

Agenda Item	13
Report No	CIA/29/26

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 18 May 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 ICGF Sub Committee.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee of 27 April 2026 considered all applications presented on their merits.
- 1.3 Recommendations made in respect of the applications for grant funding over £10,000 reflect that approach.
- 1.4 There was sufficient budget available under Poverty and Inequality. The 'Other Grants budget will be fully allocated if approved.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **consider** the applications for funding detailed in Appendices 2,3,4,5 and 6 in this report.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - Funding is provided by the Inverness Common Good Fund budget for 2026/27. Members are reminded that the Grants Budget was allocated £0.190m for Poverty and Inequality projects and £0.050m for all other requests. The 2026/27 ICGF budget also contained provision for £0.030m Conference Support and £0.065m City Destination Projects. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee have taken steps to carefully assess each application as to which category it sits within to ensure an appropriate allocation of funds.
- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no Legal implications because 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.

5 **Grant Applications**

- 5.1 The **Appendices** include details of current grant applications for more than £10,000. Members are invited to consider the following applications:-

1. **Poverty & Inequality Grant Applications**

- i. **Inverness Sea Cadets (Appendix 2):** The Sub-Committee recommend the approval of a grant of £15,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards a replacement minibus.
- ii. **Ness Bank Church (Appendix 3):** The Sub-Committee recommend the approval of a grant of £30,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards the Sanctuary Project.

During discussion, assurance was sought and provided that when project costs were lower than detailed in the application, the Sub Committee would be invited to re-consider the amount of funding allocated.

2. Other Grants

- i. **Inverness Fringe (Appendix 4):** The Sub-Committee recommend the approval of a grant of £15,000 from the Other Grant budget towards the Inverness Fringe Festival 2026.

subject to:-
 - a. expenditure on the project being monitored to be as detailed in the application; and
 - b. the project receiving the Creative Scotland funding that had been applied for.
- ii. **Inverness Symphony Orchestra (Appendix 5):** The Sub-Committee recommend the approval of a grant of £9,800 from the Other Grant budget towards music enjoyment to the citizens of Inverness.

3. Partnership Working Applications

- i. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness (Appendix 6):** The Sub-Committee recommend refusal of a grant of £20,000 from the City Destinations Projects budget towards Business Tourism within Inverness and Loch Ness.

The Sub-Committee felt that it did not clearly demonstrate quantifiable benefits to the level expected of this type of application.

Designation:	Assistant Chief Executive - Place
Date:	28 April 2026
Author:	Mark Greig, Community Development Manager David Haas, Senior Community Development Manager (Inverness and South)
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – ICGF resources available for allocation Appendix 2 – Inverness Sea Cadets Application Appendix 3 – Ness Bank Church Application Appendix 4 – Inverness Fringe Application Appendix 5 – Inverness Symphony Orchestra Application Appendix 6 – Visit Inverness Loch Ness Application