

Agenda Item	9e
Report No	CIA/41/26

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 17 August 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 3 August 2026 considered all applications presented on their merits. On this occasion there were insufficient funds available in the ICGF budget to fund all approved applications under 'Poverty and Inequality' category.

The Sub Committee agreed to support those applications with a reduced amount.
- 1.3 Recommendations made in respect of the applications for grant funding over £10,000 reflect that approach.
- 1.4 The Other Grants Budget has been fully allocated and there is no remaining budget for this year.
- 1.5 Noting that both grants' categories no longer have budget it is recommended that both categories be closed to further applications for the remainder of this financial year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
 - i. **Consider** the applications for funding detailed in Appendices 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 in this report;
 - ii. **Note** the detailed budget breakdown for the Inverness Fringe Festival;
 - iii. **Agree** the recommendation in section 5.5 of the report; and
 - iv. **Agree** to close the Poverty and Inequality Grants along with the Other Grants budget for further applications for the remainder of financial year 26/27.

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 current summary of funds available following the Sub-Committee meeting on 3 August 2025 is set out within **Appendix 1**.

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

5.2 Poverty & Inequality Grant Applications

- i. **Isabel Fraser Home (Appendix 2)** - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend Approval of a partial award of £15,800 (£20,000 minus 21%) from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards a Garden Room.
- ii. **Inverness Foodstuff (Appendix 3)** - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend Approval of an award of £11,850 (£15,000 minus 21%). from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards the Sanctuary Project.
- iii. **St Columba Church of Scotland, Inverness (Appendix 4)** - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend Approval of a partial award of £15,800 (£20,000 minus 21%) from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards St Columba Community Rooms for South Inverness.
- iv. **3rd Inverness (Crown) Scout Group (Appendix 5)** - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend Approval of an award of £10,073 (£12,750 minus 21%) from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards the refurbishment of the Scout Hall.

5.3 Winter Payments

New Start Highland (Appendix 6) - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend Approval of an award of £30,000 from the Winter Payments budget towards the New Start Highland Foodbank. If not drawn down from Winter Payments, then this would be taken from reserves.

5.4 Partnership Working Applications

- i. **Inverness BID Ltd (Appendix 7)** - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend that the application be Approved in full of a grant of £10,005 from the City Destinations Projects budget towards the Inverness City Partnership (In Action) Street Screen (Autumn 2026 and Spring 2027).
- ii. **Inverness BID Ltd (Appendix 8)** - The Sub-Committee recommend Agreed to Recommend:-
 - i. that the requested sum in respect of Activity 1: Northern Meeting Park WC Eight-Week Pilot be Declined on the grounds that the Northern Meeting Park toilet facilities were not a Common Good building, toilet provision was not a Common Good responsibility, and the Inverness Common Good Fund already subsidised toilet provision at the Victorian Market;
 - ii. that the request in respect of Activity 2: Public Safety and Defibrillator Provision be Deferred for more detailed information on costs; and
 - iii. that the requested sum of £1,600 in respect of Activity 3: Public Noticeboards and Civic Information be Approved.

5.5 Inverness Fringe Festival (**Appendix 9**) - The Sub-Committee Agreed to Recommend to the City of Inverness Area Committee, at its meeting on 17 August 2026, that:-

- i. 90% of the agreed funding be released; and
- ii. the condition that the project receive the Creative Scotland funding that had been applied for be removed.

It was further agreed that a more detailed breakdown of the project budget, showing the contribution of the Inverness Common Good Fund, be included in the report to the City of Inverness Area Committee.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 4 August 2026

Author: Mark Greig, Community Development Manager
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(Inverness and South)

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICGF resources available for allocation
Appendix 2 – Isobel Fraser Home
Appendix 3 – Inverness Foodstuff
Appendix 4 – St Columba Church of Scotland, Inverness
Appendix 5 – 3rd Inverness (Crown) Scout Group
Appendix 6 – New Start Highland
Appendix 7 – Inverness BID Ltd
Appendix 8 – Inverness BID Ltd
Appendix 9 – Inverness Fringe festival