	<b>Please Tick</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the <u>Privacy Notice</u>:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please confirm you have read and understood the Funding Terms and Conditions which can be found in the Guidance Notes:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Completed forms should be emailed to: [Policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Policy6@highland.gov.uk)**

**TABLE A 2023/24/25**

<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY - ICGF</b>	
No place for Hate Campaign	£750.00
Street Scene Operation Youth Respect	£4,970.00
Additional Task Team Pilot May to July 2025	£3,756.00
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2025 Task Team	£14,804.00
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2024 Task Team	£13,403.00
Easter/Summer/Autumn 2023 Task Team	£11,596.00
<b>Safe Inverness</b>	
Safe Inverness Project 1.4.25 - 31.3.26	£10,750.00
Inverness Community Safety Partnership period 1.4.24-31.03.25	£9,700.00
Inverness Community Safety Partnership period 1.4.23-31.03.24	£9,700.00
<b>Gull Management Project - ICGF</b>	
Gull Management Project 2025	£27,050.00
Gull Management Project 2024/25 - additional amount awarded for Quarterm 4	£9,663.00
Gull Management Project 2024	£23,269.00
Gull Management Project 2023	£12,839.00
<b>Inverness In Bloom - Community Grow Project - ICGF</b>	
Storm Floris Floral Display Removal and Reinstalation	£1,500.00
New Victorian Market Floral Displays 2025	£1,655.31
Floral Display City Centre 2025	£54,272.00
Floral Display Wider City 2025	£22,872.00
Floral Display City Centre 2024	£52,410.00
Floral Display Wider City 2024	£23,631.00
Floral Displays Summer 2023	£64,150.00
<b>Coach Ambassador - ICGF</b>	
Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project 2025	£23,847.00
Coach Friendly Project 2024	£19,865.00
Coach Friendly Project 2023	£12,987.00
<b>Smart Scape - ICGF</b>	
Smart Scape City Centre Project - 2023-24	£8,484.00
Smart Scape City Centre Project - 2022-23	£9,996.72
<b>OP Respect Winter - ICGF</b>	
Task Team Winter 2025	£4,539.00
Task Team Winter 2024	£5,119.20
Task Team Winter 2023	£4,266.00
<b>Community Regeneration Fund 2025</b>	
Best Foot Forward 1 Smart Scape and Op Sparkle	£3,300.00
Best Foot Forward 2 Smart Scape Bins	£2,600.00

**Inverness BID Applications 2026/27**

		Amount Requested	Total Project Costs	%
	<b>Applications to be Considered at this meeting</b>			
<b>1</b>	Operation Respect Easter/Summer/Autumn 2026	£24,328	£31,686	76.78%
<b>2</b>	Safe Inverness Project 2025/26	£12,995	£25,990	50.00%
<b>3</b>	Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project 2026	£28,500	£35,625	80.00%
<b>4</b>	Inverness City Centre Gift Card	£9,500	£19,000	50.00%
	<b>Total of Applications to be considered</b>	<b>£75,323.00</b>	<b>£112,301.00</b>	<b>67.07%</b>
	<b>Previously Recommended for Approval</b>			
	Inverness In Bloom - Community Grow Project	£69,429	£74,983	92.59%
	<b>Total BID Applications for 2026</b>	<b>£144,752</b>	<b>£187,284</b>	<b>77.29%</b>

## Appendix 10

Inverness Common Good Fund Applications 2026/27 - (with 2025/26 as comparison)								
	Project Cost	ICGF	BID	Other	Project Cost	ICGF	BID	Other
	2026/27				2025/26			
Inverness In Bloom - Community Grow Project	£74,983	£69,429	£5,554					
Floral Displays Summer					£60,467	£54,272	£6,195	*
Wider City of Inverness Annual Floral Displays					£28,373	£22,872		£5,501
Operation Respect Task Team Easter/Summer/Autumn	£31,686	£24,328	£7,358		£22,625	£14,804	£7,821	
SAFE Inverness Project	£25,990	£12,995	£12,995		£34,250	£10,750	£23,500	
Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project	£35,625	£28,500	£7,125		£30,862	£23,847	£7,015	
Gull Project					£31,823	£27,050	£4,773	
Inverness City Centre Gift Card	£19,000	£9,500	£9,500					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£187,284</b>	<b>£144,752</b>	<b>£42,532</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£208,400</b>	<b>£153,595</b>	<b>£49,304</b>	<b>£5,501</b>
		77.3%	22.7%	0.0%		73.7%	23.7%	2.6%