

Agenda Item	9d
Report No	CIA/40/26

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 17 August 2026

Report Title: Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee – Annual Report 2025/26

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The Inverness Common Good Fund operates under the governance of the Council with delegated powers to the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) to administer the Fund, for the principal benefit of the residents of the former Burgh of Inverness. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee (ICGFSC) have authority to allow for detailed scrutiny of the administration of the Inverness Common Good Fund (ICGF) in support of the CIAC. The current membership of the sub-committee can be found at **Appendix 1**.

1.2 **Appendix 2** provides detail on the powers delegated from the CIAC. In summary, these powers can be defined as follows:-

- Policies and Administrative Procedures relevant to the management of the grants process in respect of applications of £10,000 or less.
- All Policies and Administrative Procedures relevant to the management of all applications for Civic Hospitality.
- Promotion of the work supported by the ICGF to include approval of logos and public relations plans.
- Power to allocate funds for any competent purpose from the ICGF in respect of sums of £10,000 or less, with the proviso that this power be limited to the allocation of sums held within the current ICGF budget approved by the CIAC.
- Power to consider expressions of interest in respect of the community regeneration fund or any other funds, that may be subject to the governance of the CIAC.

1.3 This report updates on the work of the ICGFSC for the financial year 2025/26.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to **note** and **scrutinise** the work of the ICGFSC as detailed within the report.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - The Sub-Committee were allocated the following budgets by the City of Inverness Area Committee:

- £160k was allocated to “Poverty and Inequality” applications;
- £80k was allocated to “Other” grant applications;
- £30k was allocated to “Conference Funding” applications;
- £191k was allocated to Partnership Working;
- £30k was transferred from Other Grants to Poverty and Inequality at the meeting of the CIAC on [18 August 2025](#); and

Applications of more than £10k require CIAC approval.

3.2 **Legal** - There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

3.3 **Risk** – There are no implications.

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** - There are no implications.

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 This is a monitoring and update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required

5 Background

5.1 At the CIAC meeting held on [30 November 2017](#), Members agreed that the ICGFSC shall be required to submit an Annual Report to the CIAC summarising the work of the Sub-Committee for the immediately preceding Financial Year.

5.2 The ICGFSC has representation drawn from Political Groups, using the agreed formula. This has produced a Sub-Committee of 11 Members which provides strong and consistent scrutiny. **Appendix 1** details the current membership.

- 5.3 A summary of the powers delegated to the Sub Committee are set out below and **Appendix 2** provides the details of the powers delegated to the Sub Committee.
- 5.3.1 • Delegated Powers to oversee the administration of the grant application process, including the setting of Grant Conditions and reviewing any decision should the circumstances of the application change or the grant remain unclaimed for more than 6 months.
- 5.3.2 • Delegation to decide on all applications which relate to the following:-
- **Civic Hospitality** – In support of the Civic Office except Staffing which would remain reserved to the CIAC.
 - **City Promotions** – In support of activity which generates vibrancy within the City.
 - **Partnership Working** – In support of collaborative projects principally through Inverness City BID and Visit Inverness Loch Ness BID but also inclusive of other such as Operation Respect.
 - **Town Twinning** – Supports the Town Twinning Committee and related civic activity.
- These powers are limited to sums of £10,000 or less.
- 5.3.3 • City Projects/Property Maintenance – Powers to scrutinise and make recommendations to the CIAC are included which augment the power in respect of Grant Applications in excess of £10,000.
- 5.3.4 • Delegation to Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South – Power to delegate expenditure on Civic Hospitality up to a maximum of £300 per event in consultation with the Provost and Sub-Committee Chair.
- 5.3.5 • Community Regeneration Fund - Power was extended by the CIAC at their meeting on [28 August 2023](#) to consider expressions of interest and to make recommendations on full applications, in respect of the community regeneration fund or any other funds that may be subject to the governance of the CIAC.

6 Specific Scrutiny

- 6.1 The ICGFSC has provided additional scrutiny of the following ICGF expenditure in support of:-
- Victorian Market;
 - Town House;
 - Town Twinning;
 - Various tenancy management issues; and
 - Community Empowerment Act Consultations

7 Grants

7.1 **Appendix 3** summarises budget activity in 2025/26:-

1. Grants – Poverty & Inequality - A budget of £160,000 plus £30,000 transferred from Other Grants. Of this, £188,295 was allocated.
2. Grants – Other – A budget of £80,000 less £30,000 transferred to Poverty and Inequality and £1,000 transferred to Partnership Working of this £48,998 was allocated.
3. Conference Support – A budget of £30,000 with £4,000 transferred to Partnership Working, of this £25,688 allocated.
4. Partnership Working – A budget of £191,000 plus £1,000 transferred from Other Grants, £4,000 from Conference Support and £4,763 from Reserves of this £200,350 was allocated.

The ICGFSC prior to awarding grants within the Poverty and Inequality allocation applied a pro rata reduction across all applications in the interests of fairness and to ensure as many projects received support as possible.

7.2 **Appendix 4** summarises the sums allocated for Grants:-

- There were 40 “Poverty and Inequality” grants awarded, including 3 over £10k.
- There were 11 “Other” grants awarded, all £10k or under
- Blythswood – A grant of £25k was awarded in support of City Food Bank activity as part of the Winter Payments scheme.
- There were 5 “Conference Funding” grants awarded, all under £10k.
- There were 11 “Partnership Working” grants awarded, all to either Inverness Business Improvement District or Visit Inverness Loch Ness.
- 3 Grants were approved from the Other Properties budget, including 1 over £10K
- There were 4 grants approved from the City Promotions budget and 1 from Town Twinning.

A total of 76 grants were awarded totalling £538,693.

7.3 Further information is provided within the regular financial reports on the ICGF taken to the ICGFSC and CIAC.

8 Civic Hospitality

8.1 Civic Events

During 2025/26, 19 events were supported by the ICGF many of which were in the Town House at a total cost of £41,387.

8.2 Recurring Events

In respect of 2025/26, **Appendix 5** schedules the recurring events which are supported from the Civic Hospitality budget. Prior to an event being included in this category careful consideration is given to the events status, with only those of significance to the City being included.

8.3 Efforts continued to be made to reduce the number of recurring events and to scrutinise applications for these, in order to keep costs under control.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 The operational powers delegated to the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee continue to enhance the effective management of the Common Good Fund. The Sub Committee has scrutinised project funding with a focus on ensuring that projects bring principal benefit to residents of the Burgh.
- 9.2 Supported events and projects receive as high a profile as practicable with a condition of grant requiring applicants to acknowledge the Inverness Common Good Fund in all promotional material and include the ICGF logo.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 23 July 2026

Author: David Haas, Senior Community Development Manager
(Inverness and South)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICGFSC Current Membership
Appendix 2 – Delegated Powers to the ICGFSC
Appendix 3 – Budget Activity 2025/2026
Appendix 4 – Grants Approved during 2025/2026
Appendix 5 – Civic Hospitality Recurring Events
2025/2026

Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

The current membership of the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee is as follows:

Provost Glynis Campbell-Sinclair

Cllr Chris Ballance

Cllr Michael Cameron

Cllr Alasdair Christie

Cllr Alex Graham

Cllr Michael Gregson

Cllr Duncan MacDonald

Cllr Kate MacLean

Cllr Isabelle Mackenzie

Cllr Duncan MacPherson

Cllr Morven Reid

Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Powers Delegated in Full by the City of Inverness Area Committee to the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee

1. To carry out any duties delegated from the City of Inverness Area Committee in relation to the administration of the Inverness Common Good Fund.
2. All powers delegated shall be exercised as fully delegated powers and be applicable to the operation of the Inverness Common Good Fund.
3. Notwithstanding the above powers specifically delegated are;
 - a. To decide on all administrative matters relating to the operation of the Inverness Common Good Fund excepting decisions affecting Cash or Equity Investments.
 - b. Grants – to decide on all applications for financial assistance where the sum applied for is £10,000 or less. In respect of applications in excess of £10,000, to make recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee.
 - c. Other applications for funding – to decide upon all other applications for financial assistance where the sum applied for is £10,000 or less or where the sum requested relates to the provision of Staff
 - d. Project Monitoring – to consider reports from officers on the progress of projects approved by the City of Inverness Area Committee and to make recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee as appropriate
 - e. Civic Hospitality – to decide upon all applications for Civic Hospitality where the total cost of the event does not exceed £10,000, including the power to delegate approval of events to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with the Chair and the Provost where the cost of the event does not exceed £300.
 - f. Property Maintenance - Power to scrutinise all expenditure from property maintenance budgets where the sum expended exceeds £10,000 on any one project.
 - g. City Promotions - to decide upon allocations to be made from the City Promotions Budget where the sum does not exceed £10,000
 - h. Tenancy Management – to decide upon all applications for lease, Assignment of Lease, Rent Review or any other Tenancy related matter where the Assistant Chief Executive - Place has seen fit not exercise Delegated Powers
 - i. Power to consider expressions of interest in respect of the community regeneration fund or any other funds, delegated.
 - j. Consider full applications and to make recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee on the selection of projects for approval and

Appendix 2

the value of grants to be made in respect of funds that are subject to the governance of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

APPENDIX 3

Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available

Poverty & Inequality	160,000	
Other	80,000	240,000

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
Homologated 06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grant <£10k	200	200	239,800
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	53,371		
Other	Grants < £10k	<u>35,300</u>	88,671	151,129
19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee -				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880	87,249
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	42,444		
Other	Grants < £10k	2,750	45,194	42,055
27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	17,150		
Other	Grants < £10k	9,948	27,098	14,957
Homologated 12/01/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	6,000	6,000	8,957
12/01/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Other	Grants < £10k	1,000	1,000	7,957
Homologated 24/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants<£10k	5,250	5,250	2,707

Poverty & Inequality Grants				160,000
Homologated 06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub- Committee	Grant <£10k	200	200	159,800
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants < £10k	53,371	53,371	106,429
19/05/25 City of Inverness Area Committee	Grants > £10k	63,880	63,880	42,549
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants > £10k	42,444	42,444	105
18/08/25 City of Inverness Area Committee	Transfer from Other Grants		30,000	30,105
27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants > £10k	17,150	17,150	12,955
Homologated 12/01/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub- Committee	Grants < £10k	6,000	6,000	6,955
Homologated 24/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub- Committee	Grants<£10k	5,250	5,250	1,705

Other Grants				80,000
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	35,300	35,300	44,700
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	2,750	2,750	41,950
18/08/25 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	Transfer to Poverty & Inequality		30,000	11,950
27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	9,948	9,948	2,002
12/01/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	1000	1000	1,002

Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants

Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available **30,000**

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
06/05/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000	21,000
06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	8,688	8,688	12,312
27/10/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	8,000	8,000	4,312

Inverness Common Good Fund - Partnership Working Grants

Available Resource for Allocation

£

City Destination Projects	80,000
Operation Respect - Community Safety	11,000
Operation Respects Campaigns	25,000
City Flowering	75,000
Budget Balance Available	191,000

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for Meeting	
City of Inverness Area Committee 3 February 2025				
City Destination Projects	Grants > £10k	50,897		
Operation Respect - Community Safety	Grants > £10k	10,750		
Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants > £10k	14,804		
City Flowering	Grants > £10k	77,144	153,595	37,405

06/08/25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants < £10k	4,970	4970	32,435
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City of Inverness Area Committee 18 August 2025 - Recommended for Approval

City Destination Projects	Grants > £10k	20,000	20000	12,435
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Homologated 27/10//25 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants < £10k	750	750	11,685
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City of Inverness Area Committee 17 November 2025

Operation Respects Campaigns	Grants < £10k	11,272	11,272	413
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Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26

Poverty & Inequality Grants Budget	£160,000
Transferred from Other Grants	£30,000
	£190,000

Spectrum Centre Over 60s	Easter Lunch	£200
SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity (Inverness Branch	Veterans Face to Face	£1,400
Balloan FC	Football Team trip to Portugal to the Castelo de-Vide Tournament 2025	£3,500
Inverness Fairtrade	Inverness - A Fairtrade Community - Spreading the Word	£1,068
Highland Blindcraft	Replacement Equipment	£2,810
The City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band	Douglas Day Celebrations Tebu, Spain	£2,100
Milburn Academy	Tanzania 2025 - vaccinations	£2,306
Feis a'Bhaile	Feis a'Bhaile October Feis Week	£2,800
Partnerships for Wellbeing	Inverness Festival of Walking & Wheeling 2025	£2,800
Mikeysline	Fragments of Us	£5,250
Culloden Academy	Vine Trust School Expedition to Tanzania	£4,900
LEAP Sports Scotland	OUT and ABOUT in the Highlands	£5,880
Aban	Pathway to the Outdoors	£6,930
Clach Cycle IC	Mobile Community Bicycle Workshop	£6,748
UHI Inverness	Inspired	£3,150
Adult Learning & Youth Work	Cost of travel & accommdation for the Afghan Men's Football Team to participate in the Refugee World Cup in Glasgow in June 2025	£1,729
Inverness Rowing Club	All-Abilities Pontoon Project	£7,000
Apex Scotland	The Challenge Team	£7,000
Highlands & Islands Blood Bikes (HAIBB)	Highlands & Islands Blood Bikes - Motorcycle Urgent Medical Response	£10,500
Shopmobility Highland SCIO	Shopmobility	£21,000

Calman Trust	Beyond Club Artysans	£18,380
Bailie Cup	Athletics Event for Primary Schools (P1-4)	£1,350
Highland School of Skating, Highland Synchronized Ice Skating Teams	Trophy d'Ecosse International Synchro Competition - Dec '25 and British Synchronized Championships - Feb '26	£1,350
HighLife Highland Active Schools - Inverness Royal Academy Cluster	Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir-Nis Shinty Group Equipment Support	£1,474
The Clay Studio Inverness	Merkinch Community Enterprise & Skills Prohject	£4,320
St Andrew's Cathedral	Inspire Project	£2,704
St Andrew's Cathedral	Works to the Old Boys School	£2,700
Compass Collective	Next Steps	£5,383
Inverness Athletic	Purchase of a minibus	£5,400
Love Inverness	Inverness Street Pastors	£5,400
Inverness Blitz	Wear with Pride	£4,590
The Archie Foundation	Emergency Support Programme	£4,320
Red Chair Highland CIC	Connectivity for digital inclusion, Inverness	£1,091
Inverness Caledonian Thistle Community Development	ICT Community HUB Pitch Programme	£2,362
Police Scotland	Operation Anfield	£2,900
The Apprenice Store	Nature Bingo	£5,000
Youth Theartre Arts Scotland	National Festival of Youth Theatre 2026	£9,250
Blythswood Care	Highland Foodbank - Inverness	£25,000
Inverness Tool Library	New Start Project	£6,000
Partnerships for Wellbeing	Inverness Festival of Walking & Wheeling 2026	£5,250
		£213,295

As there was enough money remaining in the Winter Payments Budget after all payments had been met the Blythswood Grant was taken from that budget.

Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26

Other Grants Budget

£80,000

Transferred to Poverty & Inequality

£30,000

£50,000

Chamber Music Tours Scotland (CMTS)	Inverness Piano Recitals 2025/26	£2,800
Inverness Festival Association	Inverness Music Festival 2025	£5,000
Eadarainn Gaelic Choir	Attendance at the Royal National Mod in Fort William by the Inverness Choir Members	£2,500
The Peoples Orchestra	Scottish Highlands Tour 2025	£2,000
City of Inverness Pipe Band	Rental of Practice Hall	£4,000
Meur Inbhir Nis - An Comunn Gaidhealaig - Inverness Branch	Inverness Local Mod 2025	£6,500
The Mahler Players	The Mahler Players performances in Inverness Cathedral	£3,500
Visit Inverness Loch Ness	Continued Food & Drink Tourism	£5,000
FLOW Photofest	FLOW Photofest "An Idea of the North"	£4,000
Inverness Camera Club on behalf of Highland Challenge Clubs	The Highland Challenge (Photographic competition for camera clubs in the Highlands & Islands)	£400
Centre for Living Sustainability (CIS) at UHI Inverness	Invernessiana: Celebrating the life and work of Charles Fraser-Mackintosh	£2,350
The Mahler Players	Parsifal at Inverness Cathedral	£8,250
UHI Inverness	Green Hydrogen	£513
Inverness Military Wives Choir	Remembrance Concerts	£1,185
Visit Inverness Loch Ness	Taste of the Highlands	£1,000
		£48,998

Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26

Conference Support Budget

£30,000

Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust	Northern Meeting Solo Piping Competitions 2025	£9,000
Generations Working Together	The Generations Working Together make for a Better World for All of Us - Scottish Intergenerational Conference & Excellence Awards 2025	£1,688
The Camanachd Association	The Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final 2025 and the Shinty -Hurling International 2025	£7,000
Highland CIC	The Highland Renewables Sustainable Summit & Highland Renewables Network Exhibition	£3,000
Highland CIC	Highlands & Islands Food & Drink Awards 20th Year	£5,000
		£25,688

Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2024/25

Partnership Working Grants Budget

City Desination Projects	80,000
Operation Respect - Community Safety	11,000
Operation Respects Campaigns	25,000
City Flowering	75,000
	191,000

Inverness BID	City of Inverness Annual Floral Displays 2025	£54,272
Inverness BID	Wider City of Inverness Annual Floral Displays 2025	£22,872
Inverness BID	Operation Respect - Task Team Easter, Summer, Autumn 2025	£14,804
Inverness BID	Safe Inverness Project 2025	£10,750
Inverness BID	Coach & Visitor Ambassador Project 2025	£23,847
Inverness BID	Inverness Gull Project 2025	£27,050
Inverness BID	Operation Respect Youth Action project - September Springboard	£4,970
Visit Inverness Loch Ness	Business Tourism	£20,000
Inverness BID	No Place for Hate Campaign	£750
Inverness BID	Operation Respect Festive 2025	£11,272
Inverness BID	Inverness Gull Project 2025/26 Q4	£9,763
		£200,350

It was agreed that the grant awarded for the Inverness Gull Project Q4 should be funded as follows:

Other Grants	£1,000
Conference Support	£4,000
Reserves	£4,763
	£9,763

**Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26
Grants from Other Properties**

The Oxygen Works	Land Rent Relief 2025	£5,200
Inverness Angling Club	Financial Support for the continuing arrangement of the ICGF Town Fishings	£19,000
Visit Inverness Loch Ness	Development of a Conference Bureau for iNverness Area	£8,500
		£32,700

Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26
Grants from City Promotions

Community Support & Ward Management	Half- Moon Floral Baskets at Entrances to the Victorian Market	£1,656
Inverness BID Ltd	Operation Respect 6 Week Pilot	£3,756
Highland Hospice	Falcon Square Civic Christmas Tree - Light Up the Highlands	£2,500
Inverness BID Ltd	No Place for Hate Campaign	£750
		£8,662

Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Approved 2025/26
Grants from Town Twinning

Highland Hockey Club	Augsburg Twin Town reciprocal hockey tournament	£9,000
		£9,000

Recurring List 25/26

EVENT	LOCATION	FUNCTION	NUMBERS ATTENDING	25/26 Cost
Armed Forces Day -AM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	60	£1,200.00
Kirking of the Council -AM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	200	£5,500.00
Remembrance Sunday	Town House	Financial Contribution (RBLS)	N/A	£1,300.00
Armistice Parade -AM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	60	£1,400.00
Community Celebration Event - PM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	120	£5,000.00
Commonwealth Flag Raising -AM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	60	£1,400.00
Northern Meeting Piping Competitions - PM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	100	£4,100.00
Highland Poppy Launch - AM	Town House	Civic Reception/Buffer	100	£2,500.00
Inverness Town Twinning – Visits	Town House	Civic Lunch x 3 visits	50 per visit	£6,000.00
Best Bar None Awards	Mercure Hotel	Contribution - External event	N/A	£1,000.00
VVIP Visits	Town House	Civic Reception	N/A	£3,000.00
Police Scotland PYVS - PM	Town House	Civic Buffet- No Alcohol	60	£1,400.00
Civic Gifts	Town House	Hospitality Gifts		£3,000.00
			Total	£36,800.00