

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	CP/16/20

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Communities and Place

**Date:** 25 November 2020

**Report Title:** Update on Humanitarian and Welfare Needs and Support

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory role to provide humanitarian assistance during an emergency response. The previous report to Council in July 2020 provided Members with an update on the arrangements put in place to support this response, the scale of the response across Highland and also an update on how the response efforts were being redesigned in light of staff returning to core roles and a reduction in the level of requests being made.
- 1.2 From July until early-September, the demand for support significantly reduced; both through Council and community routes, coinciding with a reduction in the prevalence of the virus within our communities. However, the last few weeks have seen an increase in cases in communities across the Highlands. This comes at a time when there is growing concern about increasing unemployment and the impact this is likely to have on individuals and families. Local Authorities also now have an increased role in supporting the Test and Protect system and ensuring individuals have support – food, other supplies and financial – to self-isolate.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the Council's ongoing humanitarian response efforts as we move into a second wave of covid-19 and a stronger focus on food and fuel insecurity. It also provides Members with details of the new support roles the Council has in relation to Test and Protect and also details on different approaches to supporting financial and fuel insecurity and mental health and wellbeing.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Consider and note the update on humanitarian and welfare needs response across Highland, this includes:

- the focus on food and fuel insecurity for the second wave of covid-19;
  - the new supports in place for people who have to self-isolate under Test and Protect;
  - the local hub support arrangements in place to respond to food insecurity requests and should a local outbreak occur;
  - the different supports in place to address financial insecurity;
  - the supports in place to address fuel insecurity; and
  - the supports in place related to mental health and wellbeing.
- ii. Note the new roles Local Authorities now have in supporting the Test and Protect process;
  - iii. Note the Connecting Scotland programme and the number of devices that have come to Highland to support digital inclusion;
  - iv. Agree that the Chair of the Committee writes to Scottish Government and SCVO requesting that employability clients on low income, disabled people on low incomes and older people on low incomes are identified as eligible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Connecting Scotland Programme.

### **3. Implications**

- 3.1 Resource: The Council was notified of £651k of Government grant to support humanitarian assistance, with claims to be submitted by the end of September. The full amount has been claimed although the final grant award has not yet been confirmed.
- 3.2 There is a commitment to provide a funding package for the new duties associated with Test and Protect – outbound calls and administration of the new £500 support payment – however there is still no clarification of the detail of that package and whether this will also provide resources to continue to provide humanitarian response to those requiring support to self-isolate and those experiencing food insecurity. The Council has evolved its humanitarian response to enable it to operate with fewer staff to maintain ongoing response but with the agility to draw on other staff locally based on a short-term basis where necessary and to respond local outbreaks.
- 3.3 Confirmation has been received of the new Tackling Financial Insecurity Fund. This is specifically to support individuals through direct payments.
- 3.4 Legal: Humanitarian assistance is a legal requirement of our resilience response under the Civil Contingencies Act.
- 3.5 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): The Council has taken a place-based approach to humanitarian assistance and continues to do so through its 10 local community hubs. The development of the Community Support Co-ordinator role supports this through the co-ordination of response and through stronger liaison and engagement with community groups.
- 3.6 Prioritisation of response to those most in need continues to be a priority and there is a stronger understanding of where support needs to be targeted should more stringent

restrictions be put in place. Working with groups to align resources and target effectively is important going forward. Financial, food and fuel insecurity are likely to be challenges for our communities in the coming months and a focus for all partners will be to collaborate to mitigate the impacts of this. This includes mitigation where we know that the coronavirus has a disproportionate impact on certain groups and individuals due to a protected characteristic defined in the Equality Act.

- 3.7 Feedback from Community Groups highlight concerns regarding ongoing provision in the winter months, with poor weather conditions likely to impact the number and ability of some volunteers to support resilience efforts. Co-ordination of response will therefore be vital to enable support to continue/be in place if required.
- 3.8 Climate Change / Carbon Clever: Food and medicines distribution involve travel and there are carbon emissions associated with that. We will work with community groups to minimise travel.
- 3.9 Risk: There is still no clarification of the detailed funding package to provide outbound calls and administer the new £500 support payment but also to continue to provide humanitarian response to those requiring support to self-isolate as a result of food insecurity however the Council recognises the importance of ensuring humanitarian assistance remains in place, including support and co-ordination to local groups
- 3.8 Gaelic – there are no Gaelic implications associated with this report.

#### **4. Humanitarian Assistance**

- 4.1 The Council has retained its model of humanitarian support but scaled down to reflect current demands. The free-phone helpline has been integrated into the service centre operation, the Policy team continues to provide central co-ordination, advice and reporting role (to Scottish Government) and the community and distribution hub model remains in place. The interim Head of Revenues & Business Support continues the role of Food Lead, working with CoSLA and the Scottish Government on matters relating to food insecurity. This also involves ensuring there are sufficient supplies of quality food stocks for the purposes of humanitarian support.
- 4.2 The Council continues to operate a community hub support model to be able to respond to requests for food support where required. The hubs now operate predominantly from Council office bases (the exception is Cromarty Firth which operates from Joss Street Hall, HLH), given the need to move from the previous school locations. This has worked well to date and allows the hub teams to be responsive and scale up operations as local circumstances and outbreaks develop (see section 4.13). For example, in advance of the latest restrictions in early October, hub stocks were further increased to ensure supplies were in place to respond depending upon the impact of restrictions on the local area.
- 4.3 The central distribution hub based in Inverness continues to operate but has relocated from Inverness Leisure to Eden Court. As with Inverness Leisure before it, Eden Court

staff have been extremely supportive and flexible, and the distribution hub is able to remain there whilst the theatre is unable to fully operate.

4.4 A core element of the Council's approach to food support in Highland has been its partnership with FareShare. Funded by the Scottish Government, the Council continues to benefit from an adequate supply of quality purchased food from FareShare which they supplement with a wide range of donated and surplus food from manufacturers. This enables the Council to alleviate food insecurity and to ensure that all requests from community groups and individual households for food support are continuing to be met. This has been critical to the model of support in place to date and for over the coming winter months.

#### 4.5 *Staffing*

Ward Managers continue to have an oversight role of each of the hubs but, as reported at the July Council, the Council continues to develop and transition to a Community Support Co-ordinator role to enable staff to return to their core duties. The purpose of these roles is to work with local groups on the co-ordination of continued humanitarian support and allow staff to return to core roles, identifying volunteers to support ongoing humanitarian efforts and targeting of support to those who need it most. The roles will also help to develop our place-based approach by supporting greater involvement and participation between the Council and community and taking an enabling role to support and empower communities who wish to do more. Deployment of staff onto these roles has been only partially successful given competing work pressures so alternatives are being explored for the months ahead.

4.6 The distribution hub continues to be staffed with support from a number of teams across the Council and particularly by the Town House civic support team. It is important to note that where local outbreaks have occurred, Council and High Life Highland staff continue to demonstrate their flexibility and responsiveness in stepping forward to offer support for resilience efforts.

#### 4.7 *Who are we supporting?*

Support throughout lockdown was provided to a range of groups affected by the circumstances which emerged. There was a particular focus on individuals shielding but also those falling within the higher at-risk groups; older people, individuals with particular medical conditions, pregnant women. Following lockdown and the pausing of shielding, support has tended to focus more on families and individuals at risk of food insecurity. Targeting of support will be a key feature of response going forward. Food support has been provided in these cases alongside support from the Council's welfare team. Although the immediate concern regarding the end of furlough has subsided, there remain concerns regarding the sustainability of business as a result of the impact of covid and that there will be an increased demand for food support from those experiencing a significant change in income. This comes at a time when the imminent EU exit may also impact upon business. This is a concern also expressed throughout many of the community conversations recently undertaken with community support groups across Highland. It will be important to ensure that food support in this context is provided in conjunction with support from the Welfare Team.

4.8 Support is also being provided in communities where there are local outbreaks or as part of the new duties on Local Authorities under the Test and Protect scheme. These are outlined in more detail below at 4.13 and 4.14.

4.9 Whilst there is no indication at present that there is likely to be an imminent return to shielding, it is important to note that shielding is only paused, and the Government continue to provide specific messages to this group. Advice has been provided to this group regarding the new tier system and specific guidance applies for individuals previously shielding should any area enter tier 4. Whether there is any change to this in the months ahead is likely to depend upon the nature of the virus and the recommended guidance on how to suppress it, but also how best to protect those individuals most at risk.

#### 4.10 *Supporting Community Groups*

A notable change in the nature of support since the July Council meeting has been direct food support to community groups. The Council had previously enabled food supplies to Sutherland and a few other community groups but in recent weeks the distribution hub has been supporting a larger number of groups directly where funding has run out or previous supply routes were no longer in place. The Council's welfare team would normally support a number of core groups with food supplies, particularly over the winter months, but this has grown considerably in recent weeks with 3,125 bags, equivalent to 13.78 tonnes of food being distributed to 11 different groups during October. It is anticipated that this is likely to grow in the coming weeks as the demand increases but also as there is not the same availability of external funding for groups.

4.11 The Council also continues to support groups through the covid ward discretionary budget. At 9 November 2020, £161,344 or 30.1% of the total *Supporting Community Resilience* fund had been spent on 347 separate awards. Spending in certain Wards has been higher than others e.g. Black Isle and Eilean a' Cheo. Full details of spend, against the original allocation, can be found in appendix 1.

4.12 At the Council meeting on 1 October 2020, a motion was agreed:

*To allow Wards with unspent Covid money, especially the deprived areas, to spend their money on projects to assist children and adults post Covid, such as contributing to Play Park equipment.*

This motion would enable Wards to utilise their unspent covid monies on broader projects to support children and adults. Work is underway to put in place a process to support Wards with any decision making related to how and where covid ward discretionary monies could be spent, particularly in relation to play parks. This is discussed in more detail at item 11 on the agenda and will be the subject of a report to Council in December alongside the review of the covid ward discretionary fund.

#### 4.13 *Local Outbreaks*

To date there have been a small number of local outbreaks across Highland – Grantown, Kinlochleven and Fort William. Outbreaks are defined as two or more linked cases associated with a non-residential setting. Within each of these cases the local

community hub has worked with community groups to put in place support for local people should they require this to self-isolate. It is important to note that the nature of this support has varied depending on each local circumstance:

- Grantown – a temporary hub established with food provision in the Grantown Court House to ensure better accessibility for any support required. Close liaison with local support group to ensure onward referral and support if required. Support leaflet produced with Council and community contacts on it and shared across partners and in hard copy (with copies in Polish, Latvian and Romanian) within the local community.
- Kinlochleven – food supplies provided directly to local resilience group which is well-established in the local community.
- Fort William - community hub and local groups ready to support if required and numbers increased. Local support leaflet produced with key contacts for welfare, food and isolation support if required.

In addition to the above, there have been several instances of cases within schools across Highland. In each case, the Head Teacher and Area Education Manager, along with colleagues from Environmental Health, Educational Psychology, Education Digital Support Team and the Welfare Team, have provided advice and support to the school community impacted.

#### 4.14 *Test and Protect – Support to Isolate*

From 12 October, Local Authorities have been asked to support the Test and Protect system by undertaking outbound calls to all those who have been asked to self-isolate. The purpose of this is to ensure people have support in place to enable them to self-isolate. This includes food, medicines and supplies and potentially financial support; individuals on low income may be entitled to £500 if they will lose income as a result of being required to self-isolate.

4.15 Council's receive a daily update from Public Health Scotland providing details of anyone within the Local Authority area requiring to self-isolate and who has given permission for their details to be shared. This may be because they have tested positive for covid-19 or that they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. The Service Centre leads on making calls to all individuals to ensure that they have appropriate supports in place. Two follow-up calls are also part of the new duties from Scottish Government, to ensure that someone's circumstance do not change during the period of self-isolation e.g. their support may no longer be available, they may develop symptoms and test positive and be required to self-isolate for longer and need supplies.

4.16 Between 12 October and 11 November, 391 individuals have been referred to the Council. Successful calls have been made to 314 of them and a further 331 follow-up calls made. The Council's role is purely to check whether individuals are in receipt of support and therefore no further action is taken if people do not answer/choose not to respond to calls and messages.

4.17 The calls also seek to understand if an individual may be entitled to financial support to help them self-isolate. If an individual is in receipt of low-income benefits, cannot work from home and will experience reduced income as a result of having to self-isolate, then

they may be entitled to £500. The aim is to ensure that the worry about the loss of income, would not prevent someone from seeking a test and if positive then self-isolating. There have been 63 referrals to the Welfare Team for potential entitlement to the £500 payment – 38 via the helpline and the remainder self-referral.

#### 4.18 *Financial Support to Councils for Humanitarian Support*

The Scottish Government has confirmed that Councils will be funded to provide outbound call support and also to administer the £500 support to isolate payment. Council's will also be reimbursed for any £500 grants made. Further details are still awaited on the cost model for the outbound call support and administration of the £500 support, and to what extent this will also include resource to continue to provide food/supplies support. Members will recall that previous funding to provide food support to those required to self-isolate and to those facing food insecurity was only in place until the end of September.

4.19 It is vital the support arrangements in place remain in order to ensure our communities are supported in the case of any local outbreaks/lockdown arrangements and the Council is committed to doing this. However, given the continued precarious nature of the Council's budget, it is seeking reassurance from the Government regarding the ongoing funding in place to support humanitarian response.

## 5. **Welfare Support**

### 5.1 **Scale of the Current Challenge**

5.1.1 Unfortunately, as we are aware, the economic impact of covid is having a financial impact on many individuals. During the earlier part of this year, the focus was on supporting people to shield or to isolate if they fell within vulnerable groups but as the year has progressed, this has shifted into support for people as a result of financial insecurity.

5.1.2 Recent figures suggest there has been a 78% increase in people claiming Universal Credit between March and August this year in Highland. The increase is over 70% across all age groups but is particularly high amongst younger people with a 97% increase in claimants between 16-19 and 93% increase in 20-24 year olds. There is also a geographical dimension with job centres in the west – Fort William and Skye experiencing higher increase in claimants than other centres across Highland.

5.1.3 Unemployment levels have also increased across Highland to 5.7%, up from 2.4% at the same point last year. It is estimated 35% of businesses within the Highlands made use of the furlough scheme. Despite the extension of the furlough scheme until the end of March 2021, there is a risk that the impact of covid on the sustainability of business, coupled with existing the EU, will result in a further increase in unemployment across our communities. This change in circumstance will be new for many individuals who have not previously been unemployed and result in financial hardship. It is therefore important to recognise that as we move into the second wave of covid, a core focus is on financial, food and fuel insecurity for people and what can be done to mitigate and support people through these challenging times.

## 5.2 ***Addressing Financial Insecurity***

### 5.2.1 Council Welfare Team and Citizen Advice

The Council's Welfare Team and Citizens Advice are in place to support people who find themselves with a change in financial circumstance. Support can be provided to maximise incomes through ensuring people are receiving all the benefits and entitlements they are due to them but also to address any debt issues that may have occurred as a result of a change in their circumstances, including employment status and health. Recent feedback would suggest that some individuals are beginning to present with similar patterns of debt seen during the financial crisis 10 years ago. It is important that these issues are addressed and managed quickly. It is also important to recognise that many individuals will not have found themselves out of work previously, so messaging regarding channels of support, such as the Welfare Team and Citizens Advice, are important.

### 5.2.2 Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund is designed to provide grants to individuals at a point of crisis and to support settled living. To be eligible, applicants need to be on a low income but not necessarily in receipt of benefits. The fund available in Highland is £1.9m and there has been a very welcome increase in this from the Scottish Government for 2020/21. Spend during October was around 61% higher than the average spend during Q1 as tenancies changes increase and the impacts of Covid continue to have an effect.

### 5.2.3 Tackling Financial Insecurity Fund

On 23 October 2020, the Scottish Government announced a new £30m fund to support Local Authorities to tackle financial insecurity and to continue the provision of free school meals during forthcoming holiday period. £10m of this fund is to provide support for the continuation of free school meals during the holiday periods up to Easter 2021. This Council has also chosen to provide vouchers for eligible pupils for the October holiday period. A voucher system, introduced during the lockdown period in March to June, will provide provision during the other holiday breaks for eligible pupils for the remainder of the school year.<sup>1</sup>

5.2.4 The remaining £20m is to be targeted at addressing individual financial insecurity which would include supplementing Scottish Welfare Fund Budgets, support to households on low incomes to tackle food/fuel insecurity and housing costs where they may not qualify for existing supports. Scottish Government has confirmed funding of £0.700m for direct provision of these supports by the Council.

### 5.2.5 Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits to help towards the costs of looking after a child. £40 will be paid every four weeks for each child under six and will be extended to under sixteen year olds by 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Free School Meal Voucher Eligibility: P1–3 pupils who are entitled to the school clothing grant and P4–S6 pupils who are eligible for free school meals will each receive the equivalent of £3 per day which will be paid using a voucher system.



### 5.3 **Addressing Fuel Insecurity**

5.3.1 Fuel insecurity in Highland has been a long-standing issue and there are concerns that this winter, and the fall in incomes being experienced by a number of individuals, will exacerbate this situation. Several strands of work are proposed to mitigate this challenge:

- Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau Fuel Check Scheme – will take self-referrals or through partner agencies such as the Council, to provide fuel and energy checks for individuals with the aim of reducing outgoings and increasing an individual's disposable income. The main focus will be:

- Switching fuel provider
- Changing payment methods

Initially there will be an individual focus on targeting Council tenants then broadening this to target home ownership. Referrals could come through the Council's helpline and there is also an opportunity to ensure that people are in receipt of all benefits and entitlements. This service will be provided utilising existing resources.

- Oil Clubs – have been successful in a number of communities across Highland in previous years. There are opportunities to work with groups and communities to develop these at a local level.
- Fuel Card Top Ups – a number of organisations have utilised external national funding over the first part of the year to provide fuel top up cards to individuals struggling. There is an opportunity to develop this further and through closer collaboration across the third sector and referrals from the Council's Welfare Team, maximise external resources to provide a source of top ups for individuals who may not qualify for crisis support (as outlined above at section 4.17)

5.3.2 In addition to the above, and depending upon household circumstances, a resident may qualify for extra financial support during the winter to address fuel insecurity from the DWP if they are in receipt of particular benefits.

- *UK Government's Winter Fuel Payment:* A Winter Fuel payment is a one-off, tax-free payment of between **£100 and £300** made during the winter to help with heating costs; it is made to households with someone over Pension Credit age.
- *UK Government's Cold Weather Payment:* A Cold Weather payment is a **£25** payment to help with fuel costs during periods of very cold weather. The period of cold weather must cover seven consecutive days, between 1 November and 31 March, when the average temperature must be zero degrees Celsius or below. **The £25 can be paid multiple times** if the 7 consecutive day criteria are met. This is particularly targeted at people claiming Pension Credit or Income Support, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit
- *The Warm Home Discount scheme:* The Warm Home Discount scheme (WHDS) offers a one-off payment of **£140** (inclusive of VAT) towards the energy bills of those who need it most. The scheme was introduced by the UK Government in April 2011 and is managed by energy suppliers. The money isn't paid directly to

the customer; it is a one-off discount that is credited to the customer's energy account, prepayment card or key, during the winter. Eligibility is based on Pension Credit or where the individual is on a low income and meets their energy supplier's criteria for the scheme.

5.4 The first 6 months of covid-19 have demonstrated the strength and depth of communities across the area and the ability and importance of working together and in partnership. The focus of the second wave of covid-19 must be to build on this strength and ensure closer collaboration and partnership in order to target support to those who are in greatest need. Food and fuel insecurity as a result of individual economic circumstances will be key challenges for our communities in the months ahead. It is vital that the community and Community Planning Partnership networks collaborate to ensure that core messages about sources of support are communicated and the financial challenges for individuals are mitigated as much as possible in the months ahead.

## 5.5 ***Mental Health and Wellbeing***

5.5.1 Evidence from service users, community groups and partner organisations would suggest that there is an increasing concern at the impact of the current pandemic on mental health and wellbeing. This is across the mental health spectrum and includes an increase in individuals presenting with mental health crisis but also the growth in concerns regarding increases in anxiety over the current circumstances and a reduction in feelings of wellbeing. The longer the pandemic lasts, the greater the concerns regarding the long-term impact it is having on mental health and wellbeing across our communities.

### 5.5.2 Mental Health and Wellbeing Funding for Children and Young People

As outlined to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee on 12 November, additional funding of £712,000 to support the development of community mental health and wellbeing services for 5-24 year olds and their families and support the responds to mental health and emotional wellbeing issues affecting children and young people as a result of the pandemic. As agreed at committee, it is proposed to develop a whole system approach to addressing this going forward working with all services across the Council, third sector organisation and community planning partners. This will begin through a workshop in November.

### 5.5.3 Partnership Approaches to Supporting Mental Health

Mental Health and Wellbeing has been a core priority of the Community Planning Partnership over the last few years. This also includes a strong focus on suicide prevention. Key actions have been identified by the partnership to support the current mental health and wellbeing challenges presenting in communities. These include:

- Information resource to signpost to crisis and wellbeing opportunities/services
- Training for community groups/partners organisations on how to support people
- Suicide prevention – postvention work with communities following a suicide to provide wider support across communities.

### 5.5.4 Digital Inclusion

The lack of digital access has been identified as an exacerbating factor related to social isolation throughout many of the conversations with community groups across Highland.

This can be a combination of lack of an appropriate device, lack of internet access or both however it is also important to note that many individuals do not wish to have a digital connection. The Scottish Government has been running the Connecting Scotland “*No-one-left-behind*” programme for the last 6 months, designed to address digital exclusion by targeting certain groups within the population. It provides iPads, Chromebooks, connectivity and support to develop digital skills for people who are digitally excluded because they do not have access to an appropriate device and/or are not connected to the internet and cannot afford it. The programme is managed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and the application process is targeted to third sector organisations in conjunction with the Scottish Local Authorities.

- 5.5.5 So far there has been 2 phases of the programme with an anticipation of phase 3 in Spring 2021. **Phase 1** (April – July 2020) focused on those who were digitally excluded and were at risk of isolation because they were in the extremely high vulnerability shielding group or in the higher risk of severe illness group. The Highland Council area was assigned a total of 330 devices with connectivity up to 12 months and were successfully allocated to 28 voluntary organisations across the Highlands.
- 5.5.6 **Phase 2** (August – November 2020) build on this initial investment and prioritised digitally excluded disadvantaged families with children, pregnant women and care experienced young people. The Highland Council area was allocated 618 devices and 12 voluntary organisations were successful in their bids. The Council also submitted a bid to access devices in this round specifically to target care experienced young people and vulnerable families. The Council was initially awarded just over 200 devices as part of the 618 allocation but following a decision by the Scottish Government governance board, the Council was allocated additional devices bringing a total award of 610 devices.
- 5.5.7 Both phases 1 and 2 of the programme have been oversubscribed, highlighting the demand for addressing digital exclusion. A third phase of the programme is anticipated to be launched in the spring of 2021. Initial discussions are taking place about the target audience being the digitally excluded and unemployed but there is an opportunity for Highland Council to influence and express who we believe should be included in this phase. Feedback from engagement to date would suggest that there are particular gaps related to employment, disabled people and older disadvantaged individuals. It is proposed that the Chair of this committee writes to Scottish Government and SCVO expressing the Council’s support for a third phase of the programme and identifying the groups highlighted as eligible groups for phase three.
- 5.5.8 In parallel, under the **Connection Scotland Education programme**, the Scottish Government awarded £25 million to local councils to support school students with devices and connectivity to help with their learning and to build resilience should schools need to close again for lockdown. Highland Council was successful in the bid and was awarded £1.3m to address digital inclusion for disadvantaged children and young people in Highland Schools. This grant has enabled us to further expand our Chromebook estate, invest in an improved management of the Chromebook service and platform and expand the connectivity with the MIFI devices.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

Date: 9-11-20

Authors: Alison Clark, Head of Policy  
Sheila McKandie, Head of Revenues and Business Support

Appendix 1: Covid Ward Discretionary Grant Spend up to 9 November 2020

## Covid Ward Discretionary Spend at 9.11.20

Ward	Covid Award	Additional £10k for Covid Vulnerable Communities (x 20 communities)	Spend to 9-11-20	% of Spend	Number of awards
01 North West Central Sutherland	£16,000	£5,000	£6,876	32.7%	18
02 Thurso and Northwest Caithness	£16,000	£20,000	£7,551	21.0%	20
03 Wick and East Caithness	£16,000	£20,000	£6,561	18.2%	19
04 East Sutherland and Edderton	£16,000	£15,000	£5,625	18.1%	12
05 Wester Ross Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	£16,000		£10,534	65.8%	25
06 Cromarty Firth	£16,000	£20,000	£9,230	25.6%	20
07 Tain and Easter Ross	£16,000	£10,000	£12,601	48.5%	27
08 Dingwall and Seaforth	£16,000	£10,000	£6,876	26.4%	15
09 Black Isle	£16,000	0	£14,983	93.6%	18
10 Eilean a' Cheo	£16,000	£10,000	£21,950	84.4%	37
11 Caol and Mallaig	£16,000	£10,000	£10,309	39.7%	14
12 Aird and Loch Ness	£16,000	0	£6,953	43.5%	14
13 Inverness West	£16,000	£20,000	£4,213	11.7%	14
14 Inverness Central	£16,000	£20,000	£7,480	20.8%	23
15 Inverness Ness-side	£16,000	0	£4,863	30.4%	12
16 Inverness Millburn	£16,000	0	£3,905	24.4%	10
17 Culloden and Ardersier	£16,000	0	£2,672	16.7%	8
18 Nairn	£16,000	£20,000	£8,381	23.3%	17
19 Inverness South	£16,000	0	£1,621	10.1%	5
20 Badenoch and Strathspey	£16,000	0	£2,408	15.1%	7
21 Fort William and Ardnamurchan	£16,000	0	£5,750	35.9%	12
Hilton*		£10,000			
Crown and Haugh*		£10,000			
Total	£336,000	£200,000	£161,344	30.1%	347

\*£10,000 awarded for each of these covid vulnerable communities that crosscuts three separate wards – Inverness Milburn, Ness Side and Central