

Agenda Item	8
Report No	CIA/36/26

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 17 August 2026

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund – Allocation Update and Governance

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update Members on the 2026/27 CRF allocation; and to seek agreement to utilise the process previously agreed by the Committee for the 2025/26 CRF allocation into financial year 2026/27.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. **Note** the CRF allocation for City of Inverness Area for 2026/27; and
 - ii. **Agree** to utilise the existing delegated powers granted to Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee (ICGFSC) for the sifting of Expressions of Interest and assessment of applications and to make recommendations to CIAC on final funding awards.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - There are no resource implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 **Legal** - When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back-to-back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.
- 3.3 **Risk** - There are no risks arising from this report.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.

3.5 **Gaelic** - No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.

4 Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 A separate screening for impact for each application is not required, however consideration of impacts for equalities, socio-economic impact and consideration of the impact on the individual community is part of the assessment criteria and included within the assessment report. This supports the decision-making process.

5 Background

5.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for a number of funds that are available for communities/organisations to access in Highland. At Local Area Committee level, where funds are controlled by local Members, it is currently comprised of the Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF). This is a Scottish Government funding stream to support economic regeneration and sustainable development in Highland. In previous years Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) funds have also been available at Local Area Committee level. No PBIP funding has been made available by the Scottish Government for 2026/27. Area committees are awarded devolved allocations of HCCF funds according to an approved formula, and decision making on which projects should receive funding sits with elected Members.

5.2 In summary, the CRF budget position at City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) on 17 August 2026 is as follows:-

Funding Source	Designation	Amount
Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF) – Tranche 7	Revenue or Capital	£61,759.40
Available CRF budget on 17 August 2026		£61,759.40

6 Previous approach approved by CIAC

- 6.1 During the previous rounds of CRF funding (2023/24 and 2025/26) the CIAC agreed a pragmatic approach to managing the expected volume of funding requests. Working with the CRF team, expressions of interest to the fund and full applications were dealt with by the ICGFSC. Supported by an assessment from the CRF team, this allowed the ICGFSC to make a recommendation to CIAC on which projects should receive an award of funding. The final approval of funds remains with CIAC in line with the overall governance of the CRF programme.

7 Governance of funds

- 7.1 In line with the policy decision taken by the CRF Strategic Sub Group, there has been a move away from a challenge fund approach to the distribution of funds, with greater emphasis placed on projects that meet the objectives of the place-based plans for the area. In order to identify suitable projects, the CRF team are piloting a new approach through the BeConnected interactive online mapping platform that was launched in December 2026. This provides a rolling opportunity for community organisations to register proposals on the site of projects in development.
- 7.2 ICGFSC will consider eligible projects in their area submitted to BeConnected or directly to the CRF team and agree which should be invited to submit an Expression of Interest.
- 7.3 Expressions of Interest will be assessed by officers against the approved fund criteria. Thereafter, ICGFSC will consider the outcome of this assessment and determine which projects should be invited to submit a full funding application for consideration.
- 7.4 The CRF team will undertake a full assessment of applications submitted which will be provided to ICGFSC for discussion. ICGFSC will make a recommendation to CIAC on which projects should receive an award of funding. The final approval of funds remains with CIAC in line with the overall governance of the CRF programme.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 23 July 2026

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Background Papers: None

Appendices: None