

APPENDIX 1

Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available

Poverty & Inequality	190,000	
Other	50,000	240,000

Carry Forward from 2025/26

Poverty & Inequality	51592	
Other	19993	71,585
		311,585

Committee Date**Category****Award****Total for meeting**

(Committed from previous financial years)

Grants < £10k	67,247	
Grants > £10k	4,338	71,585
		240,000

27/04/26 Inverness Common
Good Fund Sub-Committee

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	39,721	
Other	Grants < £10k	25,200	64,921
			175,079

18/05/26 City of Inverness Area
Committee

Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	65,750	
Other Grants	Grants > £10k	24,800	90,550
			84,529

To Be Homologated 03/08/26
Inverness Common Good Fund
Sub-Committee

Grants > £10k	1,500	1,500	83,029
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03/08/26 Inverness Common Good
Fund Sub-Committee

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	29,005	29,005	54,024
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17/08/26 City of Inverness Area
Committee - Recommended for
Approval

Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	53,523	53,523	501
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Poverty & Inequality Grants				190,000
27/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	39,721	39,721	150,279
18/05/26 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	Grants > £10k	65,750	65,750	84,529
Homologated 03/08/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants > £10k	1,500	1,500	83,029
03/0826 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants< £10k	29,005	29,005	54,024
17/08/26 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	53,523	53,523	501
Other Grants				
				50,000
27/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	25,200	25,200	24,800
18/05/26 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	Grants < £10k	24,800	24,800	0

Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available	30,000	
Carry Forward from 2025/26	12,000	42,000
(Committed from previous financial years)	12,000	30,000

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
27/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000	21,000

Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available	30,000	
Carry Forward from 2025/26	12,000	42,000
(Committed from previous financial years)	12,000	30,000

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
27/04/26 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	9,000	9,000	21,000

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

Applicant / Organisation:	Isobel Fraser Home		
Project Title:	Garden Room		
Project Location (inc. Postcode):	In the garden of the property 4a Mayfield Road Inverness IV2 4AE		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address (inc. Postcode):	Isobel Fraser Home 4A Mayfield Road Inverness IV2 4AE		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward (check guidance for link):	Highland and Islands		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large Print?			
Yes		No	x

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)		Community Council	
Registered Charity	X	Company Limited by Guarantee	
If yes Registration Number	SC047168	If yes – Company Number	
Other – please specify			

Amount applied for	£30,000
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Start Date of Project	August 2026
End Date of Project	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

We are a charity run , non-profit care home that has provided care to the community of Inverness since 1938. We have 28 bedrooms that we ensure to be kept to a high standard and homely environment for the residents. Our grounds stretch around the home and allow the residents to have access to a well-maintained sensory garden. The residents of the home have been helping the local community of Inverness for the past 80-107 year and we feel that this now is the time that the community of Inverness support the residents of the home, by supporting them with an additional garden space, that can be used with current residents and residents to come for many years.

The aim of the project is to have an outside space in the garden on our property, this will be used for the residents and families and will also be used for integration with the community who come to the home to spend time with our residents.

We will not require any running costs for this project as it will only be the initial funds to build the garden room. The room will have electric but this will be taken from the main property supply.

We have been trying for a few years to raise funds for this project with various events in and out of the home, but the amount raised has been small sums and we are applying for assistance in supporting the build of the project as it is a large amount of money that is required to build this area.

We have recently had our care inspectorate inspection in which we have received no improvements except to create this outside space for the residents, to help with their mental health and wellbeing.

As the building is a B listed building, we are restricted within the home to make adaptations to the building or to create space inside, so we are very limited and this is why we have looked at the space we have outside the home. This also allows the residents to benefit further from the garden space that we have and for them to spend more time outside in nature and the surroundings of the garden.

We are continuing with our fundraising for this project but we are also applying for grants, at present we have not been successful with any grants but have had a donation from Scotmid of £300.

We are aware that this is a large sum of money in our application, but we will contribute towards the remaining cost if not successful with the full amount in application.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.*

Once the project of the summer room has been created it will not require any further assistance financially and it will show benefits for all that are able to use the room.

We have a community network with nurseries and also other care homes and this space will be used for the community integration that we share with them, it will also allow us to broaden our opportunities to be able to host more members of the local community into our home for various activities and meaningful time spent. We also have church integration once a week from local churches that would benefit from this space to have more intimate services with smaller groups of residents.

The garden room will also be put out to the local community of Inverness in relation to using this space for their own projects, this will not be at a cost and will allow the community to be able to benefit from this space and integration to the residents of the home.

A space like this in our garden will help support the mental health and wellbeing of our residents greatly and also their family members, this will allow there to be a tranquil peaceful space for them to spend quality time.

In relation to the funds that we have in our bank account, I have provided a savings bank account statement , these funds are held as a contingencies amount for staff wages and home emergency's, also from this will be a deduction in August of around £150,000 which is to pay for the company who are removing asbestos from under the building of the home- this is a large scale project that has to be carried out so that we can get repairs done after that involve tradesmen going under the home floor.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Wooden structure to be constructed with patio door and windows, insulation and plasterboard, floor also to be included in price	Around £20,000

Electrical work, plug sockets, lights and heating, power being taken from the main building under ground through the garden	£4,000
Planning permission application	£1,075
Alarm call to be in place in the building from northern security, linking with the home	£4,000
Furnishing for the room, chairs, table and cupboard space	£1,000
Total Project Cost	£30,075

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Highland Council	£30,000	
The National Lottery	£30,000	Declined
Scotmid	Any donation	£300
Total Match Funding		
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	£30,000	
Own Contribution	Unable at present	
Total Project Funding	£30,000	

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

At present the home does not have any funds to help assist in the build of the garden room.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start? VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	1938
What geographic area does your organization cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	Highlands and Islands, Inverness , Crown area
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Elderly, and also community engagement of various ages and diverse backgrounds
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	As we are a care home we only admit individuals who require care and want to be admitted to the home as a resident , we are residential so do not have full nursing needs in the home.
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.	no
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.	no

Bank Details

Proposal For Garden Room 2026 - Isobel Cottage

- Wooden structure on a wooden base
- Front facing patio glass doors with floor to ceiling windows at either side of the door
- Wooden building to be white on the front with a black roof, roof to be sloped to the back of the building and to be in line with the roof of the care home wings
- Ramp into the front door of the building- ramp to be not a large one as this has to fit with the path that is in place already as the garden room will fit into a space with the path running (not adapted) as it is at present
- Inside to be Kingspan insulation with plaster board walls
- 4 double electrical sockets-providing electricity for the building, this will be taken from the main building or the existing electricity supply that is outside in the garden
- Strip lighting to be applied on ceiling for lighting
- Electric storage heater to be installed -wall mounted
- Nurse call bell and fire alarm to be installed
- Inside to be non-slip lino as installed for flooring
- Size of the garden room will be 6mx5m

The proposed garden room will be in the west side of the garden in an area that at present is not being used. The building will be built back into this corner area and will allow for the current walk way to remain to be in place. The garden room will have outside lights on either side which will come on with the main garden lights that are on the building at night time.

Internally the walls will be insulated with Kingspan insulation and then plasterboard sheets, the colour will remain to be neutral when painted to allow as much natural light in to the space.

This outside wooden construction is proposed to be used as an outside room for the residents to use with staff assistance of 2 at all times for

health and safety. The proposed garden room will have inside a large table and free standing storage units. This room will also be utilised by family members to spend time with their loved ones in a private area. This garden room will have space in it that will allow staff training, board meetings and also a place to hold residents private birthdays.

Health and Safety Risk Assessment will be in place with all staff signing before use of the room. This will document on it that the room when occupied with residents will not have less than two staff. It will stipulate that if the emergency buzzer goes off in the main building (but this being linked to the garden room also) that one member of staff will remain with the residents and the other staff member will go into the building to assist with the emergency.

If there was a fire alarm to go off, then one member of staff will go into the house to assist with the fire alarm emergency and the other will remain with the residents until a member of staff comes back. There will also be fire extinguishers in the proposed room and this will be fire checked from the Fire department when they are doing their annual visit to the home in April 2026. At this time there will also be a plan in place for a fire evacuation and this will be implemented in the fire evacuation procedure.

Visual ideas documented below







APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND

Applicant / Organisation:	Inverness Foodstuff		
Project Title:	Providing Dignity for Homeless Persons in Inverness		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	IV2 4SF		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	[REDACTED]		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Ward 14: Inverness Central		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	x

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number	x	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
SC045221			
Other – please specify			

Amount applied for	£15,000
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Start Date of Project	November 2026
End Date of Project	July 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: Inverness Foodstuff (IF) provides three-course lunches, made predominantly from donated surplus food, for homeless and vulnerable people three days a week at Ness Bank Church (NBC) in Inverness. Between November and April, IF also operate as a Warm Hub and provide breakfasts as well as lunch. In addition, IF delivers lunches and support services at Hilton Community Centre two days a week. However, this application relates solely to our core activities at Ness Bank Church.

At NBC, IF provides an average of 891 three-course lunches each month to approximately 180 homeless and vulnerable participants. While most homeless participants are living in temporary accommodation, we typically support between two and five people sleeping rough each week. For example, this week we supported six rough sleepers. Two are long-term rough sleepers who have been sleeping outside for several months, while four had recently become homeless. Of these, two were sleeping in their car because they said they could no longer cope with the anti-social behaviour of other residents in the temporary accommodation they had been offered. One had been evicted from the family home due to alcohol dependency, and another, who has substance misuse issues, had been asked to leave temporary accommodation because of his behaviour.

While it all starts with the food, IF is much more than just a meal! We provide practical support, including clothing, shoes, haircuts, tents, sleeping pods and sleeping bags, towels, flasks, takeaway food etc. And, through partnership working, we also offer access to essential services on site such as homeless healthcare team (NHS GP, Homeless Nurse and Support Worker); money and debt advice (provided by Citizens Advice Bureau) etc. ensuring people can receive support they need in a trusted, safe environment.

Aim & Beneficiaries: To establish on-site shower and laundry facilities at Ness Bank Church for homeless rough sleepers in Inverness

Why is this needed? At present, thanks to the support of High Life Highland, we provide shower vouchers that can be used at Inverness Leisure on Wednesdays between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. While this service is valued, its limited availability often means homeless people cannot access basic hygiene facilities when they need them most. For example, a young homeless woman who had been discharged from hospital following an assault asked for a shower voucher so she could wash blood from her hair. As it was a Thursday, she was unable to access a shower for almost another week.

People sleeping rough have also told us that one shower a week is simply not enough. In addition, Inverness Leisure is almost two miles from the city centre. Many homeless people have explained that travelling there is particularly difficult during bad weather, when carrying all of their belongings, or when experiencing mobility or health problems. For many, walking such a distance is simply not realistic.

In November 2025, IF secured a small grant to provide laundry vouchers for people sleeping rough through a local laundrette. Since then, vouchers have been issued almost every week, clearly demonstrating the demand for the service. One regular rough sleeper told us that being able to wash and thoroughly dry his sleeping bag and clothing has made a significant difference to both his comfort and his health.

It is not uncommon for rough sleepers to arrive at IF with wet clothing, bedding and sleeping bags (particularly during the winter months). Being able to wash and dry these items on site, while also enjoying a hot meal (and hopefully taking a hot shower), would provide a far more effective, accessible and dignified service. The current funding IF have for laundry vouchers will end in October.

How will we do this? Ness Bank Church is due to undergo a major refurbishment later this year and has offered IF the use of a room, which is currently uninhabitable, to create dedicated shower and laundry facilities. This is conditional on IF securing funding for the conversion and equipment, although NBC will make a financial contribution towards the project. The church will also arrange for the conversion work to be completed as part of its wider refurbishment programme.

Although IF does not own the building (IF pay rent to use the NBC premises/facilities), NBC fully supports both the project and IF. A Letter of Comfort from NBC will accompany this application.

Providing on-site access to shower and laundry facilities will enable people sleeping rough to maintain basic hygiene, improve their comfort, health and wellbeing, and restore dignity at a time when they are experiencing some of the greatest challenges in their lives.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.

Outcome

Improved access to basic hygiene facilities providing comfort and dignity for homeless rough sleepers in Inverness.

Longer Term Benefits of Project

Since the cost-of-living crisis began to have a significant impact in late 2022, IF has experienced a 74% increase in the number of people accessing its services at Ness Bank Church, with no indication that demand is decreasing.

By providing on-site shower and laundry facilities, IF will be able to significantly enhance the support it offers to people experiencing homelessness for many years to come. We will also work with other organisations supporting homeless people, such as Café 1668 and the Salvation Army, as well the Council's homeless service (who often refer people to us for food; tents etc.) to make them aware of these facilities so they can refer anyone in need of shower or laundry services to IF.

How the Project Supports Public Sector Equality Duty

IF welcomes people of all ages and ethnicities. All of IF's participants have experienced disadvantage. Many are living in homeless temporary accommodation, predominately houses of multiple occupation with shared or limited facilities; sofa surfing, sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness. Often shunned by society, all are vulnerable, living in poverty with additional challenges such as substance abuse, poor mental and/or physical health, disabilities and criminal records.

At Inverness Foodstuff we pride ourselves on being inclusive and accessible ensuring whoever comes through our door receives a warm welcome and is treated with dignity and respect. We know from our participant survey (2025) at NBC that 84% of participants said they felt welcomed and part of a community. We also know that many of IF homeless participants struggle to access mainstream services; IF through working in partnership with numerous organisations brings services and support to IF at NBC, removing barriers and helping some of society's most vulnerable people access the support they need in an safe, trusted environment.

IF offer safe places without judgement, where everyone is accepted and listened too. These values underpin all the work we do.

Gaelic Language

Inverness Foodstuff recognises that the Gaelic language is part of the Highland's cultural heritage, connecting generations through history, tradition, and identity. We understand the importance of the need to preserve the language. We have a couple of volunteers who speak Gaelic who are always happy to take the trouble to speak to any Gaelic speaking participants who use our services.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Alterations to existing building, forming new opening, removing existing doors	£6,170.00
New internal walls, partitions & internal doors	£9,280.00
Plasterboard, repairs to existing walls, floor coverings, skirtings, ceiling plasterboard and decoration	£9,400.00
Shower, Wash Hand Basins, accessible toilet, soil and waste pipes, water piping	£11,600.00
Ventilation, electrical works	£6,750.00
Washing, machine & tumble dryer	£3,000.00
Contingency (£5240) & Lead Design Fees (£4769)	£10,189.00
Quantity Surveyor, Structural, Mechanical & Electrical Fees	£1,500.00
Total Project Cost	£57,889.00

Note: Costs are Quantity Surveyor Cost Estimates based on Architect's Design. Ness Bank Church will go out to tender to (up to 5) contractors in due course.
All costs are capital expenditure.

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (What other organisations have you applied to?)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Applied to National Lottery Awards for all Scotland: Outcome known October	18,450.00	No
Ness Bank Church have secured £10K from the Hugh Fraser Foundation	10,000.00	Yes
Ness Bank Church (have committed to raising this sum)	5,689.00	No
Total Match Funding	34,139.00	
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	15,000.00	
Own Contribution	8,750.00	
Total Project Funding	57,889.00	

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

We spoke to Lottery before submitting application, advised reasonable chance of success but if successful, we may not get full amount requested given current demand for lottery funding. If application is successful but not given full amount requested; IF will consider providing shortfall (or some of the shortfall) and if not successful we will seek other funding opportunities.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start? VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	10 November 2014
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	Inverness
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Homeless and other vulnerable persons
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	No
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.	No
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.	Yes. Inverness Foodstuff received £1200 from the Ward Discretionary Fund in December 2024 to provide festive food parcels for families struggling financially in the Hilton area of Inverness. Inverness Foodstuff also received £3000 from the Ward Discretionary Fund in May 2025, a contribution towards costs for research and feasibility study of Inverness Foodstuff establishing a 'public diner' in the Hilton area of Inverness.



APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND

Applicant / Organisation:	St Columba Church of Scotland, Inverness		
Project Title:	St Columba Community Rooms for South Inverness		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Church-owned land on Dores Road, Inverness, IV2. Please note we have not been allocated a full post code yet.		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Ward 15: Inverness Ness side		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	x

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)	x	Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number SC008109	x	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
Other – please specify			

Amount applied for	£30,000
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Start Date of Project	Spring 2027, dependent on all funding being secured
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End Date of Project	Spring 2028 (estimated 50-week construction period)
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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

St Columba Church of Scotland, Inverness, is seeking £30,000 from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards the community rooms within its new church and community building on its 3-acre Dores Road site. The request is specifically for the shared community facilities that will serve citizens of Inverness through affordable rooms, accessible toilets, hospitality space, family activities, youth provision, older people's connections, volunteering, school links, and community group use.

The full capital project is now costed at £2,266,520, with £1,830,819 already secured or confirmed. Planning permission has been approved (ref. 26/01384/FUL) and the professional team is in place. Building warrant and technical design work are progressing and will be completed before construction starts. Support from the Inverness Common Good Fund would help close the remaining gap and ensure the community facilities are delivered as part of the main build, not delayed, reduced or treated as an optional later phase.

St Columba has served South Inverness since 2010 without a permanent building. The congregation currently worships in temporary venues and has used homes, schools and, in summer 2025, a marquee on the Dores Road field. This has helped build strong local relationships but limits week-round support, especially for people who need regular, accessible, affordable and familiar places to meet.

The need is clear. The parish serves around 4,000 households across Slackbuie, Ness Castle, Lochardil, Ness side, Dores and nearby villages. Local reporting on Scotland's Census 2022 noted that Inverness South had just over 6,000 residents in 2001 and had grown by around 10,000 by 2022, with Ness Castle Primary opening in 2023 to serve the new community. However, local facilities have not kept pace. The area has no medical or dental surgeries, limited local shops, and very few public buildings that residents and community groups can use. This creates practical barriers for young families, older people, disabled residents, carers, people on low incomes, new residents and people without strong local networks.

National data reinforces the importance of local, inclusive places. Scotland's Census 2022 recorded around 930,000 single-person households, 37.1% of all Scottish households, and showed that 12.9% of people in Scotland had a minority ethnic background, up from 8.2% in 2011. The Scottish Health Survey has described loneliness as a significant public health problem. In new housing areas, disadvantage can be less visible than in traditional deprivation statistics: people may live beside new development but still face isolation, financial pressure, disability, poor mental health, caring responsibilities, language or cultural barriers, or lack of transport and local support.

Evidence referenced above draws on Scotland's Census 2022, National Records of Scotland household data, the Scottish Health Survey, and local reporting on Inverness South population growth and the opening of Ness Castle Primary.

The new community rooms will respond directly to these barriers. They will provide flexible meeting rooms, children's and family activity space, hospitality and kitchen facilities, accessible toilets, including an adult changing facility, inclusive fittings, storage, garden and play space, parking, and links to surrounding paths and the NCN 78 cycle route. The rooms will support toddler groups, parenting and early years activities, youth work, school visits,

pastoral and wellbeing support, community meals, older people's activities, volunteering, partnership work, and affordable use by local charities, schools, and community groups.

Although the building will also provide a permanent home for worship, the community facilities supported through this application will be open to people of all faiths and none. No one will need to take part in worship or religious activities to use the rooms. The purpose is to create practical community infrastructure that helps citizens of Inverness meet, learn, build confidence, reduce isolation, access support and participate more fully in local life.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.*

The project will create lasting public benefit for South Inverness and the wider Inverness Common Good area by bringing a reliable, inclusive, and affordable community facility to a part of the city where homes have arrived faster than shared local infrastructure has. The Fund's support would help ensure these community facilities come to fruition in the first phase of construction, giving the building the flexible rooms, hospitality space, accessible facilities, and fittings needed for public use from day one.

Expected outcomes include: more local space for children, young people and families; expanded early years activity including the existing Welcome to Life project; safe youth and teenage activities; practical support and friendship for older people and people living alone; better access for disabled residents and carers; affordable rooms for schools, charities and voluntary groups; more volunteering; and stronger links between residents, schools, services, churches and community organisations. The building will also support learning, community meals, informal peer support, pastoral care, school partnership work and community-led activity. This will create a long-term community asset rather than a short-term activity, giving the Common Good Fund a visible and lasting role in improving community life in a fast-growing part of Inverness.

In the first full year, we expect the community facilities to support regular weekly church and community activity, school and early years links, affordable room use by local groups, and wider community events. We anticipate direct use by several hundred residents in year one, with potential to reach significantly more as regular bookings, community partnerships and local awareness grow.

St Columba will apply appropriate Church of Scotland safeguarding procedures for church-led activity and will require external groups using the facilities to have appropriate safeguarding, insurance and risk management arrangements in place where relevant. Appropriate insurance, health and safety and booking procedures will also be in place before community use begins.

The project will continue beyond ICGF support through established Church of Scotland governance, ongoing congregational giving, hall and room hire, community use, designated maintenance funds and continued fundraising. The Kirk Session will retain oversight, supported by the Building Team and professional advisers. Current plans also include low-energy design, air-source heat pumps and underfloor heating, helping manage future running costs.

The project will support the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by reducing barriers to participation. The rooms will be available to people of all ages, abilities, faiths and backgrounds, with no requirement to attend worship. Flexible layouts, accessible toilets, including adult-changing provision, hospitality space, and affordable use will help disabled people, carers, families with young children, older people, people experiencing loneliness, minority ethnic residents, and people under financial pressure to take part. St Columba will use local partnerships, school

links, community networks and accessible communications to reach people who may not approach a church or community venue without encouragement. This will support equality across age, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and socio-economic disadvantage by providing an accessible, welcoming space where people can meet across backgrounds and life stages.

The project is not specifically designed to promote Gaelic, but St Columba would welcome appropriate community use that celebrates local culture and language, including Gaelic, where opportunities arise. We will complete the required Evaluation Report at the end of the project, acknowledge Inverness Common Good Fund support in line with guidance, and understand that any extension to the six-month grant validity period would need to be requested in writing.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Building fabric	£1,616,110
Ground works and drainage	£315,760
Contingency	£146,570
Professional fees	£100,000
Surveys/utilities	£20,000
AV installation for worship, learning and community activity	£55,000
Furniture/fittings for initial furnishing and fit-out needs	£13,080
Revenue costs	N/A
Total Project Cost	£2,266,520

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Existing Parish Fabric Funds	£1,218,750	Confirmed
Raised by congregation 2018-2025	£112,069	Confirmed
Further congregation and community fundraising	£100,000	Planned
Church of Scotland General Trustees	£500,000	Confirmed
Trusts and foundations programme	£305,701	Pending/planned - applications to Garfield Weston, Benefact, Baird, Mary Brown, Beatrice Laing, Hugh Fraser, Vardy, Joseph Rank, Jane Hodge, Ferguson Bequest, AMW, James Wood, Otsar and others
Total Match Funding	£805,701	Includes confirmed, pending and planned
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	£30,000	
Own Contribution	£1,330,819 confirmed plus £100,000 planned congregation and community fundraising	Includes confirmed and planned

Total Project Funding	£2,266,520	Includes confirmed, pending and planned
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If there is a shortfall in funding, how do you propose to fund it?

We have already secured or confirmed £1,830,819, just over 80% of the capital cost, leaving a current shortfall of £435,701. The Inverness Common Good Fund request is therefore an important part of the final funding package. It would directly help the community facilities proceed within the main construction programme, reducing the risk that community rooms, accessible fittings or shared-use elements are delayed, reduced or value-engineered out.

We are addressing the remaining gap through a mixed and realistic funding plan: continued congregational and community fundraising, and a programme of applications to charitable trusts, foundations and statutory funders whose interests align with faith, community, youth, families, wellbeing, accessibility and local facilities.

The congregation has already shown substantial commitment through confirmed capital funds and local giving. We are also using our own funds to employ a professional fundraiser with 20 years' experience of securing support for capital projects. This enables us to target appropriate funders, present a strong evidence-based case and maintain momentum. If any shortfall remains, we will continue community fundraising and further trust applications.

St Columba is also currently exploring the potential to contribute further funds towards the construction project from its own income, helping to strengthen the funding package and demonstrate the congregation's continued commitment to delivery.

If absolutely necessary, the professional team would consider value engineering or phased delivery, but a one-stage build offers better value for money and much faster community benefit.

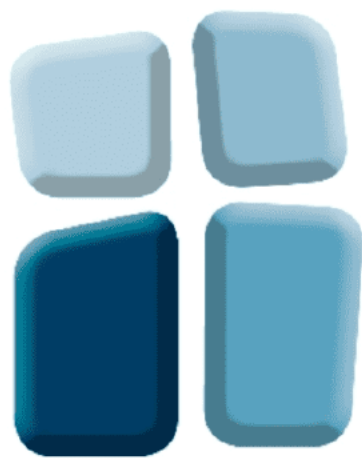
About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	Started in Inverness in 2010.
VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	n/a
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	South Inverness and Loch Ness-side, including Slackbuie, Ness Castle, Lochardil, Ness side, Holm, Dores and nearby villages. The project will bring direct benefit to citizens of Inverness through community rooms on Dores Road, serving Ward 15 Inverness Ness-side and a rapidly growing part of the city with limited shared community infrastructure. The site is visible, flat, on a bus route, close to paths and the NCN 78 cycle route, and positioned to serve both new housing areas and established communities.
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	St Columba serves a growing and varied community across South Inverness and Loch Ness-side. Communities of interest include children, young people, young families, older residents, disabled people, carers, people living alone, people experiencing poor mental health or loneliness, minority ethnic residents, local schools, volunteers, charities and community groups. The area has changed rapidly. Local reporting on Scotland's Census 2022 recorded major population growth in Inverness South between 2001 and 2022, and Ness Castle Primary opened in 2023 to serve this expanding community. Growth has brought many new residents, but support networks and community infrastructure are still developing. National data also shows why accessible local space matters: Scotland's Census

	2022 recorded 930,000 single-person households, 37.1% of all households, and 12.9% of people in Scotland had a minority ethnic background, up from 8.2% in 2011. The Scottish Health Survey has described loneliness as a significant public health problem. These figures matter locally because new housing growth can mask disadvantage: residents may be living in modern homes but still experiencing isolation, disability, caring pressures, financial strain, poor mental health, language barriers or limited transport. Some residents may face high housing costs, limited transport, disability, caring responsibilities, language or cultural barriers, isolation after moving into a new area, or poor mental health without having an accessible local place to turn. St Columba will help by creating low-cost, inclusive community rooms for toddler and parenting groups, youth activity, school links, community meals, older people's coffee and friendship activity, support groups, volunteering, pastoral and wellbeing support, and affordable use by local charities and community organisations. The building is being designed to reduce practical barriers through flexible rooms, accessible toilets, including adult-changing provision, hospitality space, level access, parking, outdoor space, and links to local paths. The community facilities will be open to people of all faiths and none, with no requirement to attend worship or religious activity.
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Church membership is open in line with Church of Scotland practice. There are no restrictions on who can use or benefit from the community rooms. Use of the community facilities will not require participation in worship or religious activities, and the spaces will be promoted for wider community benefit through local networks, schools, partner organisations and community communications.
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.	No
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.	No

Bank Details

Name of Bank	██████████
Account Name	██
Account Number	██████████
Sort Code	██████████



Inverness
St. Columba
Here for life

Inverness St Columba Building Project

Business Plan

Contents:

Objectives

Progress so far

Getting started and our build options

Budget – Fundraising Strategy and Cost

Responsibilities

Next steps

Objectives

Our Vision Statement provides a detailed look at the vision for the work our church will do in serving the congregation and the community.

Key building objectives:

- A gathering place for the church to meet on Sundays and throughout the week.
- A multifunctional space accessible to groups of all ages and abilities.
- A low cost and energy efficient environment.
- Delivered within budget and in a timely manner.

Progress so far

Since becoming a New Charge in 2010 St Columba has met in various non-permanent locations. In recent years Sunday meetings have taken place in Drummond Primary School.

In 2018 land was purchased for the purpose of building a church. In 2018 the planning process was started but Covid and budget constraints delayed development.

In 2024 a new team was formed to restart the process with the aim of delivering a building in the near future. Also in 2024 Boleskine (Previously Dores and Boleskine) merged with St Columba.

The church has access to funds from previously owned properties. The congregation has raised funds for this project.

The congregation and the community are keen to see action on the land especially because there is a need for a community building in the area. The need is increasing as new residential properties continue to be built.

The current presbytery Mission statement fully supports our proposed new build as the following quotes from the Mission statements demonstrate: “St Columba are encouraged to continue to work to progress and bring forward proposals for an appropriate new build project”; and “The St Columba Kirk Session should submit fully worked out proposals for an appropriate new build project providing regular updates, liaising with presbytery/ GT’s”

Getting started and our build options

- The church and the community have been aware of the intention to build a church on the land for more than 7 years.
- There are no other nearby buildings that can provide the facilities that we are looking to deliver.
- We have a significant portion of our funding available to spend at this time.

For these reasons it is our first intention is to build soon and to build the full property in one stage.

We have costed the minimum size of a building that is required to meet our objectives. If we are able to raise more funds, we will consider increasing the energy efficiency of the building and increasing the size to benefit anyone who uses the church. For example, more floorspace for children's work will be beneficial given the demographic of our area and the likely community uses (Toddler groups etc).

If we are unable to raise sufficient funds to build an appropriate building, we are willing to build in stages but would prefer to avoid this delay.

Budget – Fundraising Strategy

The table below breaks down the amounts we expect to raise or have access to from the various sources.

Source	Amount	Comment
Existing Parish Fabric Funds	£1,218,750	
Raised by the congregation 2018-2025	£116,000	
Requested contribution from General Trustees	£500,000	
Further funds from congregation and community	£100,000	See note 2
Funds expected from grants	£335,000	See note 1
TOTAL	£2,269,750	

Note 1 – In order to protect the ongoing work of the church we believe our best option for raising funds from grant bodies is to employ the work of a professional fundraiser. We have engaged Louisa Evans, founder and director of “Futures Fundraising”, for this purpose.

Louisa was recommended to us by members of the central Church of Scotland and she has successfully worked with congregations in Scotland on similar projects. Following preliminary meetings, Louisa is confident that there are funders who will be on board with our project and has built a list of bodies to approach for grants.

Our target for funds raised from grants is £240,000, but extra funding will be sought to allow us to make sustainable and economical choices for our building. For example we are keen to utilise air source heating rather than relying on a gas supply in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the building and to keep costs as low as possible for the benefit of the church and groups renting the premises.

Note 2: The congregation has been advertising its intention to build a church and community building for over seven years in the form of signage on the church field which is on a busy road in the heart of the Parish. As a result, there is an expectation and a willingness from the community to support the church in this venture. This has been demonstrated by the well attended open days on our fields. When we have gathered in the field the community has not only attended in good numbers but also showed willing to contribute financially even without invitation. For this reason a funding website will be used to invite support from the community.

In the summer of 2025 the church met weekly on the church field in a marquee. This increased our visibility in the local area and resulted in new members attending our church.

Budget – Costs

The table below provides an indication as to the various costs expected in the building process.

Item	Cost	Comments
Building Fabric	£1,616,110	From QS excl ground work and drainage
Contingency (6.9%)	£146,570	Based on input from QS, 5% contingency applied to above ground costs. 15% applied to other areas.
Ground work & drainage	£315,760	From QS
Professional Fees	£100,000	Based on £88,178 plus legal fees inc vat
Surveys/Utilities	£20,000	
AV installation	£55,000	
Furniture/Fittings	£13,080	
Total	£2,266,520	

Note 1: Based on an estimated building size of 560m² at £2,900 per m². This figure was confirmed as reasonable by our appointed architect.

Responsibilities

Further to the capital building funds above, the congregation holds £100,000 for the purpose of generating an income to support the ongoing maintenance of our Local Mission Church building in Boleskine.

A further £50,000 is held in the event of a large repair or alteration being required for Boleskine.

A further balance of ~£110,000 is held in General Funds and bank accounts for the work of the church aside from the building although it is recognised that some of this capital may be required during the building of the church.

Business plan creator and editors: St Columba Church Building Team.



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

Applicant / Organisation:	3 rd Inverness (Crown) Scout Group		
Project Title:	Refurbishment of Scout Hall		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Scout Hall, Midmills Road, Inverness, IV2 3QJ		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	[REDACTED]		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Ward 16		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	x

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number SCO32905	x	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
Other – please specify			

Amount applied for	£12,750
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Start Date of Project	September 2026
End Date of Project	March 2027

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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

This project is the ongoing refurbishment of the Scout Hall. In December 2024, on the instruction of the Trustees, Caledonian Building Surveyors completed a full survey of the Scout Hall. They highlighted many areas in need of repair and replacing to conform to modern building regulations.

In January 2025, there was small flood in the kitchen. We decided that the kitchen was a priority. With donated kitchen units, Scot Build Ltd completed the building work and provided materials at cost price. An army of volunteers helped to rip out the existing kitchen units, tiles, flooring and sink. We also had a qualified plumber and electrician do their part at cost or with no charge. Having the kitchen back enabled the scout group to have sleep overs, a fundraising quiz night and our annual AGM with BBQ.

The Trustee Board are now looking to continue the refurbishment, however replacing the kitchen seriously depleted our groups funds which made the Trustee Board question whether the group could continue. Luckily, our insurance provider paid to cover our costs.

In June 2026, following a review of the property our insurance provider refused us cover due to the poor condition of the hall. One of the main areas highlighted in the Surveyors report needing attention is the external cladding which we believe is the original wood from 70 years ago. By replacing the deteriorating wall cladding the Scout Hall with modern, more durable and energy-efficient materials, it will ensure the hall remains safe, weatherproof and fit for purpose for the young people, volunteers and community groups who use it.

The new cladding will provide significantly improved protection from the elements, helping to prevent water ingress, reduce heat loss and safeguard the building structure from further deterioration. Improved insulation will create a warmer, more comfortable environment throughout the year while reducing energy consumption and heating costs.

The Surveyors report highlighted that there is dry rot in both gable ends of the hall, damage to guttering, minimal or no insulation between external and internal walls, among other things. In addition to the practical benefits, this project will enhance the appearance of the Scout Hall, which is currently attracting anti-social behaviour in the area. An improved looking hall will create a more welcoming and attractive facility for the residents, scout members and visitors. We

currently have approximately one hundred children using the hall on a weekly basis for scouting purposes. There are four groups with children aging from 4 to 14 years old. We have the only Squirrels group based in Inverness for children aged from 4 to 6, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We also have the district run Explorers group for teenagers aged 14 to 16. As part of the scouting family, they use our hall every Thursday at no charge.

The Trustee Board have secured additional revenue recently by renting out the hall once a week to a Martial Arts group and to Highland Council as a training venue for occasional use. The Council has also used the hall, at no charge, to hold community meetings regarding the ongoing anti-social issues and plans to regenerate the area.

The refurbishment will extend the lifespan of the building and reducing future maintenance and repair requirements. The investment will help secure the long-term future of an important community asset.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.*

Our main outcome for this project is to have long term preservation and modernisation of the hall so that it can continue to be a community asset for current and future generations. By improving accessibility and inclusivity within the hall, the Trustee board can ensure that it can be used safely and comfortably not only for the children of Inverness but visiting scout groups and to the Inverness residents.

Our project supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by advancing equality of opportunity and promoting inclusive participation within the community.

The proposed improvements will reduce physical barriers that may currently prevent some people from accessing the hall and participating in community activities. By creating a more accessible environment, the project will improve opportunities for disabled people to participate fully in community life. By promoting equality and encourage greater inclusion to all, this project will help ensure that it is welcoming and accessible to everyone regardless of age, disability or mobility requirements.

As a result of the project, is a modernise and sustainable facility that better fits the needs of the people. We expect an increased participation in community activities and events. A greater use of the hall by community groups and local organisations which will also increase revenue to the scout group which can be used for new equipment, activities and outings for the children. By

having an enhanced looking hall, it will reduce anti-social behaviour in the area (Broken Windows Theory) and continued community engagement to the children and adults of Inverness.

Scouting UK does not have a Gaelic badge however it does have a Communicator Activity Badge that children can work towards by showing they can have a conversation in a language or act as a translator. Scouting also have a Scottish Challenge Badge which usually completed around Burns Night or St Andrews Day where the children learn Gaelic phrases.

The Trustee Board acknowledges that, if successful, the grant award will be valid for six months from the date of the award letter. The project can be completed in this period, and we are aware that should unforeseen circumstances arise, an extension will be requested in writing within the validity period in accordance with the Fund's requirements.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Renew all external wall cladding (Capital Expenditure)	11,000
Insulate external walls from with the exterior or interior side and install plywood layer along with breather membrane (Capital Expenditure)	5,300
Total Project Cost	16,300

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount (£)	Confirmed
Fund		
This project will be funded through a combination of grant funding, fundraising activities, selling off unused equipment, gift aid and donations from the local scout group.	3550	Yes

Total Match Funding		
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	12,750	
Own Contribution	3550	
Total Project Funding	16300	

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

We are still constantly looking at fundraising opportunities. These range from Tesco bag packing, assisting with local events (Etape & Loch Ness Marathon) Quiz nights, scratch cards, small society lottery, donations, match funding and corporate grants (SSE, Co-op, etc)

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1916
VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	N/A
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	The Crown/Diriebught area of Inverness. (Ward 16 I believe.) However, we have children, adult volunteers and community groups come from all over the Inverness area.
What communities of interest (e.g. young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Scouting focuses mainly on youth development across all demographics. It also looks to engage with young people with skills for life and social skills. With adults, Scouting looks to develop them as volunteer leaders. It also embraces interfaith and ethnic minority cultural groups.
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Yes. All adult volunteers including Trustee members must complete and pass a PVG application to work with children.
Has your organisation received any funding from the Inverness Common Good Fund	No

over the last 3 years. If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	
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.	No

Bank Details

Name of Bank	
Account Name	
Account Number	
Sort Code	

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 OR For new organisations which have been established less than 12 months please give an estimate of first year's income and expenditure AND	X



APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND

Applicant / Organisation:	New Start Highland		
Project Title:	New Start Highland Foodbank		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	1 Glebe St, Inverness IV1 1RF		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	[REDACTED]		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Ward 14 Inverness Central		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	✓

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)	☐	Community Council	☐
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number	✓	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	✓
SC029635		SC213206	
Other – please specify			

Amount applied for	£30,000
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Start Date of Project	December 2026
End Date of Project	November 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

Project Summary – Inverness Foodbank (New Start Highland)

We are seeking support from the Inverness Common Good Fund to sustain and strengthen the Inverness Foodbank, which we recently took over from Blythswood Care to ensure its long-term future as a vital safety net for people in crisis across the city.

Aims of the project and how we will deliver it

Our aim is to provide immediate, dignified access to emergency food and wraparound support for individuals and families in Inverness experiencing financial crisis, while working towards longer-term stability and reduced reliance on food aid.

We will do this by:

- Providing emergency food parcels for 5,000 people per year through our established distribution network in Inverness.
- Maintaining and supporting our team of staff and over 70 volunteers to deliver a consistent, compassionate service.
- Integrating foodbank provision with our wider services (including employability, housing support and furniture reuse), enabling people to access holistic support at point of need.
- Strengthening referral pathways with partners such as Citizens Advice and local agencies to ensure people receive advice and income maximisation support alongside food provision.

New or existing service

This is an existing, essential service that we have recently taken on, representing both continuity and development. While the foodbank has supported local people since 2005, our leadership marks a new phase, embedding the service within a wider, locally rooted organisation with a strong track record of tackling poverty and exclusion in the Highlands.

Funding request – running costs or specific activity

We are seeking support towards the core running costs, including staffing, premises, logistics, and food distribution. This investment will ensure our service remains stable during the transition period and can meet sustained high levels of demand.

Evidence of need

Locally, the Inverness Foodbank supports over 5,000 people each year, demonstrating the scale of need within our Inverness community. Local demand for our emergency service remains steadfastly high with no evidence of it dropping off. All economic measures indicate a persistent and increasing demand will prevail.

In Inverness demand for food from the “In work poverty” group (people working but not on benefits) has tripled. People in work but without benefit safety nets are hitting crisis point.

Demand from young adults (17–24) has recently doubled. This age group is now tied with 45–54-year-olds as the second-largest adult age group, behind only 35–44-year-olds.

This demand profile is in line with national indicators, where the Trussell Trust’s *Hunger in the UK 2025* report highlights that:

- In Scotland, need remains persistently high, with around 240,000 emergency food parcels distributed in a single year, including a significant proportion to families with children.
- 14.1 million people across the UK are food insecure, equivalent to 1 in 6 households.
- 6.5 million people turned to charitable food providers in 2024.
- Levels of hardship are becoming more severe and entrenched, with many people unable to afford the essentials despite falling inflation.

Who will benefit – impact on Inverness residents

The primary beneficiaries of this project are individuals and families living in Inverness who are experiencing acute financial hardship. This includes:

- Low-income households affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
- Families with children, who are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity.
- Disabled people and those with long-term health conditions, who are overrepresented among foodbank users.
- People facing sudden crises such as job loss, ill health, or housing instability.

By sustaining and developing the foodbank, we will:

- Ensure Inverness residents have access to emergency food when they need it most.
- Reduce immediate hardship and prevent crisis escalation.
- Improve dignity and wellbeing for vulnerable citizens.
- Connect people with wider support services, strengthening resilience and pathways out of poverty.

In line with the purpose of the Inverness Common Good Fund, our project directly benefits the residents of Inverness by addressing poverty, strengthening community resilience, and ensuring that no one in the city is left without access to the essentials they need to live.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.

Summary of Expected Outcomes

Our project will deliver both immediate crisis support and longer term positive outcomes for people across Inverness experiencing financial hardship.

Key expected outcomes

- Continued provision of emergency food parcels to over 5,000 local people each year, ensuring no one in Inverness goes without essential food in a crisis.
- Improved health, wellbeing and dignity for individuals and families by providing compassionate, non-judgemental support.
- Increased access to wraparound services (including mental health advice, income maximisation and employability training and support), helping individuals move towards greater financial stability.
- Reduced isolation through community based, volunteer led provision, strengthening local resilience.
- Support targeted at those most affected by inequality, reflecting national evidence that food insecurity is deeply unequal—for example, over a quarter (26%) of disabled people experience food insecurity, and around 79% of people referred to food banks are disabled or in a disabled household. (trussell.org.uk), (commonslibraryparliament.uk)

These outcomes respond directly to the growing and entrenched need identified in *Hunger in the UK 2025*, which shows that 1 in 6 households face food insecurity and 6.5 million people are forced to turn to charitable food support. (trussell.org.uk)

Sustainability beyond ICGF support

We are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Inverness Foodbank beyond the period of Common Good Fund support. We will achieve this by:

- Diversifying income through grant funding, donations, corporate partnerships and community fundraising
- Continuing to mobilise and grow our strong volunteer base, reducing reliance on paid delivery costs
- Embedding the foodbank within our wider services, creating shared infrastructure and efficiencies
- Developing partnerships with local agencies to strengthen early intervention and crisis prevention, reducing repeat need over time

This approach ensures that ICGF investment provides both immediate impact and a platform for long-term resilience.

Contribution to the Public Sector Equality Duty

Our project directly supports Highland Council in meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty by:

- Eliminating discrimination and reducing barriers: We provide free, accessible emergency food support to anyone in crisis, regardless of background or circumstance.
- Advancing equality of opportunity: We prioritise support for groups disproportionately affected by poverty, particularly disabled people, low-income families, and those with health conditions, recognising that structural inequalities can drive food insecurity.

- Fostering good relations: Our volunteer led model brings together people from different backgrounds to support one another, strengthening community cohesion.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, this contributes to reducing inequality by ensuring that vulnerable and marginalised groups can access essential services and improve their life chances. (Scottish Government).

Contribution to the promotion of the Gaelic language

While the primary focus of the project is addressing food poverty, we recognise the importance of Gaelic as a vital part of Highland culture and identity. We will:

- Explore opportunities to provide bilingual signage and materials (English and Gaelic) within the foodbank where appropriate.

This reflects the wider approach across Scotland, where community organisations contribute to increasing the visibility and everyday use of Gaelic through local services and engagement activities. (bord da gaidhlig.scot)

Overall, the project will not only meet urgent need but will also contribute to a fairer, more inclusive and resilient Inverness, aligned with both local priorities and national evidence on tackling hunger and inequality.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Staff Salaries, National Insurances, Pensions	£92,721
Utilities (Electricity & Gas)	£11,535
Repairs & Maintenance	£5,000
Telephone, Stationery	£4,500
General Expenses	£4,000
Food purchases	£3,000
Refuge Collection	£1,800
Vehicle costs	£1,500
Bank Charges	£1,260
Marketing	£1,000
PPE	£ 500
Total Project Cost	£126,816

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Donations - Public	£61,300	
Donations – Businesses	£22,700	
Total Match Funding	£84,000	
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	£30,000	
Own Contribution	£ 12,816	✓
Total Project Funding	£126,816	

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

We aim to address any shortfall in funding for our Inverness Foodbank through a blended income stream which combines the reinvestment of surpluses generated from our commercial activities with the pursuit of additional grant funding.

Income generated through our trading division is channelled directly back into our charitable work, helping us to sustain our core foodbank service, while targeted applications to trusts, foundations, and public funding programmes will further strengthen our financial resilience. This diversified approach ensures we can continue to meet rising local need while reducing reliance on any single funding source.

Two points are worthy of note.

1. We have taken over the running of this vital service at a time when its survival was placed at risk. Supporting the most vulnerable people in Inverness is extremely important to us and the clients we serve, and your support will be important to helping protect them from the harmful effects of poverty and the cost-of-living-crisis.
2. Any shortfall in funding will increase the risk of households in Inverness going hungry – we believe the basic human right to food should be protected in Inverness, and we hope you feel the same way.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	November 2000
VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	108 2312 54
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	Inverness City

What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	Communities of Interest Supported by New Start Highland and the Inverness Foodbank We work with a wide range of communities of interest across Inverness. This is rooted both in our charitable purpose and evidenced through our service delivery, which highlights who is most affected by poverty and food insecurity. People experiencing poverty and financial hardship At our core, we support individuals and families affected by poverty, crisis and financial instability. Our charitable objectives explicitly focus on relieving poverty and hardship among people in the Highlands, particularly those struggling to meet basic needs such as food, housing and essential household goods. This aligns with our evidence showing that 5,000 local people in Inverness are food insecure, demonstrating the scale of financial hardship facing communities today. Specifically, 64% of adults and children supported by our Foodbank come from the Inverness and Millburn areas of Inverness; districts consistently ranked in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. People experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity A key focus of our work is supporting people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or moving on from temporary accommodation. We provide housing support and tenancy sustainment to 250 households and 1,400 essential furniture and starter packs each year; all aimed at helping people establish and maintain a home. These groups often face acute financial pressure and are more likely to require emergency food support, linking directly to the growing demand identified in foodbank usage here and across the UK. People with disabilities and long-term health conditions We support many individuals with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental health conditions, both through our core services and through foodbank provision. Our governing objectives specifically include supporting those experiencing hardship due to disability or ill health. It is noteworthy that we are a registered disability confident employer. This reflects strong national evidence that: • Around 79% of people using food banks are disabled or live in a disabled household
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- People with disabilities and long-term health conditions are significantly more likely to experience food insecurity than the wider population. (Trussell Trust: Hunger in the UK Report Sep 2025)

Families with children and young people

We support families with children, including those facing crisis situations such as low income, benefit delays or rising living costs. Through both our foodbank and wider services, we help families access food, household goods and support.

The need among this group is substantial:

- 1 in 4 of our emergency food parcels go to families with children. (NSH Foodbank statistics 2026).
- 1 in 5 children are growing up facing hunger and hardship in the UK. (Disability Rights UK 2026).

Unemployed people and those seeking work

We provide employability training, volunteering and work experience opportunities to support people who are unemployed or economically inactive to build confidence and move towards employment.

This includes people who may be out of work due to caring responsibilities, long-term illness, or barriers such as lack of skills or experience. This is delivered through the Highland Council managed “All-In-Highland” employability program and framework.

People on low incomes and in insecure work

We support many individuals who are in low-paid or insecure employment, reflecting the reality that having a job does not always protect people from poverty. This area shows the greatest increases in need of all groups measured in Inverness. (NSH Foodbank statistics 2026)

People with mental health needs

Through our services and volunteer programmes, we regularly work with individuals experiencing mental health challenges, helping to build confidence, reduce isolation and support recovery. Our impact reporting highlights how volunteering and support services contribute to improved wellbeing and recovery from mental illness. (newstarthighland.org)

This group is also disproportionately affected by food insecurity, with significantly higher rates among people living with mental health conditions. (Trussell Trust: Hunger in the UK Report Sep 2025)

	Summary Overall, our organisation supports a broad range of people, with a particular focus on those facing multiple and overlapping disadvantages. Both our own service data and national evidence from the Trussell Trust highlight that food insecurity is deeply unequal, disproportionately affecting disabled people, families with children, and those on the lowest incomes. By delivering the Inverness Foodbank alongside our wider services, we are able to respond holistically to these interconnected needs and ensure support reaches the most vulnerable communities in Inverness.
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	No. We pride ourselves on being an open and inclusive organisation, and there are no restrictions on who can join or engage with our services. We welcome individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, income level, or personal circumstances. Our approach is rooted in equality and respect, ensuring that everyone who wishes to be part of our community is able to do so without barriers. By removing eligibility thresholds, we ensure that support is accessible to all who need it and that our organisation reflects the diversity of the Inverness community we support. We are a Real Living Wage employer, a disability confident employer, and 2025 winners of the Reuse Network Organisation of the Year (The Reuse Network), Outstanding Community Engagement and Highland Business of the Year, (Highland Business Awards delivered by Inverness Chamber of Commerce) and BBC Scotland "Make a Difference" Award.
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.	Yes We received £10,000 during 2025 for the creation of Scotland's first Reuse & Training Village based at our headquarters in the Carsegate area of Inverness. We have not only delivered a fantastic, new reuse facility, community café and hospitality training kitchen, but we are incorporating likeminded third sector organisations into our site, such as ILM, Inspiring Young Voices and the Inverness Tool library.
Has your organisation received any other funding from the Highland Council or	Yes

any Common Good Fund over the last 3 years? If yes please give details of when/what for/how much.	We received £49,330 during March 2026 from the Highland Reuse and Repair Fund to launch the Highlands first mattress collection and reuse centre, deliver repair and upcycling classes, and promoting volunteering opportunities.
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Bank Details

Name of Bank	██████████
Account Name	██████████
Account Number	██████████
Sort Code	██████████

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

Declaration: We confirm that we are allowed to submit this application on behalf of:
Name of Organisation New Start Highland

Subject: RE: New Start Highland - Application to the Inverness Common Good Fund

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

Thanks for getting in touch prior to the Sub-Committee meeting.

The request has increased from £25,000 to £30,000 for the following reason.

Prior to New Start Highland taking over the operation of the Inverness Foodbank, the previous incumbent, Blythswood relied upon a significant contribution from public donations. As a result of the switch from Blythswood to New Start Highland there has been a drop off of public donations which will take some time (at least 12 months) to re-establish to the level enjoyed by Blythswood. We estimate the balance between historical public donation funding and the funding we will receive over the duration of the funding period we are applying for to be £5,000.

I trust this explains the requirement for an addition of £5,000 to the previous contribution.

Kind regards



New Start Highland is a company and charity registered in Scotland. Company Registration No. SC 213206. Scottish Charity No. SC 029635

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APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY TO THE INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND

Applicant / Organisation:	Inverness BID Ltd		
Project Title:	Inverness City Partnership (In Action) Street Scene (Autumn 2026 & Spring 2027)		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID (City Centre) 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Inverness Central Ward		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	✓

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number		Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
Other ✓ Company Limited by Guarantee, Non-Profit/Non-Shareholder Capital			

Amount applied for	£10,005
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Start Date of Project	18 th September 2026
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End Date of Project31st 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

Inverness City Partnership (In Action)**Street Scene** (Autumn 2026 & Spring 2027)**1. Overview**

Street Scene forms part of the wider **Safe Inverness** and **Inverness Community Partnership** initiatives and was developed as a collaborative response to the wider inequalities affecting some young people in Inverness, while also helping address youth-related antisocial behaviour through positive engagement.

The programme brings together **Inverness BID, Police Scotland, Youth Highland, The Highland Council, Inverness Common Good Fund, local secondary schools**, and a growing network of more than forty organisations from the **public, private** and **third sectors** (see Appendix 2).

In addition to Street Scene, **Safe Inverness** has also under its core remit introduced a range of initiatives in the last 18 months including **See It Report It, Safety Links, No Place for Hate**, the **Alert** platform, and **Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week**.

Together these initiatives combine prevention, early intervention, community engagement, accessible reporting and proportionate enforcement to improve community safety, strengthen confidence in the city centre and ensure Inverness remains a welcoming place for residents, businesses, visitors and young people alike, while helping young people feel valued, included and connected to their community.

2. Background and Need

In 2024, Inverness BID and city centre businesses identified increasing levels of youth-related antisocial behaviour within Inverness city centre, particularly on Friday afternoons.

While enforcement remained an important part of the response, partners recognised that lasting change would also require positive opportunities, earlier intervention and stronger engagement with young people themselves.

Working alongside **Operation Youth Respect**, Inverness BID and Police Scotland organised an initial open day for young people in Summer 2024.

The positive response demonstrated that there was a grassroots demand for inclusive activities and showed the value of providing welcoming, structured opportunities that encouraged positive engagement within the city centre for young people who responded very positively.

Later in 2024, Inverness BID was approached by a local secondary school seeking support for pupils experiencing significant socio-economic hardship in the lead up to Christmas. BID Board Directors responded through private donations, enabling the school to organise an inclusive activity day and ensure every pupil experiencing financial hardship received a Christmas gift, and it was noted that a sustainable and replicable model was needed in future.

School staff explained that, for some young people, the festive period could be particularly challenging due to the financial circumstances they experienced at home compared with some of their peers which highlighted the extent of hidden disadvantage affecting some young people in Inverness and reinforced the need for practical, partnership-led interventions that could reduce barriers to participation, increase opportunities and support young people in a positive, and crucially, non-stigmatising way.

Youth-related antisocial behaviour and socio-economic disadvantage are symptoms of wider issues including poverty, inequality, social isolation and a lack of safe, affordable opportunities.

Street Scene is a new approach to the issues and is a practical, evidence-led programme designed to translate partnership ambition into meaningful action, combining diversionary activities, youth engagement and targeted support to deliver measurable outcomes for both young people and the wider community.

Since the initial pilot day, and later 3-week pilot in 2025, in part funded by the Inverness Common Good Fund, Street Scene has continued to evolve through continuous learning and co-design with young people, local secondary schools and delivery partners.

This collaborative approach ensures that activities respond to identified local need and lived experience rather than assumptions, while providing a practical mechanism through which partners can turn shared commitment into tangible action.

Street Scene from the outset has not sought to replace the excellent work already undertaken by youth organisations. Instead, it provides a coordinated framework that enables existing organisations to work together at greater scale, making best use of their expertise, safeguarding arrangements and trusted relationships. Street Scene helps bridge that gap by converting significant partner commitment, in kind support and community goodwill into practical, measurable outcomes.

While partners have demonstrated a strong willingness to collaborate, funding and volunteer capacity remain the principal barriers to delivering activities at the level required and medium to long term funding is the aim of the extended pilot programme.

3. Pilot Programme Findings

The Street Scene pilot programme, delivered during **Autumn 2025** and **Spring 2026**, has identified significant positive impact and measurable benefits for young people, partner organisations, businesses and the wider Inverness community including:

Street Scene video: [Street Scene - Google Drive](#)

Key findings to date include:

Wellbeing

Young People's survey evaluation feedback was undertaken using the **Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)** which demonstrated measurable improvements in participants' wellbeing

between the beginning and end of programme delivery sessions, highlighting the programme's positive impact on young people's mental wellbeing.

Young people now feel safer in the city centre, feel more respected and are more optimistic about their future. *Source data is available on request*

Community Safety

Police Scotland has reported positive community safety outcomes, with Street Scene referenced within the **Responsible Authorities and Community Safety (RACS) Group** report as contributing to reductions in youth-related crime and antisocial behaviour within Inverness city centre.

Importantly, these reductions continued beyond programme delivery weeks, suggesting that the initiative is helping influence longer-term behaviours rather than simply displacing issues while activities are taking place.

During the March 2026 programme, for example only **one recorded crime** occurred within Inverness city centre. Across the wider reporting period, Police Scotland also reported a **21% reduction in recorded crime**, bucking the national trend.

Businesses within the centre have also reported a reduction in youth anti-social behaviour in previous hot spot areas.

Reducing impacts of poverty and inequality

Street Scene directly supports local priorities around community safety, poverty reduction, youth wellbeing and collaborative partnership working and aligns closely with the recommendations of the **Highland Poverty and Inequality Commission**, which highlighted the importance of building upon existing "bright spots" of collaborative activity capable of delivering practical, measurable improvements for communities.

Street Scene exemplifies how partnership working can move beyond discussion into tangible action that reduces inequalities while improving outcomes as rather than viewing youth engagement and community safety as separate issues, Street Scene demonstrates that investment in meeting the needs of young people and especially those most disadvantaged, benefits the whole community.

Education

One participating secondary school reported improved pupil attendance and engagement during Street Scene delivery periods, demonstrating that positive opportunities outside the classroom can also improve educational engagement.

Further monitoring and evaluation will continue to measure attendance outcomes.

Street Scene Plus

One of the most significant findings has been the success of **Street Scene Plus**, the key and enhanced support element of the programme.

Through referrals from schools and partner organisations, Street Scene Plus enables young people experiencing financial hardship, bereavement, caring responsibilities, physical or mental ill-health or other challenges to receive additional practical, wellbeing or mentoring support.

Early findings have shown that relatively modest, targeted interventions which are delivered discreetly and without stigma, can enable young people to participate alongside their peers with increased confidence, dignity and a stronger sense of belonging.

Inclusion and Wellbeing

Partners have observed wider social benefits beyond the original objectives of the programme.

Young people who were previously socially isolated, including some with neurodivergent conditions, have been supported by experienced PVG youth workers within quieter spaces during Street Scene sessions, allowing them to participate at their own pace, build confidence and develop friendships with young people from other secondary schools.

Participants and partners have also reported that Street Scene has encouraged young people to spend less time on digital devices (at least for a short time!) and more time engaging in positive face-to-face activities, helping improve communication skills, confidence and resilience.

Employability

Embedding employability support within Street Scene has proved significantly more effective than traditional standalone employability events according to a key delivery partner in this area who has now joined the Street Scene partnership for this reason.

It has been found that young people are more willing to engage in conversations about careers, training and future opportunities when these are delivered within an informal, trusted environment with other activities also being available.

Future programmes will continue to expand opportunities for work experience, work trials and direct engagement with city centre businesses as part of the Street Scene activity programme.

Community Cohesion

Street Scene has strengthened relationships between young people and partner organisations. Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, youth organisations and local businesses have all reported that engaging with young people in an informal environment has helped build trust and positive relationships beyond their traditional roles.

Residents, visitors and businesses have also noted that they have welcomed seeing young people participating positively within the city centre with informal interactions having helped challenge perceptions, strengthen community relationships and create a more vibrant and welcoming environment, with many memorable examples of genuine intergenerational engagement.

4. Inverness Common Good Fund Support

Street Scene is delivered through a genuine partnership model, with organisations contributing expertise, volunteer time, venues, activities, equipment, sponsorship and financial support.

Inverness BID provides overall programme coordination, partnership management, safeguarding oversight, monitoring, evaluation and communications, and city centre security, ensuring that partner contributions are brought together into a single, coordinated programme for young people.

The current application seeks a **part-financial contribution** from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards the remaining delivery costs of the next phase of the extended Street Scene pilot, comprising two programme phases during **Autumn 2026** and **Spring 2027**.

The funding requested represents only part of the overall programme cost and will complement match funding and significant in-kind contributions already committed by Inverness BID, Police Scotland, Tulloch Homes, Patio Hotels, Morrison Construction, Inverness Taxis, Skills Development Scotland, Sea Stocks and other partner organisations.

Support from the Inverness Common Good Fund will allow partners to maximise these contributions by providing the coordination and operational delivery required to bring the programme together.

Inverness Common Good Fund support will help enable delivery of:

- **Two three-week Street Scene programmes**, each providing free, safe, structured, fun and inclusive activities for up to 250 young people per week within Inverness city centre. Alongside a varied programme of activities, every participant will have access to a free hot meal, helping reduce food poverty while ensuring no young person is excluded through an inability to afford refreshments.

- **Street Scene Plus**, delivered alongside both programme phases, providing enhanced practical, wellbeing and mentoring support for up to 50 young people referred by schools and partner organisations. Through discreet targeted interventions, Street Scene Plus removes barriers created by poverty, inequality and other disadvantage, enabling young people to participate more fully in school, community life and wider opportunities.

- **A Street Scene Plus Christmas pilot**, delivered in partnership with local businesses and two secondary schools, extending the Street Scene Plus model to create a positive and inclusive end of term experience for more than 500 pupils.

Through positive attendance and wellbeing incentives, together with discreet targeted support where required, the pilot will encourage school engagement while ensuring no young person misses out because of financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Every pound invested by the Inverness Common Good Fund will be matched by additional partner funding together with significant volunteer time, donated venues, equipment, sponsorship and professional expertise, representing excellent value for money while supporting delivery of the recommendations of the Highland Poverty and Inequality Commission (25th June 2026).

Programme Delivery

Street Scene is designed as a flexible programme that continues to evolve through co-design with young people and partner organisations.

Indicative activities for the next phase include:

Caley Cage – Friday Football

In partnership with **Inverness Caledonian Thistle Community Trust**, the **Eastgate Centre** and local businesses, Falcon Square will once again host the mobile football cage, creating a highly visible and accessible activity hub within the city centre.

The programme will include structured football sessions, skills challenges, beat the goalie competitions and small-sided games, delivered alongside youth workers, Police Scotland and community partners.

The aim is not simply to provide football, but to create positive opportunities for young people to engage with one another, businesses and partner organisations in an informal setting while challenging perceptions and strengthening community relationships.

Local businesses will again support sessions through volunteering, prizes and positive engagement with participants.

Creative, Wellbeing and Inclusion Activities

Alongside sport, Street Scene will offer a broad programme designed to appeal to a wide range of interests and abilities, including gaming, photography, cycling and bike maintenance, arts and crafts, clay workshops, LEGO activities, music, DJ sessions, silent discos, health and wellbeing support through Mikeysline's wellbeing bus, together with quiet spaces, free Wi-Fi and opportunities to socialise in a safe, welcoming environment.

Employability and Skills

Local businesses and partner organisations will provide employability advice, volunteering opportunities, work experience and work trials information and support, helping young people explore future education, training and career pathways within a supportive and trusted environment.

Safe and Supported Environment

Throughout programme delivery, experienced PVG youth workers, supported by Police Scotland, city centre ambassadors and additional security where required, will help ensure activities are delivered within a safe, welcoming and well-managed environment.

This visible partnership approach provides reassurance for participants, businesses and the wider public while encouraging positive engagement rather than enforcement alone.

5. Who Will Benefit:

Young People

Young people will benefit from increased access to free, safe and inclusive opportunities that improve wellbeing, build confidence, develop friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging within both the city centre and the wider community.

By removing financial barriers to participation, including access to a free hot meal and additional support through Street Scene Plus where required, the programme will help reduce the impacts of poverty and inequality, ensuring that personal or family circumstances do not prevent young people from taking part, accessing opportunities or reaching their potential.

Secondary Schools

Secondary schools will benefit from improved pupil engagement, attendance and wellbeing, together with strengthened links to employers, youth organisations and community partners.

Street Scene Plus also provides schools with an additional referral pathway, enabling practical, wellbeing and mentoring support to be provided discreetly to young people experiencing financial hardship, caring responsibilities, bereavement or other challenges that may place them at greater risk of disengagement.

Police Scotland and Operation Respect Partners will benefit from reduced demand associated with unmanaged gatherings, anti-social behaviour and low-level disturbances, while strengthening positive relationships with young people through early intervention, visible engagement and partnership working.

By providing opportunities for positive interaction outside enforcement settings, Street Scene helps build confidence in policing, encourages young people to seek support when needed and strengthens community trust.

Local Businesses will benefit from opportunities to engage positively with young people and, for those aged 16 and over, promote local training, apprenticeships, work experience and employment opportunities in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce, Barnardo's and other partners.

The programme via the event stands and interactive resources helps businesses showcase career pathways, develop their future workforce and strengthen links with local schools and the community.

As a result, businesses benefit from a safer trading environment with reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and associated disturbances.

The Wider Community will benefit including residents and visitors from a safer, more inclusive and better-connected city centre, where positive opportunities for young people help strengthen community confidence, encourage intergenerational interaction and reduce the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour.

The programme also strengthens collaboration across the public, private and third sectors, enabling partners to pool resources, maximise social value and deliver practical action that supports the ambitions of the Highland Poverty and Inequality Commission to reduce inequality, improve life chances and create stronger, more resilient communities.

6. Key Aims:

- **Reduce the impacts of poverty and inequality** by removing financial and practical barriers that prevent young people from accessing opportunities, participating fully in community life and reaching their potential.
- **Improve young people's wellbeing, confidence and resilience** through free, safe and inclusive activities that promote positive physical, mental and social wellbeing.
- **Increase social inclusion and community belonging** by helping young people build friendships, develop positive relationships and feel valued and connected within their community.
- **Create pathways to education, employability and wider opportunities** through trusted relationships with youth workers, employers, schools and partner organisations.
- **Strengthen partnership working** by bringing together public, private and third sector organisations to deliver coordinated, evidence-led interventions that maximise community resources and social value.
- **Contribute to a safer and more welcoming Inverness city centre** by addressing the underlying causes of youth-related antisocial behaviour through positive engagement, early intervention, additional security and crime prevention.

It is noted that Street Scene is an innovative project and that other areas have opted to trial in the alternative 'exclusion zones' – Glasgow has operated an exclusion zone with 780 police interventions in the first 60 days, Edinburgh will launch a new 50 officer police unit to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the city centre. The estimated cost is £2.7m over three years which will be funded by the visitor levy

7. Recent Street Scene Partner Testimonials (Examples)

(a) A local secondary school teacher:

"To be able to offer a range of activities to welcome young people [sic] in is not only effective, but also life changing. I have personally witnessed multiple students engage with this project and come out of it with a positive impact, and I'm hopeful I can answer them sooner rather than later when they come to see me every week, asking if Street Scene is coming back."

(b) Police Scotland:

"Street Scene promoted community engagement and encouraged constructive interactions with Police, business and third sector organisations. During the programme, I perceived a greater sense of community and life within Inverness delivering an improved experience for people in the city centre."

It is vital that we build on its success to create a legacy and demonstrate a sincere commitment to achieving long-term benefits. I would support similar future funding applications which focus on diversionary activities. It is clear the impact leads to a reduction in anti-social and negative behaviour within the city centre."

(c) Highland Council:

"This initiative reflects a shared commitment to creating a safe, inclusive city centre for all, with a particular focus on young people. By promoting positive engagement, identifying safe spaces, and fostering collaboration between businesses, agencies, and young people."

The Street Scene Initiative helps deliver on key objectives of Operation Respect, building relationships, aiming to reducing antisocial behaviour, and ensuring young people feel respected and included. Working together, we hope that further works in enabling activities for our young people strengthen community ties and make Inverness City Centre a welcoming environment for everyone."

(d) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:

"Street Scene has proven to be an invaluable project in promoting community safety, engagement, and inclusivity. The initiative created a welcoming and structured environment that encouraged positive interactions among young people while reducing anti-social behaviour in key areas of the city centre. By providing a safe space and constructive activities, Street Scene helped foster a sense of belonging and responsibility among participants, which is essential for long-term community wellbeing."

From a city centre perspective, the project contributed to a more vibrant and secure atmosphere, benefiting local businesses, residents, and visitors alike. The reduction in disruptive behaviour and the increase in positive engagement demonstrated a clear need for this type of intervention. It not only addressed immediate concerns but also showcased a proactive approach to community development."

The success of Street Scene reflects the strength of partnership working and the commitment to improving outcomes for young people. I strongly believe that continued support and funding for this initiative will build on these achievements and deliver lasting benefits for Inverness and its wider community."

(e) Highland Council (Elected Member)

"The pilot clearly demonstrated the value of having a positive, supportive presence in the city centre."

Street Scene made a real difference for our community, helping to create a calmer, more welcoming environment while offering meaningful support and guidance to the young people involved."

The project showed there is a genuine need for this kind of early-intervention, relationship-based approach.

Young people gained confidence and direction, and residents and businesses have commented on the positive impact on the city centre atmosphere.”.

(f) Mikeys Line

“Street Scene was a phenomenal pilot project which enabled us to connect with almost 300 young people, partner agencies, and the wider community as a whole.

The feedback from the young people was really positive and engaging.

They almost all said they just want a safe space to chill out with their peers, WiFi and food was mentioned a lot.

Simple activities are most definitely the way forward, last Friday Ember was bursting at the seams with kids trying on the DJ equipment and playing board games which was really encouraging to see.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this project and connecting in a meaningful way.

The above testimonials are a small sample of the positive endorsement that Street Scene has received from businesses, public bodies and the programme’s participating third sector partners with additional commendations also available upon request. “

Conclusion

Street Scene has demonstrated that positive youth engagement and community safety are not competing priorities but mutually reinforcing ones.

By investing in opportunity rather than exclusion, trusted relationships rather than stigma and early intervention rather than crisis response, the programme improves wellbeing, strengthens resilience, reduces the impacts of poverty and inequality and contributes to a safer, more welcoming city centre.

Early findings demonstrate measurable improvements in wellbeing, school engagement, community safety and social inclusion.

Co-investment from the Inverness Common Good Fund will enable partners to build upon these encouraging results, strengthen the evidence base through robust evaluation and will help partners develop and work towards a sustainable model capable of delivering lasting benefits for young people, businesses and the wider Inverness 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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- ***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.

Street Scene will provide free, safe and inclusive opportunities for young people to participate in sport, creative activities, wellbeing sessions and employability support, helping to reduce the impacts of poverty and inequality by removing financial and practical barriers to participation.

The programme is expected to improve young people's wellbeing, confidence, resilience and sense of belonging, while strengthening school engagement, reducing social isolation and creating pathways into volunteering, training and employment. Through Street Scene Plus, additional targeted support will be available for young people experiencing financial hardship, bereavement, caring responsibilities or other circumstances that may place them at greater risk of disengagement.

The programme will also contribute to a safer, more welcoming city centre by strengthening relationships between young people, businesses and partner organisations and by addressing the underlying causes of youth-related antisocial behaviour through positive engagement and early intervention.

Street Scene has been co-designed with young people and developed in partnership with Inverness BID, Police Scotland, Youth Highland, The Highland Council, local secondary schools, businesses and more than forty partner organisations, with Inverness BID acting as the accountable body.

The pilot phases have enabled partners to test new approaches, evaluate outcomes and identify what works most effectively. Early findings have already demonstrated positive impacts on wellbeing, school engagement and community safety. Continued delivery will strengthen this evidence base further, enabling partners to develop a robust long-term funding proposal and seek sustainable external investment, reducing reliance on local grant funding over time.

The project supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by advancing equality of opportunity, reducing barriers to participation and promoting inclusion. Activities are designed to be accessible, welcoming and non-stigmatising, ensuring that young people are able to participate regardless of their financial circumstances or personal background. Street Scene Plus further supports those experiencing disadvantage through discreet, targeted interventions that help ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate and benefit.

The project is not specifically designed to promote the Gaelic language, although opportunities to incorporate Gaelic into activities and promotional materials will be considered where appropriate.

A detailed evaluation report will be submitted on completion of the project. This will include participation data, feedback from young people and partners, wellbeing outcomes using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS), together with qualitative and quantitative evidence to inform future delivery and long-term funding.

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PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
Street Scene Programme Activities (sport, creative, music and engagement activities including football, silent disco, gaming, photography and arts & crafts)	£3,995
Food and Refreshments (participant meals and refreshments)	£5,520
Street Scene Plus (Targeted Wellbeing, Inclusion, Support and Activities – additional interventions for those most disadvantaged)	£5,681
Community & Event Safety (Event safeguarding and stewardship)	£2,070
Programme Delivery, Monitoring and Evaluation (including youth worker costs, partner engagement and delivery costs, promotional materials and impact evaluation).	£3,204
Total Project Cost	£20,470

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Police Scotland	£4000	✓
BID, BID Business Awards and Best Bar None Funds, Skills Development Scotland, Inverness Taxis, Tulloch Homes, Morrison Construction, and Sea Stocks	£6465	✓
Total Match Funding	10005	
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	10005	
Own Contribution		
Total Project Funding	£20,470	

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

This application has been submitted only after significant partnership funding, sponsorship and in-kind support have already been secured, with the Inverness Common Good Fund being asked to help meet the remaining delivery costs of the extended pilot programme.

If there is a funding shortfall, the programme would most likely be reduced to a single delivery phase, either Autumn or Spring, rather than both. This would significantly reduce the number of young people able to benefit and limit opportunities to evaluate outcomes across different times of the year.

Delivering a minimum of two programme phases is considered essential to build a robust evidence base, demonstrate repeatable outcomes and evaluate the longer-term impact of Street Scene. Without this, there is a significant risk that partners will be unable to demonstrate the scale of evidence required to secure a sustainable long-term funding partner, limiting the programme's future development and reducing its ability to deliver lasting benefits for young people and the wider Inverness community.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start? VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	1st April 2008
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	
What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	For this initiative: Partners work with a wide range of communities of interest, with a particular focus on young people and those experiencing poverty, inequality or other barriers to participation. Our work supports young people from all backgrounds, including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, disability, neurodivergence, mental health or wellbeing

	challenges, caring responsibilities, bereavement or social isolation. We also engage with people from minority ethnic communities and others who may face barriers to accessing opportunities or participating fully in community life. The approach is founded on dignity, inclusion and partnership, ensuring that support is tailored to individual circumstances and delivered in a positive, practical and non-stigmatising way that promotes wellbeing, equality of opportunity and stronger community connections.
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Yes – all BID Levy Payers (business/property owners and owner occupiers) are eligible.
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.	Yes – please appendix A (paper apart) for details.
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.	No.

Bank Details

Name of Bank	
Account Name	
Account Number	

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

Applicant / Organisation:	Inverness BID		
Project Title:	Best Foot Forward - Basics First Project		
Project Location <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID (City Centre) 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Contact Name:	[REDACTED]		
Applicant Address <i>(inc. Postcode):</i>	Inverness BID (City Centre) 1 st Floor, 17 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1QA		
Email Address:	[REDACTED]		
Contact Telephone:	[REDACTED]		
Council Ward <i>(check guidance for link):</i>	Inverness Central Ward		
Does the main contact have any communications needs? E.g., textphone, sign language, large print?			
Yes		No	✓

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

Third Sector (Voluntary or Community organisation)	☐	Community Council	☐
Registered Charity If yes Registration Number	☐	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number SC339914	☐
Other ✓ Company Limited by Guarantee, Non-Profit/Non-Shareholder Capital			

Amount applied for	£10,010
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Start Date of Project	24 th August 2026
End Date of Project	31 st 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

Aims of the Project and How We Are Going to Deliver It

The Basics First project is part of the wider Best Foot Forward initiative.

The current application seeks a contribution from the Inverness Common Good Fund to help partners deliver a series of practical, community and visitor focused improvements which will enhance accessibility, public safety, civic pride, active travel and basic facilities within Inverness City Centre, and surrounding area with a particular focus on the Highland Council owned Northern Meeting Park and Common Good Fund assets i.e. the Victorian Market and Town House.

The current project focuses on “getting the basics right” by improving access to and assessing options for the provision of essential facilities, supporting public wellbeing and ensuring key public spaces remain welcoming, safe and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

The proposal seeks to maximise wider community benefit from existing public assets and infrastructure rather than creating new large-scale facilities and seeks to enhance the city's offering.

Activity 1: Northern Meeting Park WC Eight-Week Pilot

The project seeks support for an eight-week pilot to trial the opening of the Northern Meeting Park public WC facilities from 24th August 2026 until 19th October 2026.

The partnership pilot, in collaboration with High Life Highland and Inverness BID aims to test a practical, collaborative and cost-effective operating model which aims to demonstrate how the facilities may be sustainably managed for public benefit in the future during the Coach and Visitor season (from April to October each year).

The public and accessible WC facilities were upgraded as part of the £5.9m Levelling Up capital works programme at the Northern Meeting Park. Access to the public WCs is from the roadside. The WC facilities are located immediately adjacent to the ICGF-supported and accredited Coach and Visitor Ambassador service area, providing a natural operational link between both services.

It has been estimated by HLH that the cost of opening and operating the facilities through a fully commercial model could exceed c.£20k+ (in regard to consumables and 2-3 daily cleaning as required) for operation during the coach season.

Under the proposed pilot arrangement, the initiative proposes that for the specified 8 week period that:

- The BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador Team agree to undertake the opening and closing of the facilities during operational days;
- BID staff will arrive approximately 15 minutes early each day to unlock and inspect the facilities prior to public use;
- Hourly monitoring checks would be undertaken throughout the day by the on-site BID team (with all BID provided support aiming to keep costs at a minimum);
- Where practicable, BID staff will replenish toilet roll, soap, paper towels and other consumables during operational hours;
- If the application is supported, BID staff also agree to report any wider or other maintenance or operational issues directly to High Life Highland without delay; and
- The BID team agree to undertake the final inspection on operational days and send HLH an incident and condition report at the end of each shift.

High Life Highland propose to support the pilot initiative through:

- Provision of the access to the NMP WC facilities and ensure there is appropriate building's insurance cover in place;
- Procurement, storage and supply of consumables including toilet roll, soap, paper towels, cleaning products and waste bags; and
- Provision of a dedicated daily cleaning, up to 2-3 times daily as will, at minimum be required.

The proposal seeks to deliver a significantly lower operational cost than alternative commercial models previously considered, and deemed unaffordable with partnership working proposed for the wider benefit of the community and visitors.

The estimated total cost of the eight week pilot is £6,750, equivalent to approximately around 13.5p per passenger, based on an estimated throughput of 50,000 passengers during the pilot period.

The facilities would support a wide range of users including:

- coach passengers;
- coach drivers and tour operators;
- older people;
- disabled users;
- people using wheelchairs, rollators or walking aids;
- active travel users including walkers, wheelers and cyclists;
- dog walkers;
- families;

- Riverside Way and Ness Islands visitors; and
- residents using the park and surrounding public green spaces.

At present, the nearest alternative public WC provision is at the Victorian Market which may involve a walk of up to 20+ minutes for some users.

When waiting for a coach to return, it is not possible for passengers to make the journey back into the city centre.

Not all visiting coaches have onboard toilet facilities and, where they are in place, coach WCs may be inaccessible for some passengers due to steep steps, confined spaces or on occasion, operational faults.

The proposal has been developed in response to feedback received from coach operators, tour guides, drivers, visitors and other stakeholders during the 2025 and 2026 visitor season.

A summary of representative tour guide comments is included at Appendix 1 and which can be summarised as: coach operators and tour guides have expressed disappointment that the public convenience facilities located immediately adjacent to the Ardross Street coach drop-off point remain unavailable, despite what they consider to be a clear and growing need for toilet provision at this location.

This is particularly significant given annual coach passenger volumes in excess of 160,000 visitors using the facility.

The proposed pilot is therefore intended to provide an evidence-based response to concerns raised by stakeholders, to meet a community and visitor need and to allow partners to assess actual demand, operational practicality, costs and longer-term options before considering any permanent arrangements.

The pilot seeks support to enable partners to work collaboratively to improve accessibility, dignity, inclusion and public wellbeing, whilst encouraging greater use of active travel routes and public spaces. The proposed initiative will benefit both visitors and active travel users by providing access to public convenience facilities during the pilot period.

The pilot will be evaluated using a range of quantitative and qualitative measures, including BID footfall sensor data to assess usage and demand, together with coach operator, visitor and stakeholder feedback, operational and maintenance costs, and practical considerations associated with operating the facilities during the busiest part of the visitor season.

The pilot will enable partners to assess demand, the operational practicality of the facilities at higher visitor volumes, and the suitability of potential longer term operating models, including options such as voluntary contributions (honesty box), electronic payment systems (tap and go), or alternative management arrangements. Initial and anecdotal evidence from partners has identified that voluntary payment options are not high revenue generators.

Longer term funding will be explored via partnership funding, sponsorship, income generation and other appropriate funding mechanisms, helping to inform future decision making and wider funding applications.

The evidence gathered during the pilot will help inform future decision making and provide a robust evidence base to support the development of a longer term, sustainable approach to the provision of public conveniences that benefits residents, businesses and visitors alike.

The principal benefits of the pilot are that it will:

- enable the facilities to be opened during the current visitor season, benefiting up to 50,000 visitors over the eight-week period; and
- generate the evidence required to assess demand, operational requirements and support the development of a sustainable long-term solution for key public convenience provision in Inverness.

Support for this application would further demonstrate the city's commitment to both visitors and local residents at a time when Inverness is continuing to strengthen its reputation as a welcoming, accessible and inclusive destination, including through its welcome and ambitious City and Region of Culture bid.

Moreover the proposal contributes towards compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping to ensure access to essential public facilities for older people, disabled people, those who are pregnant, or breast feeding and for individuals with mobility or additional support needs who may otherwise face barriers in accessing suitable toilet provision within the city centre.

Support for the current application would also provide opportunities to further promote Inverness Common Good Fund supported projects and initiatives within a highly visible visitor location, while helping to reduce demand on the Victorian Market public conveniences, which currently serve as the nearest promoted public WC facility as the pilot also presents opportunities to enhance the visitor experience through the provision of visitor information, local orientation materials and promotional messaging within and adjacent to the facilities. This could include behind cubicle door advertising panels and other internal display opportunities, helping to raise awareness of city centre attractions, public realm improvements, active travel routes, cultural activity and Inverness Common Good Fund initiatives.

While the Coach and Visitor Ambassador project is funded for 2026-2027, that funding is specifically allocated to ambassador services and does not include provision for the operation of public conveniences. If the pilot cannot be supported, it is anticipated that the WC facilities will remain closed to the public, resulting in the continued absence of toilet provision at this location during the coach and visitor season.

Additional Evidence of Need:

1. Letter from Confederation of Passenger Transport (8th July 2026):



22 Greencoat Place
London
SW1P 1PR

8th July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Letter of Support for the Inverness Common Good Fund Application – Coach Park Toilet Facilities

I am writing to express our full support for the application to the Inverness Common Good Fund to secure the opening, operation and maintenance of the public toilet facilities at the Inverness Coach Park.

Achieving and maintaining Coach Friendly status should be regarded as an important objective for Inverness. The economic contribution of coach tourism to towns and cities is considerable. Research has demonstrated that even a single regular coach can generate up to £1 million for the local economy. Inverness has shown that, through commitment and investment in welcoming coach visitors, the benefits can be significantly greater.

In 2025, more than 160,000 passengers arrived in Inverness by coach during what is a relatively short tourism season. These visitors make a valuable contribution to local businesses, including shops, cafés, restaurants, attractions, and accommodation providers.

During the recent Coach Friendly assessment, the auditor particularly welcomed the proposal for City Centre Rangers to greet arriving coach passengers, together with the commitment to provide clean, high-quality toilet facilities at the coach pick up and drop off point. These facilities are especially important for the demographic that makes up a significant proportion of coach travellers and are recognised as a key element in delivering a positive visitor experience.

The provision of these facilities will help ensure that Inverness remains an attractive destination for coach operators and their passengers, supporting both tourism and the wider local economy. Conversely, should the facilities fail to open, the visitor experience would inevitably be diminished, potentially undermining the city's reputation as a coach-friendly destination and jeopardising the significant economic benefits that coach tourism brings to Inverness.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support the application to the Inverness Common Good Fund and hope that funding will be approved to enable these essential facilities to open for the benefit of visitors and the city as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
Andy Shaw
Coach Managers

Confederation of Passenger Transport
22 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PR
020 7240 3131 - admin@cpt-uk.org - cpt-uk.org
A company limited by guarantee No. 1182437 England

2. Letter from Port of Cromarty Firth (9th July 2026):



9th July 2026

Lorraine Bremner McBride
Inverness Business Improvement District (BID)
By Email

Re: Support for Inverness BID's Proposal to Re-open Public Toilets and Install a Defibrillator at Northern Meeting Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Port of Cromarty Firth to express our strong support for Inverness BID's plans to re-open the public toilet facilities at Northern Meeting Park and to install a publicly accessible defibrillator at the site.

These facilities would provide a significant benefit to both residents and visitors to Inverness. Northern Meeting Park occupies a key location adjacent to Ardross Street, which serves as the principal coach parking area for cruise excursion coaches transporting passengers from cruise ships visiting Invergordon. Every year, around two hundred thousand international visitors arrive in Invergordon as they begin and end excursions across the Highlands. Many of these excursions include Inverness.

The availability of clean, accessible public toilets in close proximity to the coach parking area would greatly enhance the visitor experience and address a longstanding need for passengers, coach drivers and tour guides alike. As cruise tourism continues to deliver economic benefits to businesses throughout Inverness and the wider Highlands, (including an estimated £20M in direct spend,) it is important that supporting infrastructure is available to meet the expectations of visitors and ensure a positive impression of the region.

We also strongly welcome the inclusion of a defibrillator within the project. The provision of publicly accessible lifesaving equipment at such a well-used location would improve community safety and provide reassurance for both residents and visitors.

We believe this is a practical and worthwhile investment that will strengthen the visitor offering in Inverness while delivering wider community benefits. The Port of Cromarty Firth would be delighted to see this project receive the funding required to enable its delivery and we fully endorse Inverness BID's application.

Port of Cromarty Firth, Port Office, Shore Road, Invergordon, IV18 0HD
T 01349 852 308 cfpa.co.uk
Port of Cromarty Firth is the company trading name for Cromarty Firth Port Authority



Cert 7129

3. **Chair of Highlands of Scotland Tour Guide Association/HOST Guides**

(Email to BID 12/06/2026):

"...We have over one hundred members, many of whom are step on guides for the cruise ships arriving at Invergordon. Most cruise ships coming to Invergordon include a visit to Inverness in their excursions programme with passengers being dropped off at Ardross Street for a visit of anything from twenty minutes to several hours.

Janice and her team do an absolutely fantastic job with your "meet and greet" service but unfortunately what lets the whole Inverness visit experience down badly is the lack of toilet facilities in the Ardross Street area.

Previously there was access to toilets at the Palace Hotel in Ness Walk under the Comfort Scheme but unfortunately the hotel no longer participates in this scheme. The cathedral cafe is shut (although this didn't actually fully address the demand) and Eden Court's very restricted daytime opening hours mean that their facilities are now seldom available.

The first priority for many cruise ship passengers arriving at Ardross Street is access to a toilet. Passengers can be almost two hours from disembarking from the ship in Invergordon to arriving at Ardross Street.

The age profile of many cruise ship passengers means their need to reach a toilet can be quite urgent; they often also have restricted mobility so walking any great distance isn't realistic.

Furthermore, the cruise sector is also attracting younger passengers with small children and they too can need urgent access to a toilet on arriving at Ardross Street. Whilst most of the coaches bringing passengers to Inverness will have an onboard toilet, the cubicle space is very small and unsuitable for larger passengers/those with mobility issues/a child needing to be accompanied by a parent.

Some passengers are spending their entire time Inverness visit in their quest to find a toilet.

Not only does this mean that their visit to Inverness is an extremely negative experience they do not then have time to visit the shops and other outlets where they could be spending money to the benefit of local businesses.

Looking also at the bigger picture cruise lines have choice in which north of Scotland port to visit and some are now preferring Aberdeen's new harbour at the expense of Invergordon. If passengers are reporting a negative Inverness experience this could exacerbate the decline in cruise ships choosing Invergordon to the detriment of Inverness.

Making the toilets at the Northern Meeting Park available would address this essential need to everyone's benefit."

4. **Pier Coordinator:**

(Email to BID 12/06/2026):

"...I work with the ground handling companies who make all the arrangements for the ship organised excursions in Invergordon for around 70 of the ships that will be visiting this year.

Inverness is a key part of our excursion programme and we have many tours that make a stop at Ardross Street.

Today for example we had 23 of our 37 ship organised tours stopping in Ardross Street. Janice and her team do an excellent job of welcoming guests and co-ordinating with us in relation to missing passengers and any issues such as road closures.

One of the most frequent questions guests ask is the location of the toilets.

Our guides direct guests to the Victorian Market which are the nearest public toilets available. The Victorian Market is some distance from Ardross Street and walking there takes up a significant amount of the time they have available to enjoy Inverness.

I have spent many years taking coach tours around the world and around Scotland. Over the last 3 years I have taken 30 tours to Scotland where public toilets are found in many villages throughout Shetland, making travelling with groups easy.

It seems incredible that the mainland of Shetland, which has a population of around 10,000 people has more public toilets available than Inverness - a much more popular tourist destination. Having thought that these facilities would be open last year it is more than disappointing that they are still not open and available to visitors.

We hope that this situation will be rectified soon.”

5. Tour Guide Feedback to Coach and Visitor Ambassador Coordinator:

As referenced over the past year, the BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador team has received consistent feedback from coach operators, drivers and tour guides regarding the absence of conveniently located public toilet facilities at the Ardross Street coach drop off and pick up point.

This is perhaps more visible as the WC doors open directly on to the street adjacent but are currently closed.

While much of this feedback has been provided informally during day-to-day operations, a sample of nine written responses has also been obtained from experienced tour guides to illustrate further potential need.

The comments received highlight concerns regarding accessibility, the distance to the nearest public facilities, the impact on older visitors and those with mobility or medical needs, and the importance of appropriate toilet provision in supporting a positive visitor experience and to support the wider economy.

See Appendix 1.

Activity 2: Public Safety and Defibrillator Provision

The second activity the current application seeks a contribution for is to help support the provision, and installation of a publicly accessible defibrillator at or directly adjacent to the Northern Meeting Park.

The Northern Meeting Park experiences significant visitor and public footfall through the Coach Friendly programme, active travel routes, organised events and regular use of surrounding public green spaces and other uses.

Publicly accessible defibrillators are recognised as important life-saving infrastructure and form a key part of community emergency response provision within busy public locations.

If supported, the device would complement the existing city centre defibrillator network of five publicly accessible units, improving emergency response capability (and times) within this part of the city and supporting wider public safety and wellbeing objectives.

At present, the nearest publicly accessible defibrillator per the Heart of Inverness project is located on Castle Wynd.

In the event of a cardiac arrest, the distance from the NMP to this device and back to site, is likely to result in a significant delay before a public access defibrillator can be retrieved for deployment.

The benefits of public access defibrillators are that local residents and businesses can also be directed by Scottish Ambulance Service to obtain a device waiting for an ambulance to arrive 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Survival rates are stated to decrease with every minute defibrillation is delayed, meaning the provision of a publicly accessible device within or immediately adjacent to the Northern Meeting Park area would make a critical difference to patient outcomes while strengthening emergency response provision for this busy public location.

The BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador team are first aid trained and regularly assist members of the public during incidents, including medical situations and emergencies.

With coach passenger volumes alone exceeding 160,000 visitors per season, together with events attracting in excess of 8,000 attendees, there is a clear case for increasing the availability of publicly accessible defibrillators within the city centre.

The proposed location serves a high volume of visitors, residents and active travel users and experiences significant seasonal demand. An additional publicly accessible defibrillator would improve resilience within the existing network, helping to ensure that life-saving equipment is readily available should it be required while supporting the wider objective of improving public safety in a busy visitor and community location.

If this activity within the current application is supported, it would further demonstrate the city's commitment to creating a safe, welcoming and accessible environment for both residents and visitors, aligned with wider ambitions around public wellbeing, accessibility.

The estimated and projected cost for the device and set up is £3,160, covering the supply and installation of a Power-heart semi-automatic G5 defibrillator, heated external cabinet, signage and associated equipment.

This includes replacement defibrillator pads, which require renewal approximately every 18 to 24 months at an estimated current cost of £60 per set, and replacement batteries, which are guaranteed for four years at an estimated current replacement cost of £300.

The proposed equipment includes a seven-year manufacturer warranty together with ongoing technical support. In the event the defibrillator is used in an emergency, replacement pads would be provided free of charge by Lucky2BHere.

It is proposed that the project is delivered as a partnership between the Inverness Common Good Fund and Inverness BID.

The Inverness BID contribution will be met through fundraising and sponsorship secured from local businesses, providing £1,500 towards the project.

This contribution demonstrates the private sector's commitment to supporting public safety infrastructure and ensures that the project is underpinned by significant partner match funding alongside any Inverness Common Good Fund investment.

Activity 3: Public Noticeboards and Civic Information

The third proposed activity seeks additional funding to enable Highland Council to install replacement public noticeboards at two key Inverness Common Good Fund locations i.e.:

- The Town House; and
- The Victorian Market.

If approved, all funding relating to this activity will be allocated directly to the appropriate Highland Council service for procurement and installation, with the BID team continuing to maintain, update and monitor the completed noticeboards, and would help ensure they remain current, clean and accessible.

The closure of the city's i-Centre has reduced access to publicly available visitor and civic information within the city centre.

The replacement noticeboards would:

- improve access to public information;
- support civic wayfinding;
- promote Common Good Fund assets and public attractions;
- enable the removal of the current four steel noticeboards;
- support community notices and visitor information; and
- provide community resilience during digital or power outages.

Public noticeboards continue to have an important role in city centre management and as recognised information points.

Noticeboards can be particularly valuable during major incidents, such as a prolonged power outage or cyber incident, by providing a readily accessible location for essential public information and emergency contacts.

The Noticeboards have also been used to display community safety information and signposting to statutory and third sector support services where appropriate.

Given the recent investment in the city's wayfinding fingerposts, the proposed noticeboards would be designed and supplied by the same manufacturer, ensuring a complementary appearance and heritage style appropriate to the conservation area.

If supported, this activity would rationalise the current provision, reducing the number of city centre public noticeboards from four to two.

If supported, this activity would further ensure that the current damaged noticeboards can be removed.

Funding of £5,900 has already been approved towards this project via CRF in 2025.

Following updated cost estimates provided by Highland Council officers, a funding shortfall of £1,600 has now been identified.

The current application therefore seeks support for this additional amount only to allow the placemaking measure to be taken forward.

The replacement noticeboards would:

- improve access to public information;
- support civic wayfinding;
- promote Common Good Fund assets and visitor attractions;
- replace the existing four steel noticeboards;
- support community notices, Council consultations and engagement events;
- provide a platform for community safety messages and signposting to local support services; and
- strengthen community resilience by providing a reliable non digital communication channel during emergencies or power outages.

In addition, community members regularly visit the BID office to request that posters and notices be displayed. Whilst much communication is now delivered digitally, there remains a clear demand for traditional community noticeboards as an accessible means of sharing local information.

Recent notices have included information from third sector organisations including Mikeysline, Centred Scotland, Befrienders, Café 1668 and Barnardo's; The Highland Council, for public consultations, event notices and environmental campaigns; High Life Highland, including library and museum events; IBS Citizens Advice Bureau; WASPS; Inverness Cathedral; Old High Church; Town Talks; the Railway Exhibition; local arts, music and entertainment venues including Hootananny's, Playback, An Seòmar, The Highlander, Tooth & Claw, Upstairs and Monster Comedy (and many more); together with community events, visitor information and city centre maps and promotion of events at Inverness Town House and the Victorian Market.

This breadth of use demonstrates the continuing importance of publicly accessible noticeboards as a valued community information resource. Their ongoing importance has also been recognised through the recent wayfinding improvements delivered within the Cathedral Quarter and along Riverside Way, where physical information remains an important complement to digital communications.

The noticeboards provide an accessible source of information for those who may be digitally excluded or who prefer traditional methods of accessing local information.

Looking ahead, the replacement units will also complement the Love Inverness app by enabling QR codes and other digital links to be hosted, including for access to multilingual information as the app is developed, improving accessibility for visitors whose first language is not English.

Activity 4: Smart Scope – Ardross St and Cathedral Quarter

In addition to the improvements set out within this application, Inverness BID will continue to support the upkeep and presentation of the Ardross Street and Cathedral Quarter through the delivery of an extended Smart Scope initiative for the remainder of the Coach & Visitor Ambassador season.

This work includes daily litter picking, low level graffiti removal, removal of unauthorised stickers and fly posting, together with other environmental improvements that help maintain a clean, safe and welcoming environment for residents, visitors and city centre businesses.

Taken together, the four elements of this proposal will enhance public safety, accessibility, community wellbeing and the visitor experience, whilst supporting the continued improvement of one of Inverness's principal visitor gateways and public spaces.

No funding is sought for the Smart Scape activity. Its inclusion is intended to demonstrate Inverness BID's ongoing additional contribution to the wider project and our continued commitment to maintaining and enhancing the city centre environment beyond our core contractual responsibilities.

The collaborative approach also extends to the shared use of assets.

NB: The site cabin previously utilised by Inverness BID as part of the Coach and Visitor Ambassador project has been donated to The Highland Council's Waste and Recycling Team for their operational use and demonstrating partners commitment to working together collaboratively for common good.

Is This a New Project or an Additional Activity?

This proposal represents an additional and extended activity building upon existing successful services and infrastructure already operating within Inverness City Centre and for which there is currently no dedicated funding available.

The Coach Friendly programme, Coach & Visitor Ambassador service, public defibrillator programme (Heart of Inverness) and Love Inverness App communications platform are all established initiatives which already provide significant community and visitor benefit.

The current application seeks additional investment to help us work in partnership and collectively ensure that we put our best foot forward and:

- improve accessibility;
- support vulnerable users;
- strengthen public safety provision;
- increase community use of public assets;
- improve public information and wayfinding;
- improve community resilience;
- improve the appearance and welcome of the city centre environment.

The proposal also seeks to test a more affordable and sustainable operational approach for helping to support the Northern Meeting Park WC facilities being opened through a time-limited pilot.

Help with Running Costs or Specific Activity?

The application seeks support for both specific project activity and time limited operational costs associated with delivering the proposed improvements.

This includes:

- delivery of an eight-week pilot to open the Northern Meeting Park public conveniences;
- staffing, cleaning and consumable costs associated with the pilot;
- replacement and installation of key Inverness Common Good Fund public noticeboards;
- provision and maintenance of an additional publicly accessible defibrillator; and
- environmental improvements to enhance the surrounding public realm.

The proposal seeks a combination of capital and revenue funding to enable new and existing public assets to be utilised more effectively through partnership working, improving accessibility, public safety, visitor experience and community wellbeing.

Evidence of Need for the Project(s)

The need for the proposed activities has been identified through ongoing operational experience and extensive stakeholder engagement undertaken by Inverness BID and its partners.

Over the past year, the BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador team has received consistent feedback from coach operators, tour guides, drivers, visitors, residents and community partners regarding the lack of conveniently located public toilet facilities at the Northern Meeting Park coach arrival point and the wider need to enhance basic visitor infrastructure within this key gateway to the city.

The application is supported by correspondence from the Confederation of Passenger Transport, Port of Cromarty Firth, the Highlands of Scotland Tour Guide Association (HOST), local pier operations and a sample of experienced tour guides.

Collectively, this evidence identifies recurring concerns relating to accessibility, visitor experience, public safety, dignity and the availability of essential facilities, particularly for older visitors, disabled people and those with mobility or medical needs.

The Northern Meeting Park is one of Inverness' principal coach arrival points, welcoming almost 4,000 coaches and more than 160,000 passengers each year through the accredited Coach Friendly programme. Confederation of Passenger Transport guidance highlights the importance of accessible toilet provision for coach passengers and drivers, particularly those with disabilities or reduced mobility and this at minimum will be required for continued Coach Friendly accreditation going forward.

In addition to coach passengers, the area is regularly used by walkers, wheelers, cyclists, dog walkers, families, users of Riverside Way and Ness Islands, and local residents.

The proposal responds to the recognised importance of providing publicly accessible defibrillators in improving emergency response times, capability and the continued need for accessible public information, via new noticeboards will also help to ensure that Inverness provides an attractive, welcoming and inclusive environment for residents and visitors alike.

Who Will Benefit?

The project will directly benefit a broad cross-section of Inverness residents, businesses and visitors.

Beneficiaries include:

- older people;
- disabled individuals;

- people with mobility impairments or those requiring an aid;
- walkers, wheelers and cyclists;
- dog walkers;
- families (young children);
- city centre workers;
- visitors to the city;
- coach drivers and tour operators;
- users of NMP, Ness Walk, Riverside Way and Ness Islands; and
- individuals requiring emergency medical assistance in public places.

By improving access to toilets, public information, life-saving equipment and cleaner public spaces, the initiative contributes positively towards:

- reducing inequality;
- improving accessibility;
- supporting physical and mental wellbeing;
- promoting inclusion and dignity;
- encouraging active travel and outdoor activity; and
- improving perceptions of safety and welcome within the city centre.

The proposal therefore delivers clear and tangible community benefit while supporting the wider attractiveness, accessibility and resilience of Inverness City Centre.

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?*
- *Will your project make a contribution towards the promotion of the Gaelic language?*
- **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.*

Summary of Expected Outcomes

The project will deliver practical improvements that enhance accessibility, public safety, visitor welcome and community wellbeing within Inverness city centre by making better use of existing public assets through partnership working.

The eight-week Northern Meeting Park WC pilot will meet current need, but will also provide evidence of operational demand, usage patterns, maintenance requirements and overall viability via evaluation. The findings will inform future decisions and actions regarding seasonal operation of the facilities and help identify opportunities for longer term sustainable funding through partnership working, potential sponsorship, external funding opportunities, exploring other appropriate funding models.

The installation of a publicly accessible defibrillator will strengthen emergency response capability within a busy public location, complement the existing Heart of Inverness network and improve access to potentially life-saving equipment for residents and visitors.

Replacement public noticeboards at the Town House and Victorian Market will improve access to civic and visitor information, support community resilience during major incidents and promote Inverness Common Good Fund assets and initiatives within the city centre.

The project will also support wider environmental improvements through the continued delivery of enhanced Smart Scape activity, by the BID Team in addition thus helping to maintain a clean, safe and welcoming city centre environment.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The project contributes positively towards helping to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty by improving access to essential public facilities and information for older people, disabled people, people with mobility impairments, those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, families with young children and others who may otherwise experience barriers to accessing city centre services.

Improved toilet provision, enhanced public information and accessible public safety infrastructure all contribute towards reducing disadvantage, promoting inclusion and advancing equality of opportunity.

While the project does not specifically promote the Gaelic language, consideration will be given to the inclusion of bilingual information and interpretation on public noticeboards and associated visitor information where appropriate, in line with The Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Project outcomes will be monitored and evaluated through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures, including BID footfall sensor data, operational records, facility usage, stakeholder feedback, visitor comments and partnership evaluation.

A full evaluation report will be prepared on completion of the pilot and shared with the Inverness Common Good Fund, providing evidence of project outcomes and informing future funding opportunities and partnership delivery.

PROJECT COSTS

Please provide a breakdown of how much your activities/project will cost splitting between revenue and capital expenditure. <i>Please do not include VAT in Project Costs if VAT Registered.</i> Please Note grant recipients are expected to provide evidence of value for money.	Amount (£)
NMP WC Pilot (Staffing, Signage, Wayfinding, Consumables and Evaluation)	£6,750
Heart of Inverness NMP Defibrillator	£3,160
City Centre Noticeboard Replacement (Funding Shortfall)	£1,600
Cathedral Quarter – Smart Scape Initiative	£675
Total Current Project Cost	£12,185

City Centre Noticeboard Replacement (Funding Confirmed)	£5,900
Total Project Cost	£18,085

PROJECT FUNDING

How will the project be funded? (<i>What other organisations have you applied to?</i>)	Amount(£)	Confirmed
Smart Scape – Cathedral Quarter (BID)	£675	Yes
City Centre Notice Board Replacement (CRF)	£5,900	Yes
Heart of Inverness NMP Defibrillator (Business Sponsors via BID)	£1,500	In Part
Total Match Funding	£8,075	In Part
Total Inverness Common Good Fund Funding Requested	£10,010	No
Total Project Funding	£18,085	No

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

In the event of a funding shortfall, the projects and activities outlined will unfortunately not be able to proceed or be supported.

About your Organisation

When did your Organisation start?	1 st April 2008
VAT Registration Number (If Applicable)	GB936088694
What geographic area does your organisation cover? Please note the Inverness Common Good Fund can only help with projects that bring direct benefit to the citizens of Inverness.	

What communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, people with an ethnic minority background etc.) does your organisation cover?	The project will support a number of groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, particularly older people, disabled people and women who are pregnant or new mothers. These groups are more likely to benefit from improved access to public information, accessible public toilet facilities and community safety infrastructure within the city centre.
Is there a restriction on who can join your organisation? If yes please give details.	Yes – all BID Levy Payers (business/property owners and owner occupiers) are eligible. Associate Members can join where they meet the criteria and if they are located to near to the BID area.
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.	Yes – please appendix A (paper apart) for details.
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.	No.

Bank Details

Name of Bank	██████████
Account Name	██████████████████
Account Number	██████████
Sort Code	██████████

Tour Guide Feedback to BID Coach and Visitor Ambassador Coordinator:

(Email(s) July 2026):

1. *"...Not having any public toilets in Ardross Street is an absolute disgrace and embarrassment.*

It is so difficult for all... The public toilets in the Victorian Market are too far for elderly passengers but also for many others!

We had hoped this was going to be rectified this season with the Northern Meeting park facility? I can't understand how this has not been a priority...to provide such a basic facility for our guests."

2. *"...Re the lack of toilet facilities in Ardross Street and surrounding area. The majority of our guests are elderly and following a one hour plus journey from their ship are in desperate need of toilets.*

The added complication is the fact that many of them are not fit enough to walk the distance to the Victorian Market. I also suspect that many have medical conditions that make having a nearby toilet a necessity. Guests are bemused that we have dropped them in an area which has no toilets.

It's actually quite embarrassing.

Tourism is an important industry in the Highlands...it's important and [sic] necessary to provide adequate toilet facilities.

I will say it again, it's embarrassing."

3. *"...every single time I drop off passengers in town i am asked about the closest public convenience. It is, I think fair to comment that a high percentage of guests arriving by cruise ship are of a certain age that rely on being never too far away from toilet facilities."*

4. *"...no toilets is so challenging for us and the guests. Difficult when you want to fire them into the city centre to spend money and there are no toilet facilities when they get off the coaches...the Cathedral is too expensive to pay to go in. Eden Court is in the wrong direction. Its such a shame for them and very bad publicity for Inverness who need us in to the High Street..."*

5. *"...it's frankly embarrassing to not be able to offer guests any toileting facilities at the designated coach drop off point.*

I'll have spent half an hour on the journey in waxing lyrical about what Inverness has to offer, explaining its status as the capital of the Highlands, granted city status in 2000, one of the fastest growing cities in Europe, rated one of the best places to live in the UK, and then a guest will ask "where's the nearest toilet" and I'm forced to direct them to either Eastgate or the Victorian Market...

Considering the number of visitors that arrive in Inverness via Ardross Street, and the income that it must be generating, it's ludicrous that we can't offer them something better - first impressions are important in this business!..."

6. *"...Many guests ask where the nearest toilets are immediately when they get off the bus. Even on a longer visit (2 hours +), where they have plenty of opportunity to get to the toilets in the city centre, many want to find a toilet immediately. Some of our guests are elderly, and some have young children. We want to provide the best possible experience for our guests, and that should include the availability*

of toilet facilities. It does not reflect well on the city of Inverness if such a basic necessity is not available...”.

7. *“...regarding the current toilet situation at the drop off point at Ardross Street.*

From my point of view, as a tour guide serving visiting cruise ships to Invergordon, I regularly bring many visitors (both domestic and also international) to Inverness on coaches from Invergordon, dropping them off at Ardross Street for some "free time" in our wonderful city.

They do spend a lot of money in the city.

As always, you and your colleagues are always so helpful when we arrive and you are all a credit to Inverness in the service you provide and also in the friendly and welcoming manner in which you do it.

There is currently a serious problem, however, in relation to the poor provision of public toilets across the city, especially at the Ardross Street drop off point.

In any tour, by far the most important point is the availability of toilets and their ease of location and access. I always feel rather ashamed that Inverness cannot currently offer free and readily available toilet facilities at Ardross Street.

International guests have often told me that they have to try the Cathedral cafe (if urgent), or go into MacDonalds, or even the train station to find toilets. Although I do strive to point out that toilets are freely available within the Victorian Market, not everyone hears or even remembers this.

Part of my job as a qualified tour guide is not only to provide the best possible experience for cruise ship guests but also, on a wider note, to promote Inverness as an international and welcoming city.

The current lack of toilets at Ardross Street does not assist me in doing this and it is detrimental to the image of Inverness as a welcoming and progressive place. As tour guides, we always try to promote the city as a place that people should return to as a premium holiday destination. Lack of toilet facilities doesn't help us in promoting that image!...”.

8. *“...after having been told several times over the last year that the new facilities at the Northern Meeting Park will be open very soon to tourists coming to Inverness by coach and needing to use a toilet in the area I am very disappointed and frustrated that nothing has happened so far.*

The majority of people on my coaches are aged 60 to 80 and there are always some with bladder problems. If they are fit but do not have a good sense of direction in a foreign town I guide them to the Victorian Market.

Some others I have smuggled to the closest facilities in the Palace hotel via the swimming pool entrance...It is really embarrassing to encourage people to come to Inverness and spend some money without catering to the basic need of toilets near the drop off and pick up point on Ardross Street...”.

9. *“...Our guests from the cruise ships are mostly elderly people who need those facilities more often than younger tourists. When we stop at the Cathedral they ask for toilets, and the City centre can be quite a long way. They very much would appreciate toilets, where we stop...”.*

Agenda Item	9
Report No	ICGF/14/26

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness – Common Good Sub-Committee

Date: 3 August 2026

Report Title: Inverness Fringe Festival – Request for Financial Assistance

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report follows the request from the applicant Inverness Fringe Ltd to have 90% of the funding award paid to the support the planned event the Inverness Fringe Festival.

The request was initially circulated through email which recommended that it come back to an area committee decision.

- 1.2 At the last Sub-committee, the recommendations were made to the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) based on the following for the award of grant -

An award of £15,000 was to be given to the Inverness Fringe festival. This was based on the following recommendation

Applicant: Inverness Fringe Limited

Project/activity: Inverness Fringe Festival 2026

Amount requested: £15,000

Decision: AGREED TO RECOMMEND that up to £15,000 be APPROVED, subject to:

- i. expenditure on the project being monitored to ensure it was as detailed in the application; and
- ii. the project receiving the Creative Scotland funding that had been applied for.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Agree the recommendation to release of 90% of the agreed funding
- ii. Agree the recommendation to remove the condition that the project receiving the Creative Scotland funding that had been applied for.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - there are no resource implications as a direct consequence of this report
- 3.2 **Legal** – None
- 3.3 **Risk** - there are no risk implications as a direct consequence of this report
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – None
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - there are no Gaelic implications because of this report

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 update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5. Funding Request

- 5.1 Inverness Fringe Ltd applied to the ICGF for a grant at the last Sub Committee on 27th April. The request was for a total amount of £15,000.

The grant for £15,000 was agreed in support of a new weeklong arts and culture festival taking place across Inverness from the 28 September to the 4 October 2026. The festival's aim is to showcase local and emerging talent through a programme of performances, workshops, community events, gallery trails and cultural activities.

- 5.2 The applicant had responded that the condition around Creative Scotland funding would impact the ongoing works to support the event while they waited on Creative Scotland Funding.

The applicant further advised outlining that the initial application to Creative Scotland was refused. They have been invited to reapply and have submitted a fresh application to Creative Scotland for £20,000. This amount allows for a quicker decision, around 10 weeks. This was applied for in June 2026 and is a decision pending.

- 5.3 **Request** - They have requested if the ICGF Grant for £15,000 can be released to support the festival while they await notification for the Creative Scotland application. The funding will be used for as provided by the applicant to cover part of the sound and event production (only £1,356 of the overall sound and event production would

be covered by the £15,000 grant – they envisage this to be for professional costs prior to the week of the fringe including site planning/logistic mapping and review of equipment required for venues.

The marketing and advertising and venue hire will be where most of the grant monies will be allocated (£13,644)

5.4 The project has already secured a combination of private investment, grant support and in-kind contributions to support the festival development. This includes private funding towards the management platform, which will be used for event admin, venue coordination, volunteer recruitment and overall project delivery. Additional in-kind support from a local hospitality and events business is providing venue space and marketing assistance which reduces operating costs and creating opportunities for performances, workshops and other festival activities. Specialist support has been engaged with to develop a corporate sponsorship programme with discussions underway with several business in supporting the event.

5.5 **Summary** - When the grant was awarded at the April subcommittee meeting, the concern was that the event would not be fully funded and the Creative Scotland condition was there to act as a guarantee. Since then, planning for the festival has matured and confirmation has been provided by the applicant that the event will go ahead notwithstanding the Creative Scotland grant as they have sufficient funding in place to deliver the festival without it. If the Creative Scotland grant is received it will allow for an enhanced production.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 23 July 2026

Author: Mark Greig, Community Development Manager, City of Inverness & south

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

INVERNESS FRINGE BUDGET 2026

Net Income

Notes

Ticket Sales	£ 26,150	
Booking Fees	£ 1,261	
Registration Fees	£ -	
Sponsorships	£ 11,000	
Crowd Funding	£ 10,000	
Grants / Funding:		
Creative Scotland	5000	£5000 estimate
Cromarty Port		£ 10,000 estimate
Inverness Council	15,000	£ 15,000 estimate
Merchandise		
Misc Income	£ 4,752	
Total Income	£ 73,163	

Net Expenditure

Show Specific Costs:

Visiting Companies	£ 17,595
Security Staff	£ 500
Show Guarantee	£ 1,000

Venue Costs:

Venue's split of	£ 1,435
Venue's hire of	£ 1,365
Venue other costs	£ -

Production Costs:

Freelance Technicians	£ 3,500	£700 * 5. I think this is low!
Production set	£ 12,000	
Credit Card Charge	£ 1,098	

Marketing / Advertising:

Digital / Socials	£ 1,350
Print / OOH / P	£ 3,500
Brand Development	£ 824
Website	£ 1,263
Email	
Sponsorship Hospitality	
Cost of Merchandise	

Staff Fees:

Director 1	£ 4,300
Director 2	£ 2,000
Performing Artists	£ 3,900
Events Production	£ 1,000
Bookkeeper	£ 2,400
Volunteers	£ 1,000
Staff Travel	£ 98

Fundraiser £ -
Social Media £ 1,500

Fringe Overheads:

Insurance £ 358 Tysers
PRS £ 630
Management £ 4,752
Year End Acco £ 1,000

Total Expenditure £ 68,368

Contingency of "hard costs" @ £ 4,584

Total Expenditure inc. Contingency £ 72,953

PROFIT / LOSS £ 210