

Agenda Item	3
Report No	CIA/16/22

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 8 March 2022

Report Title: Place Based Investment Programme

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has allocated the Council £1,963,000 ring-fenced Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) funding for 2021/22. On 1 September 2021, Members of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee agreed an area distribution of the grant. The City of Inverness Area Committee was allocated £640,433.
- 1.2 On the 18 November 2021, CIA Committee agreed in principle to investing £79,000 in the Victorian Market refurbishment project and to investing £335,499 in the Inverness Campus Sports Development project. Members also agreed to operate a Challenge Fund for remaining budget. The process was publicised and opened on 29 December 2021 and closed 21 January 2022. A total of six applications were received. One of which has subsequently been withdrawn. The total grant amount requested is £572,243.64. This means that the area allocation is significantly over subscribed.

Following discussion at the CIA Committee meeting on 17 February, and the decision to defer the item until further work was undertaken, Council Officers have sought to identify additional match funding to deliver as many outputs as possible for the finite resource available.

The report provides an outline of each project and highlights key aspects of each, including deliverability and readiness to support decision making. An extract of the salient sections of each application can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. Agree to investing £79,000 in the Victorian Market, Market Hall and Fish Market refurbishment project; and

- ii. Agree to investing £335,499 in the Inverness Campus Sports Development project; and consider the applications submitted and agree which projects are to be offered a Place Based Investment Programme grant in line with the recommendations set out at Section 8. This recommends allocating funds to the following projects, up to the total of £225,934:-
 - a. Glen Urquhart Public Hall (Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association) £45,000;
 - b. Inshes Wheeled Sports Park (Inshes Community Association) £93,191;
 - c. Crown Church – a community resource (Church of Scotland) £74,343; and
 - d. Ardersier Outdoor Gym (Ardersier Community Hub) £13,400.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The Placed Based Investment Programme are capital and ring-fenced with specific conditions attached. The grant can be spent by Council or third parties. The grant needs to be contractually committed by 31 March 2022.
- 3.2 **Legal** – The Council, along with statutory community planning partners, has a legal duty from the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) (2015) to tackle inequalities. The Council and its partners must produce ‘locality plans’ at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. All partners must take account of these plans in carrying out their functions and must contribute appropriate resources to improve the priority outcomes. By seeking the views of the community partnerships in allocating this place-based funding and in recognising the areas of need to consider, the place-based investment can support the Council’s legal duties.
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** – A key objective of the Place Based Investment Programme is to support wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership. While the allocation formula included use of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), the Council has agreed with community planning partners to also use the Socio-Economic Performance (SEP) index which recognises rural deprivation better. This has led to over 20 locality planning areas being identified for community planning partners to work together in and with communities to reduce inequalities. Communities where locality plans have been or are being produced should be included in the consideration for this funding.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – A key objective of the Place Based Investment Programme is to accelerate net zero ambitions.
- 3.5 **Risk** – When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to the Council are accessed/mitigated and any back-to-back grant award letters with third parties and financial claims management protect Council financial and reputational interests. In addition, the Best Value Assurance Report 2020 highlighted the need for the Council to make progress with partners in delivering our shared empowerment and locality planning obligations. The involvement of community partnerships in informing the priorities for place-based investment will help deliver this improvement action.
- 3.6 **Gaelic** – No direct implications arising albeit specific projects may bring positive implications.

4 Place Based Investment Programme background

- 4.1 The 2020 Programme for Government committed to establishing a Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP), linking and aligning place-based funding initiatives. The aim of the PBIP is to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate ambitions for place, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre action, community led regeneration and community wealth building.
- 4.2 The Place Principle, which underpins this approach, was adopted by Scottish Government and COSLA as a basis for collaborative working to ensure that future local investment is relevant to local communities for the benefit of local people. Bringing relevant services, enterprise, and communities together to make our towns, villages, and neighbourhoods more viable.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government recognise that local government is a key partner in delivering the PBIP. Scottish Government and CoSLA have agreed that Local Government will receive a share of the funding over 5 years to support and advance place-based investment.
- 4.4 Local Government will receive a share of this capital funding, with £38m in 2021/22; £33m in 2022/23; £23m in 2023/24; £23m in 2024/25; and £23m in 2025/26. The £1,963,000 awarded to the Highland Council for 2021/22 is based on a distribution methodology agreed by COSLA and Scottish Ministers with 80% distributed based on the total population and number of towns, and 20% distributed based on deprivation. Economy & Infrastructure Committee (E&I) agreed that the same formula be applied to arrive at the area committee allocations.
- 4.5 Assuming that no changes are made to the aforementioned distribution formula, the Council can expect the following awards in future years:-
- £1,704,710 in 2022/23
 - £1,188,131 in 2023/24
 - £1,188,131 in 2024/25
 - £1,188,131 in 2025/26

5 PBIP objectives

- 5.1 The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme are:-
- to link and align place-based initiatives and establish a coherent local framework to implement the Place Principle;
 - to support place policy ambitions such as town centre revitalisation, community led regeneration, 20-minute neighbourhoods and Community Wealth Building;
 - to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities; and
 - to accelerate ambitions for net zero, wellbeing and inclusive economic development, tackling inequality and disadvantage, community involvement and ownership.

6. PBIP locations

6.1 The Programme aims to invest in centres or neighbourhoods connected with two categories of settlement.

1. Rural settings with smaller populations, dependent on larger geographical area for support, for example:-
 - small towns with a limited range of non-specialised facilities; and
 - villages with very limited, or non-existent, access to facilities.
2. Urban settings with sizeable populations, for example:-
 - regional capitals with extensive provision supporting a wide geographical area;
 - larger towns with a comprehensive range of dedicated services and facilities; and
 - individual neighbourhoods with limited access to relevant local provision.

6.2 As a consequence of the above aims, Economy & Infrastructure Committee agreed that all places, irrespective of population, be considered eligible for PBIP support.

7. PBIP Proposals

7.1 On 18 November 2021, CIA Committee agreed in principle to investing £79,000 in the Victorian Market refurbishment project and to investing £335,499 in the Inverness Campus Sports Development project. Members also agreed to operate a Challenge Fund for remaining budget. The following summarises the two projects agreed previously in principle and the outcome of the Challenge fund.

7.2 Victorian Market, Market Hall and Fish Market refurbishment project

The Victorian Market projected final account (£1,935,339) remains unaltered to that reported on 18 November and again on 17 February 2022. The project continues to face engineering and service challenges. It is therefore proposed that the in-principle decision made on 18 November 2021, to invest £79,000 of the PBIP area allocation is formally agreed.

7.3 Inverness Campus Sports Development project

On 18 November 2021, CIA Committee agreed in principle to investing £335,499 of the PBIP area allocation in the proposed Inverness Campus Sports Development project. This decision was based on a percentage cost increase assumption being applied to the budget estimate contained in the original Town Centre Fund proposal to give a revised estimated cost of £1.281m. The Council have carried out further cost analysis using comparable rates from current 'live' projects which include sports pitch works of similar scope and value. This exercise indicates that the project is likely to cost £1.272m. It is therefore proposed that the in-principle decision made on 18 November 2021, is formally agreed. Discussions remain ongoing with key stakeholders/funders to conclude the funding package required to deliver this important project. However, it will not be possible to commit the PBIP grant by 31 March 2022. As a consequence, permission will be required from the Scottish Government to carry over the uncommitted sum into 2022/23. It is suggested that this is an appropriate course of action as it will be enormously beneficial when attempting to secure match funding to have the PBIP in place.

7.4 CIA PBIP Challenge Fund

At the CIA Committee on 18 November, it was agreed to open a challenge fund for the remaining funds of £225,934. As is typical with this type of funding, the proposals received by The Highland Council vary significantly in terms of project outputs and outcomes. Each project proposed has its own particular local benefits and impacts. In assessing which project to support, Members will need to consider four key factors when determining applications:-

1. Does the project satisfy one of the seven PBIP objectives (section 5)?
2. Is the expenditure capital in nature?
i.e., A fixed physical asset.
3. Can the expenditure be contractually committed by 31 March 2022?
Whilst the 5-year pipeline of funding is welcome and allows for more opportunity to identify and develop projects with more funding certainty, the grant condition that funds are to be committed on annual basis undermines any advantage secured and limits the ability to develop and support those projects that may potentially deliver the biggest impacts for City of Inverness Area communities. It was agreed at the E&I Committee meeting on 1 September 2021 that the Council would write to the Scottish Government seeking flexibility in that regard.
4. Does the project align with local CPP objectives?
A requirement of the decision-making process agreed by E&I Committee is that Members take into account the views of the community partnerships when allocating this place-based funding. Regrettably on this occasion it has not been possible to obtain a formal view due to the compressed timetable for submitting applications and reporting to Committee.

7.5 The following paragraphs summarise the six proposals received by The Highland Council for the City of Inverness area and provides commentary on the key issues to be considered by Members when determining which projects they wish to offer PBIP grant. Following discussion at the CIA Committee meeting on 17 February, and the decision to defer the item until further work was undertaken, Council Officers have sought to identify additional match funding to deliver as many outputs as possible for the finite resource available. This is detailed in the summaries below.

7.6 Glen Urquhart Public Hall

Glen Urquhart rural Community Association are seeking £45,000 to replace the roof of the main hall. The estimated cost is £54,000. The hall has traditionally followed a typical village hall model where it is available for hire for activities and events. However, the applicant does have ambitious plans to develop this model and for the property to operate as a community hub with a greater emphasis on service provision and supporting local economic development. However, the built fabric of the property is in need of urgent attention, with the roof being the priority work package. This work is critical not only to the future aspirations for the property but is necessary in order to ensure that property is wind and watertight and that current users continue to enjoy full access to the property.

7.7 Inshes Wheeled Sports Park

Inshes Community Association (ICA) applied for £136,000 to build a wheeled sports park (scooters, bikes, skateboards roller blades) in phase 2 of Inshes Park. The estimated cost of the project is £225,000.

As part of the officer investigations following the CIA Committee on 17 February to seek options to enable all projects to proceed, the Council has identified that there are sufficient funds with the Inshes Park developer contributions fund to enable a contribution of up to £42,809 for this particular phase of development at the Park. The funds therefore required from the PBIP fund are reduced to £93,191.

7.8 Crown Church – a community resource

The Church of Scotland are seeking the sum of £74,343.64 for a further phase of works at Crown Church. The proposed works include rewiring, lighting, stonework repairs, double glazing, insulation, further AV installation and a small amount of access safety works to the attic space. The total cost of this phase of work is £82,604.05.

The property is undergoing a major upgrade of its facility at Kingsmill's Road to address the lack of facilities in the area for leisure, recreation, and community-based activities. The Church has recently leased the lower hall which is presently being converted into two nursery classrooms to accommodate 68 pupils thus avoiding the loss of play areas at the school to accommodate this demand. To compensate for the lease of the hall the church made plans to completely redesign and renovate other parts of the building to maximise wider community use.

The first phase of this redesign is almost complete with a refurbished upper hall, state of the art kitchens and toilets, installation of a lift for all ability access, new fire escape, new access with television screening for security purposes for some of the groups that use the facility, new double glazing, and insulation throughout, secure storage space for individual users and a new AV and loop system.

7.9 Ardersier Outdoor Gym

Ardersier Community Hub are seeking £16,900 to purchase and install outdoor gym equipment at a yet to be confirmed location in Ardersier. There are currently two locations under consideration. The application also includes £3,500 of ineligible expenditure related to 10-year service plan for the equipment. It is suggested that alternative sources of funding are sought for the maintenance plan.

7.10 Hydro Ness Visitor Experience

The Highland Council is seeking a revised sum of £245,000 for phase 2 of the £2.6m Hydro Ness project. The revised figure is based on the assumption that £55,000 will be obtained from the Scottish Government's City Recovery Fund for the design work. Phase 2 is focused on the development and implementation of high-quality interpretive content which will enhance the visitor experience and encourage increased footfall and interest.

7.11 Active Botanical Community Garden (ABC Garden)

Following discussions with the applicant, this application has been withdrawn due to further refinement of the project and fundraising strategy. The PBIP remains a target fund for future years.

8. CIA Application Conclusion

8.1 A summary of the project status, including an officer recommendation is outlined below:-

Project	Funding Request (£)	Meet PBIP objectives and criteria	All funding in place?	Is the project ready to commit before end March '22	Recommendation
Glen Urquhart Public Hall (Glen Urquhart rural Community Association)	45,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suitable to approve – all funding in place and project is ready to commence.
Inshes Wheeled Sports Park (Inshes Community Association)	93,191	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suitable to approve – all funding in place (includes developer contribution of £42,809) and project is ready to commence.
Crown Church – a community resource (Church of Scotland)	74,343	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suitable to approve – all funding is in place and project is ready to commence.
Ardersier Outdoor Gym (Ardersier Community Hub)	13,400	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suitable to approve – capital expenditure fully funded by PBIP.
Hydro Ness Visitor Experience (The Highland Council)	245,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refuse – Funding request in excess of available budget.
Active Botanical Community	£50,000	Yes	No	No	Application Withdrawn to enable refinement of the project and fundraising strategy

Given that the CIA PBIP area allocation remains oversubscribed it is suggested that the Hydro Ness Visitor Experience application is refused and encouraged to reapply when further PBIP monies are made available. As noted at 7.6, the applicant has withdrawn the current application for the Active Botanical Community Garden but would aim to reapply in future years. This allows the four remaining projects (highlighted green) to be fully funded.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

Date: 24 February 2022

Author: Alan Webster, Regeneration Team Leader

Appendix 1: PBIP Application Extracts

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Applicant organisation	Glen Urquhart rural Community Association (SCIO)	
1.2 Project title	Glen Urquhart Public Hall - Main Hall Roof Replacement	
1.3 Project costs	Total cost of project	£54,433.04
	Match Funding	£10,000
	PBIP grant requested	£45,000
1.4 Project start date	April 2022	
1.5 Project end date	August 2022	

SECTION 4: PROJECT DETAILS

Please refer to the **Guidance Notes** to complete this section. It provides important information, definitions, and examples to ensure you answer each section correctly.

4.1 Project location - include postcode

Glen Urquhart Public Hall, Kilmore Road Drumnadrochit, IV63 6UG

4.2 Do you own the land/building, or a lease/control of asset is in place?

Lease agreements must be for at least 10-years. Please provide evidence of ownership or lease with the application. If not in place, what are the arrangements to obtain this and by when?

Details: Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA) owns the building

4.3 The Project

(a) Please summarise the project, explaining how it will achieve the funds' objectives as noted in 1.7, and list which outcomes it hopes to achieve.

Glen Urquhart has experienced a significant increase seen in its population over the past 10 years due to the development of new housing – both private and social – with out any significant addition of amenity facilities to match this growth. It is therefore important that the existing amenity facilities are protected and used more effectively to meet the needs of this growing and diverse community.

The Glenurquhart Public Hall is one of those existing amenity facilities used by a range of clubs and individuals. It is over 100 years old and is giving serious cause for concern in terms of its condition, flexibility for users and poor environmental performance. The recent COVID 19 pandemic has meant that the hall has been closed for long periods of time. It is envisaged that the 'new normal' will require the hall to be used in more flexible ways and as part of the Scottish Government's Green Recovery, substantial investment will be required to reduce the impact it has on carbon emissions.

The hall has traditionally followed a typical village hall model where it is available for hire by local groups, clubs, organisations and people for various activities and events. However, recognising its age and the real need for its refurbishment, GURCA aspires to take this opportunity to redevelop the hall as a community hub and change the business

model. This would involve:

- actively managing and promoting the hall
- running complementary activities which contribute to the overall mental well-being of the community
- focussing on its role in supporting local economic development through creating a partnership with the Loch Ness Hub who could use the facility to run activities which will generate tourism growth but also by promoting use of the location by businesses for events and indeed partnering with them for such events
- continuing traditional use by local groups and clubs.

The hall is well used, especially so in winter, but it has the capacity to be better used, particularly during the day. Unfortunately, the current layout of the building makes this difficult. Addressing the current flexibility issues would allow us to expand capacity and increase use of the hall throughout the year.

We are actively working on funding for the major refurbishment of the hall, but meantime, the roof is causing significant concern with a number of leaks in many areas of the building. Stop gap repairs have been undertaken but what is urgently needed is the replacement of the main hall roof now to prevent any further deterioration and prevent the hall not being available for use during bad weather, or indeed for prolonged periods if further damaged. **This project is the replacement of the roof of the main hall.**

Replacement of the roof will meet the objectives of the funding in the following ways:

- 1) town centre revitalisation – the hall sits between Drumnadrochit and Lewiston in a prominent position in the village and replacement of the roof will improve the current image and condition of the hall, encouraging people to use it for activities and events
- 2) 20-minute neighbourhoods – the hall lies within 20 mins walking distance of the majority of residents within Drumnadrochit. It is a well-loved and used facility. Closure of the facility would mean people would need to travel significantly further by car or bus (the latter not likely due to infrequent bus services which end in the early evening) to access similar activities/event locations
- 3) Community wealth building – the hall is already owned by GURCA (the community). Being able to replace the roof retains the value of that asset for the community. We aim to use the hall for mental health and wellbeing projects (we have recently appointed a community Development Officer who will lead this) and also use the hall to encourage economic development by working with local business and the Loch Ness Hub
- 4) Net Zero – the roof replacement will allow further insulation to be installed and contribute towards the sustainability of the building pending the full refurbishment
- 5) Wellbeing and inclusive economic development – we have recently been awarded funding to employ a Community Development Officer. A core part of their role is to use the hall for a series of mental health and wellbeing activities and to start marketing the hall for events, encouraging businesses to utilise the space and in doing so encourage economic growth for the area. The hall is used a wedding reception venue a replaced roof making the building watertight would make this a more attractive venue.
- 6) Tackling inequality and disadvantage – we are planning (subject to other funding) to organise a series of activities targeted at mental health and well-being. These

include a community lunch club where a soup and sandwich lunch will be provided free of charge. Another weekly event will be a men's social evening. These are targeted at those who are vulnerable, suffering from food and fuel poverty and social isolation. Keeping the hall open by replacing the roof will allow these activities to happen.

7) Community ownership – the community already owns the hall.

(b) How will the project benefit local communities and surrounding locality areas? Who will benefit from the project?

The hall is currently open to anyone from our community to use. Currently it is used by indoor bowling, marshall arts, fitness classes, Boys brigade, dancing classes, badminton, toddler musical sessions, knit and knatter, exercise classes, yoga, various community meetings such as Highland Games, Heritage Group. All these groups will benefit from having a hall which is safe and also future groups who we aim to encourage to use the hall through our mental health and wellbeing activities.

(c) What need or opportunity will the project address? How do you know there is local support for the project? *Please provide evidence of community support with the application i.e. letters of support/consultation reports*

During wet weather there is a risk that events cannot happen as there are leaks in the roof which can make floor conditions slippery potentially resulting in cancelled events. This project will safeguard the use of the village hall for a number of years and help us improve the infrastructure and look of the hall whilst working on gaining the funding for a larger refurbishment. This project would not incur abortive costs if the bigger refurbishment went ahead as replacement of the roof is part of the overall plans and so this would be a Phase 1 of the larger project.

We know there is local support for several reasons:

- 1) Community consultation was carried out several years ago on the future of the hall – there was unanimous support to try and find funding to refurbish the building
- 2) The hall is well used
- 3) The hall committee & GURCA experience all sorts of negative feedback when the roof is leaking and causes disruption to events

(d) List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales – this will be the project delivery plan. *Projects must be completed and claimed by the end of September 2022.*

Activity name	Achieved by (date)
Carry out further procurement if required	March 2022
Appoint roofing contractor	March 2022
Start work	May 2022
Erect scaffolding	May 2022
Carry out re-roofing	June 2022
Remove scaffolding	July 2022
Completion	August 2022

(e) In developing the project, please detail how you have considered the following:

Environmental impact – describe how you have taken into consideration how the project specifically addresses climate change/net zero ambitions.

We are in the final stages of securing funding for the replacement of the windows in the main hall to help improve the fabric of the building – this will happen in 2022 and make the main hall more energy efficient. The wider project for the hall refurbishment puts in further insulation, a new air source heat pump system and renovates the other side of the building which will improve the overall fabric and energy efficiency of the entire building. Replacing the roof is a facilitator for that larger project.

Equalities impact – explain how you have taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development of the project. How will you strive to ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project?

The wider project is aimed at making the hall much more flexible in its use and accessible for all. At present, there is a height difference between the main hall and the side rooms which will disappear under the full project. Also, accessible toilets will be incorporated as part of the wider project. This roofing project is Phase 1 of that larger project.

The roof replacement will allow ongoing use of the hall in its current layout and safeguard the provision of the existing activities and clubs/events that take place there. More importantly it will safeguard our aspiration to start a series of sessions aimed at mental health and wellbeing activities for the community.

(f) How will the project be supported after PBIP funding and what will be the lasting benefits?

The day to day operation of the hall is self-financing. Replacement of the roof will protect the revenue it generates through preventing cancellation of events due to roof leaks and unsafe underfoot conditions. It will also prolong the life of the hall and help sustain it until we can secure the funding for the larger refurbishment project. We have a full business plan for this larger project which will be provided along with the application.

(g) Please outline how the project fits with local plans and strategies

We have a full business plan documented for a full refurbishment of the hall which has been referred to throughout this application. There are 4 strands to this:

Economic Development
Wellbeing
Heritage
Infrastructure

This overall project transforms the hall from a traditional village hall model into a community hub and starts to utilise the hall more fully. We have recently been successful in gaining funding to employ a Community Development Officer. A key part of their role

is the transformation of the hall by helping to develop and implement activities to support mental health and wellbeing and the market the hall as an event location. The refurbishment of the hall will also act as a way to celebrate the heritage of the hall (which is well over 100 years old) by retaining heritage features and also telling the story of the hall through interactive IT in the new entrance foyer.

The infrastructure element is the bricks and mortar alterations and improvements which will provide added flexibility, accessibility and energy efficiency. The rood replacement is a Phase 1 of that larger project and so aligns completely with this bigger picture and strategy.

In terms of the Inner moray Firth local development plan, Drumandrochit is currently predicted to have at least another 94 new houses built, along with the remaining homes to be developed on the Loch Ness Homes site. This local community facility provides amenity facilities for this growing community.

4.4 Does the project require planning permission or statutory regulatory consents?	YES / NO
If YES, please detail below – if consents are in place, please provide evidence with the application	
Type	Date granted/expected

SECTION 5: BUDGET

This can be provided in a separate excel spreadsheet if preferred. Delete the example below before completing this section.

5.1 Main project expenditure		
Budget Heading	Detailed cost	Amount
Construction	Erect scaffolding	£3,500
	Strip and remove all slates and scrap	£6,440
	Install new code 5, girth 300mm lead to valley gutters above the large window include detail around stonework	£1,565.20
	Supply and install Protect VP-400 breathable membrane	£3,304
	Supply and fix new A1 grade slate	£17,640
	Supply and fit new timber roll mop and new galvanized zinc ridge	£2,495
	Supply/form and our new concrete capping stone over redundant chimney stacks	£1,900
	Plant hire	£1,500
	Install new rafter brackets, salvage existing cast iron gutters and replace defective lengths	£2,500
	Supply and install new Fakro skylight	£350.00
	VAT	£8,238.84

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	Contingency	£5,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£54,433.04

5.2 Reasonableness of cost – how did you obtain project costs?

This was obtained after seeking structural advice from Colin Munro and then a detailed quote from Highland Slaters who visited site and provided a quote after site survey.

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING**6.1 Please give details of confirmed match funding if applicable:**

If match funding is confirmed, please provide letters of awards with the application

Name	Date awarded/expected	Amount £
GURCA	Confirmed	£5,000
Soirbheas	February 2022	£5,000
Total match funding		£10,000
PBIP Grant requested		£45,000
Total project cost		£55,000

6.2 Will the project involve “in kind” support?

This should not be counted as confirmed match funding for the project

Yes / No

If yes, please detail:

Colin Munro (Building Surveyor) has provided consultancy as an in-kind contribution. Susan Clark of Great Glen Consulting (and Chair of GURCA) is providing project management support

SECTION 7 – REVENUE GENERATION PROJECTS

For projects that will generate revenue, please submit a business plan and financial forecast with the application.

7.1 Will the project generate revenue?

Yes / No

If yes, how will the revenue benefit the organisation? How will it be utilised?

7.2 Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?

Yes / No

Please state your reasons: We are a community charity and at the very start of a journey into being self-sustaining through the appointment of our Community Development Officer. The hall does not generate enough revenue which would support its operating costs and also support paying back capital and interest payments on a loan. The long term aspiration is for the hall to generate additional income which would support the Community Development Officer after the 3 years of funding supplied through the Strengthening Communities fund.

7.3 Have you had support from other organisations in developing the project? If so, please specify the organisation and contact person.

Name of organisation <i>(e.g. Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Business Gateway etc.)</i>	Contact Person
Highland Council	Alan Webster (Alan has been supporting us in seeking funding for the larger project)

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Applicant organisation	Inshes Community Association	
1.2 Project title	Inshes Wheeled Sports Park	
1.3 Project costs	Total cost of project	£225,000
	Match Funding	£89,000
	PBIP grant requested	£136,000
1.4 Project start date	April 2022	
1.5 Project end date	August 2022	

1.6 Which of the following programme objectives will the project meet?

See guidance notes for further information.

1. Town centre revitalisation	NO
2. 20-minute neighbourhoods	YES
3. Community wealth building	YES
4. Net zero	YES
5. Wellbeing and inclusive economic development	YES
6. Tackling inequality and disadvantage	YES / NO
7. Community ownership	YES

SECTION 4: PROJECT DETAILS

*Please refer to the **Guidance Notes** to complete this section. It provides important information, definitions, and examples to ensure you answer each section correctly.*

4.1 Project location - include postcode

Inshes Park Phase 2 just off Stevenson Road IV2 5HS

4.2 Do you own the land/building, or a lease/control of asset is in place?

Lease agreements must be for at least 10-years. Please provide evidence of ownership or lease with the application. If not in place, what are the arrangements to obtain this and by when?

Details: We lease the land for 20 years from Highland Council

4.3 The Project

(a) Please summarise the project, explaining how it will achieve the funds' objectives as noted in 1.7, and list which outcomes it hopes to achieve.

20-minute neighbourhoods

We are hoping to build a wheeled sports park (scooters, bikes, skateboards roller blades) in phase 2 of Inshes Park which is leased to Inshes Community Association (ICA) which will be located within a 20-minute commute for at least 25,000 people in the Inverness South and Drakies areas. The Park is owned by Highland Council and ICA assist with securing grants to provide the play facilities. To date ICA has secured around £600,000 for all the current play equipment and park shelter and their next project is the Wheeled Sports Park.

Community wealth building

Community wealth building is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Rebuilding the connection between the people and the places that create wealth and those who benefit from it is at the heart of community wealth building. We know that locally owned or socially minded enterprises are more likely to employ, buy and invest locally. This is what ICA is trying to achieve with the Wheeled Sports project.

Inshes Community Association recognises that it takes time to build a sense of 'community spirit' large new housing estates such as those in Inverness South. Part of our purpose was to help stimulate a sense of community with facilities where local people could meet, build links and a feeling of belonging. By creating a local facility for local people, we are adding to the Community's Wealth in a broad sense.

Net zero

Reduction in CO² Emissions as a result of building a local Wheeled Sports park

By building a local facility there will be less need for residents in the area to drive to similar facilities either across the City to the Bught (which has no capacity for increasing user numbers and does not encourage the use of scooters) or out-with Inverness to Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Glasgow.

A round trip from Inverness to Aberdeen is 200 miles and Edinburgh/Glasgow 350 miles. If 75 users travel to Aberdeen once a month this equates to 180,000 miles. And 50 to Edinburgh and 50 to Glasgow this would be another 420,000 miles. By building a local facility 600,000 miles/year would be reduced which calculates to a CO² Emissions saving of approximately 0.7lbs CO²/Mile = 210 tonnes/year and 2,100 tonnes over 10 years.

There are also the financial costs which could be spent locally, rather than on travel and building locally would allow 365 days/year access instead on once a month.

Wellbeing and inclusive economic development

Wellbeing and inclusive economic development

The National Performance Framework outlines 11 outcomes for the people of Scotland, with the following directly relevant to the provision of a new Wheeled Sports facility in Inshes Park:

People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, and safe.

By increasing the facilities available, ICA will continue to support the provision of activities and sports, supporting a more inclusive portfolio of possible outdoor leisure activities within Inverness South and the surrounding areas.

People value, enjoy, protect, and enhance their environment.

Engaging in physical activity at Inshes Park is a common pastime for residents and visitors, and as such the proposed facility looks to minimize impact to the area. The Wheeled Sports new plans will bring this area of the Park into more active use back to use in a way that enhances and respects the local environment.

People are healthy and active.

By its very nature, the proposed facility for Inshes Park promotes active lifestyles, in particular for those who may experience greater barriers to participation. In developing active lifestyles, and increasing the levels of physical activity, participants have a direct positive impact on their physical and mental health. The provision of new Wheeled Sports facilities in Inshes Park will help meet this outcome.

By encouraging both improved physical health and increased opportunity to develop social skills and interact with peers, the facilities proposed will improve the quality of life for its users. By increasing and improving the range of active facilities in the park, ICA will continue to expand and develop opportunities for more people to become active and healthier.

With the addition of the wheel park Inshes Park as a whole will cater more effectively for family groups who have different needs. Some may want to use the full length of the park to walk, jog or cycle from top to bottom, younger members may head for the adventure play equipment ICA installed in phase 1 and, when the wheel park is built in phase 2 yet another option for family members will be catered for.

Community ownership

The facilities provided will be owned by Inshes Community Association *on behalf of the Community*. They will be free of charge to use and available 365 days/year.

(b) How will the project benefit local communities and surrounding locality areas? Who will benefit from the project?

As stated elsewhere this particular project is part of ICA's strategy to create facilities that encourage local people to gather and make connections. There are not a lot of local community facilities other than shops, despite thousands of houses having been built in the area and many more still being built.

Inshes Park is the exception to this with Highland Council having already spent around £2m in Phases 1-3 along with some significant grant assistance from Sustrans. But a park without equipment and facilities can be somewhat sterile. That's why Inshes Community Association was created- to work in partnership with the council to secure external grants from a range of funders. They have brought in just under £600,000 for equipping the Park.

Your local place, in accordance with the Place Principle and/or Town Centre First Principle- Our project will accord with the Place Principle by:

- ***By building an all year- round Wheeled Sports facility free of charge to use as a driver of health and wellbeing especially throughout the pandemic when more and more people are taking part in outdoor activities in local parks***
- ***Realising 20- minute neighbourhood ambitions - Our project does this by creating a wheeled sports facility accessible free of charge in Phase 2 of Inshes Park serving immediate local residents as well surrounding communities. There are 4 primary schools within a 20-minute walk of the Park.***
- ***Net Zero or low carbon- by reducing the car trips to other similar facilities and creating a "Going Local" facility in Inverness South to access good local facilities thereby reducing CO2 emissions on unnecessary car journeys***
- ***Local environment and green infrastructure -A Park without play and other facilities is just green open space. By creating a Wheeled Sports Facility using sustainable building materials will draw people to an active facility within a green environment.***
- ***Reducing inequalities; supporting social inclusion, disadvantaged communities, or having an impact on wider disadvantaged. Inverness South has a range of housing including social housing and a disproportionate number of young families. The wheel park will be addressing these inequalities by providing local facilities, tuition and supervision if required.***
- ***Resourcing for the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) Our project also links to the aims of the Place Based Investment Fund.***

Building the wealth of your local community/businesses- *Wealth can also be built through improving a community's Health and Wellbeing. We have support of 4 local Primary Schools, the Community Council and Parent Council Groups.*

The following table outlines some of the benefits associated with providing play provision for children and young people:

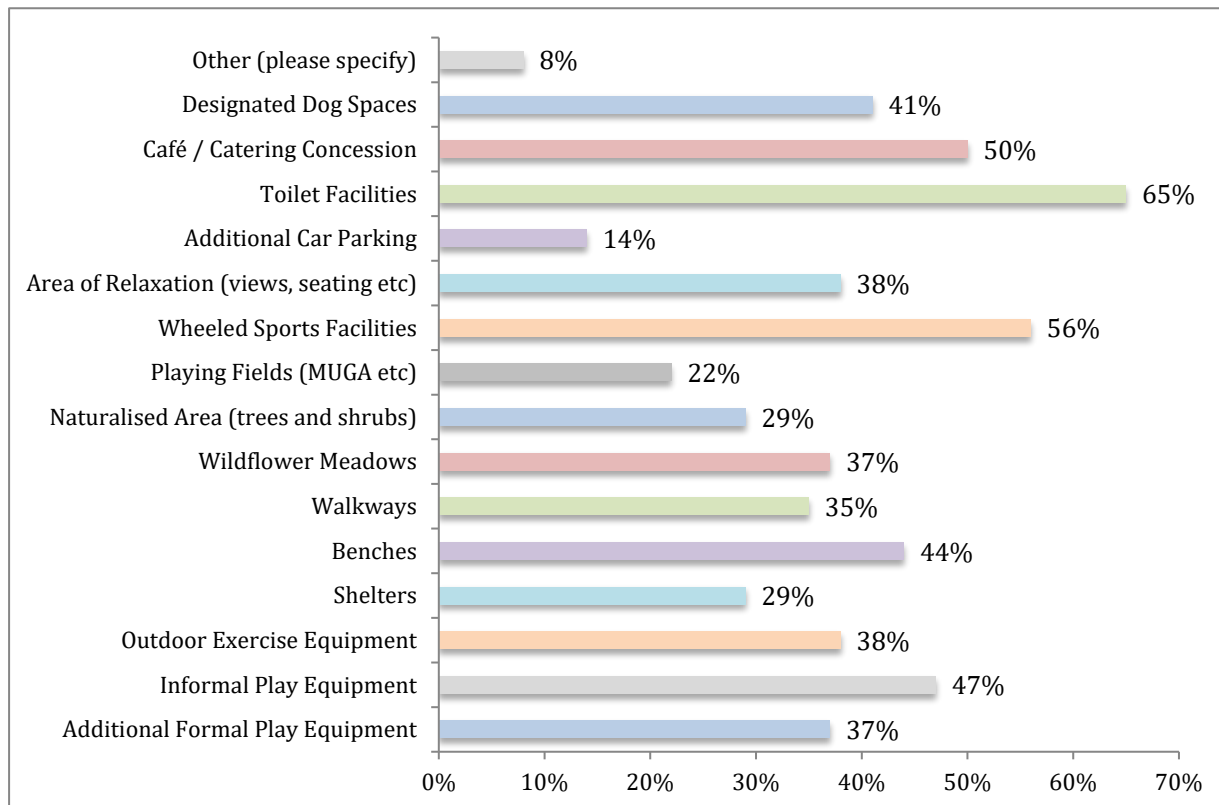
Places to play	Children need and have the right to play, and play provision offers them places where they can play freely in the ways they choose, without direction from adults
Space to meet and hang out	Children and young people actively seek out places to meet and hang out, and facilities for them are high on the list of local priorities in many neighbourhoods. There is widespread agreement that in many areas young people in particular have a poor choice of leisure activities
Space to have fun	Like adults, children need to enjoy their lives- to have fun times and spaces where they can simply have fun. Good play environments offer a range and choice of play experiences
Support for parents and carers	Good, accessible play provision helps parents and carers to extend their children's play experiences. It can help to reduce conflict and relieve stress levels inside the home by providing other places where children can spend their time
A community gathering point	Centrally located play facilities can bring different age groups together and foster interactions and connections between children, and between children and adults. Good multi-functional provision can help build neighbourliness and a sense of community
A chance to encounter nature	Children value the chance to interact with nature, and such experiences help them to appreciate the importance of the natural world and environment. There is growing evidence of the health benefits of access to green, outdoor environments
A place to make friends	The opportunity to make new friends and develop friendships is one of the most important experiences in childhood. In addition to this, such opportunities help children build their confidence and social competences
Encourages physical activity	Most children are naturally physically active when they play outdoors. Comparative studies have shown that children can be as active in spontaneous outdoor play as in structured sport activities.
Learning how to manage risks	Rich, challenging, engaging play environments allow children to test themselves and explore their abilities. They can learn the penalties of misjudging a risk- or simply having bad luck- in managed environments that reduce the likelihood of serious harm
Developing a sense of one's abilities	Self-directed play experiences give children the opportunity to try out for themselves ways to solve problems and achieve goals, without the interference of adults.
Catering for the adventurous	Some children and young people actively seek out risky situations. Play provision can give them the chance to satisfy their search for excitement in a managed context, potentially reducing the risk that these children will spend time in truly dangerous environments

(c) What need or opportunity will the project address? How do you know there is local support for the project? *Please provide evidence of community support with the application i.e., letters of support/consultation reports*

To support the development of phase 2 and 3 of Inshes Park, Inshes Community Association has consulted with residents, school pupils and the wider surrounding communities by undertaking an online survey.

The survey was distributed through the primary and secondary school networks, social media and blogs as well as being distributed to a local outdoor fitness group and being publicly shared on Facebook. As a result of the strong support in distributing this survey, 275 completed surveys were received.

A new Wheeled Sports facility was the second most popular choice after public toilets.



Respondents were asked to select the statement that best described their motivation for responding to the survey. This provided an indication of how many people were completing the survey on behalf of their wider family (children, grandchildren etc.), and also allowed the subsequent questions to be tailored as required.

In developing a wider feasibility study to support the development of a new Wheeled Sports facility a wide-reaching online survey was conducted. This survey was completed by 275 respondents, representing themselves, and where applicable, their children and grandchildren.

From 2018 to 2020 ICA carried out significant community consultation and engagement we completed a feasibility study to ask what facilities the wider community wanted in phase 2 of Inshes Park. Toilet facilities were top of the list but difficult for us to provide given the cost of daily maintenance – we are still looking at options. The second choice was for a new wheeled sports park for scooters, bikes and skateboards. We took advice, had draft designs done, secured planning approval and went out to tender. While some funding has been found, the pandemic has caused some upheaval in the timetabling and demand for grants for other agencies. We have therefore split the project into 2 phases to allow for these funding delays. It has also allowed our designer to review the layout and make it more suitable for a range of abilities.

We also have letters of support from

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Gaelic Primary School
Drakies Primary School
Milton of Leys Primary School
Inshes Primary School
Inshes Primary Parent Council
Milton of Leys and Inshes Community Council
Steve Walsh CEO Highlife Highland
Inverness Skate Boarding Club

(d) List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales – this will be the project delivery plan. *Projects must be completed and claimed by the end of September 2022.*

Activity name	Achieved by (date)
Award of Contract	31 st March 2022
On site set up	30 th May 2022
Construction works	June -30 th September 2022

(e) In developing the project, please detail how you have considered the following:

Environmental impact – *describe how you have taken into consideration how the project specifically addresses climate change/net zero ambitions.*

Environmental Benefits

The inclusion of Wheeled Sports facilities in communities can have several positive environmental impacts;

- Well designed facilities contributes towards the Park's diversity and supports environmental sustainability by reducing car trips to other facilities outside Inverness. In turn this reduces CO2 emissions.
- Within urban open space, varied facility provision helps to relieve the monotony of the urban landscape with different colours, textures and sounds and help to bring locals and visitors together to share quality facilities.
- Quality sports facilities is known to have a significant positive impact on house prices, supporting the creation of more stable housing markets.
- Good quality community facilities contribute significantly to urban regeneration and neighbourhood renewal and development projects by improving the image of the place and attracting investment.
- It improves investor and resident perceptions of an area by raising confidence in the area.

Equalities impact – *explain how you have taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development of the project. How will you strive to ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project?*

The Council's Public Sector Equality Duty will be helped by increasing the available time of use of the Wheeled Sports Facility all year round for health and exercise and social interaction outdoors. Gaps in facilities, particularly those that are free of charge and not requiring transport to access, affects children and young people in our community. This can be addressed by ensuring that the facilities are available all year round for all ages and abilities without discrimination, making the best possible use of this new community asset.

Wheeled Sports facilities create an environment where people, regardless of age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and other protected characteristics, can relate to each other through social activity and the shared enjoyment and challenge of sport. With the space being designed for and shared among people of all ages and abilities, from scooters and balance bike toddlers to advanced riders and skate boarders developing their skills, the nature of the activity engenders inclusion and respect from the outset.

The facility will be barrier free and accessible, and has the support of Highland Disability Sport, the chairperson of which is a member of the Inshes Community Association. The Active Schools and Highland Disability Sports co-ordinator is supportive of the project and we have a letter from Highland Disability Sport. The local schools, particularly Drummond School have specialist bases, and have indicated they are looking for opportunities for their higher level ASN pupils, to take part in activities such as cycling and scooters. All aspects of the facility design will be conducted with full accessibility and the provision of inclusive features and routes considered throughout.

We will look to work with local schools and particularly those with an additional support needs base to identify the potential for delivering sessions and activities specifically relevant and suitable to individuals with a disability.

The design of the new facility will be fully inclusive and accessible in line with 2010 Equalities Act. This compliance will ensure a facility that is suitable and attractive for the whole community, including individuals who identify as having a disability. The ability for Special Needs Schools to use the facility exclusively will provide organisations the opportunities to increase participation in sport for people with additional needs.

Female Participation - 60% of respondents to the community consultation were female. Indicating that all benefits associated with this project will support and promote the inclusion of girls in sport, in line with explicit local demand. We have noted through COVID there has been a significant rise in female participation in wheeled sports and providing a local free to use facility will build on this increase in participation.

In terms of addressing Equality and Inclusion our project subscribes to the following; "Promoting accessibility" - Our project will promote accessibility and all sections of the community will be able to use the new facilities with relative ease. The facilities will be affordable and accessible fully complying with the requirements of the Equality Act (2010). "Valuing cultural diversity" - People have different needs, beliefs, values and abilities, and these differences need to be respected and promoted. This will be achieved by providing facilities suitable for everyone and continuing to embrace the inclusive approach as outlined in our Equal Opportunities Policy. "Promoting participation"

The facility will be managed and operated by Inverness Skate Boarding Club on behalf of ICA. A set of Park Etiquette rules will be posted on a site sign.

(f) How will the project be supported after PBIP funding and what will be the lasting benefits?

The ongoing costs associated with providing a new Wheeled Sports facility are very low.

Maintenance

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete Wheeled Sports Park are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for an Allen Key for clearing the drainage.

Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. One of the most successful ways of combating graffiti is to provide spaces where professional graffiti artists can decorate. It is less likely for users to make unsightly tags when there is attractive art on their park. Additional on-going maintenance may include minor repairs to the concrete surface made by the impact of stunt-pegs from BMX bikes.

Sustainability

Sustainable construction is considered to be economical construction method. An enduring Wheeled Sports park that does not need to be re-built every few years conserves community resources and effort. This requires the use of reinforced concrete. The sprayed concrete method is more energy and material efficient than any pre-cast method. With pre-cast, every piece has to be cast in a mould, then transported to the site and set on a separate in-ground concrete foundation.

Sprayed concrete Wheeled Sports parks are self-supporting monolithic structures which minimise concrete volumes and thus costs and emissions.

Using the sprayed concrete method allows us to use locally sourced materials, reducing environmental impact and reducing the amount of transportation needed whilst contributing to the local economy. The use of efficient engineering and precise form work ensures an optimum build with minimal waste.

Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned Wheeled Sports Parks worldwide. It allows designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. Many parks are guaranteed for 30 years; however, the structural integrity of sprayed concrete Wheeled Sports Parks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free.

Wheeled Sports Parks are a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of consequential passing trade.

The only revenue cost will be the cost of annual Public Liability insurance currently around £180/year. This can be raised through a single one-off wheeled sports event.

(g) Please outline how the project fits with local plans and strategies

Our project links to the Place Principle by creating a;

- Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose and is at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them. This is particularly relevant to Inverness South where there is a lack of community facilities.
- A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives. We have the support of the 4 local primary schools, the Highland Council and the Community Council in taking the project forward.

The Principle requests that: all those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.

Our project links to Regeneration Strategies by;

Community Led Regeneration - Local People Delivering Local Change

The public sector (Highland Council) working together and with the voluntary sector (Inshes Community Association) and local people has a critical role to play in regenerating our communities. Community-led regeneration is about local people identifying for themselves the issues and opportunities in their areas, deciding what to do about them, and being responsible for delivering the economic, social and environmental action that will make a difference. It is dependent on the energy and commitment of local people themselves and has a wide range of benefits. Inshes Community Association have done this through the community consultation and Feasibility Study to prove community support and evidence of need for a new Wheeled Sports facility in Inshes Park.

A Regeneration Strategy places support for community led regeneration at the heart of its approach, recognising that the changes required to make all communities sustainable will only be achieved when communities themselves play a part in delivering change. This is what Inshes Community Association are seeking to do. Our project resonates with the Scottish Government's commitment to support community led regeneration in order to:

- grow the numbers and strength of locally controlled, enterprising community organisations which can anchor long term sustainable change in disadvantaged communities
- support locally based organisations to take on ownership of viable assets
- help people to organise and respond to challenges in areas where capacity is currently low

Community led regeneration covers a spectrum of activity from committed volunteers coming together informally to campaign or act, to the work of enterprising local community anchor organisations like Development Trusts and community-based housing associations.

Our project links to Scotland's 6 Health Priorities by creating a new facility that ticks all 6 boxes below;

The Scottish Government and COSLA agreed six Public Health Priorities in June 2018. These are intended to support national and local partners across Scotland work together to improve healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in our communities.

1. A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities.✓
2. A Scotland where we flourish in our early years.✓
3. A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing.✓
4. A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.✓
5. A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all.✓
6. A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.✓

Links to other Policies and Strategies

Fitness and Wellness have, of late, become crucial policy objectives for the Scottish Government. A range of strategies, white papers and policy frameworks have been published in recent years which stress a health agenda for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the following examples:

- **Scottish Government's National Performance Framework**

The Scottish Government's targeted its focus on how Government and public services could help in creating a more successful country, providing opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. The National Performance Framework outlines the following overarching aims and values:

The framework is for all of Scotland and aims to:

- create a more successful country
- give opportunities to all people living in Scotland
- increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland
- create sustainable and inclusive growth
- reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress

The values guide all stakeholder approach, to:

- treat all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion
- respect the rule of law
- act in an open and transparent way

The National Performance Framework outlines 11 outcomes for the people of Scotland, with the following directly relevant to the provision of a new Wheeled Sports facility in Inshes Park:

People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, and safe.

By increasing the facilities available, Inshes Community Association will continue to support the provision of activities and sports, supporting a more inclusive portfolio of possible outdoor leisure activities within Inshes Park.

People value, enjoy, protect, and enhance their environment.

Inshes Park is very popular with local people. Engaging in physical activity within this setting is a common pastime for residents and visitors, and as such the proposed facility will fit nicely into the overall Park.

People are healthy and active.

By its very nature, the proposed facilities promote active lifestyles, in particular for those who may experience greater barriers to participation. In developing active lifestyles, and increasing the levels of physical activity, participants have a direct positive impact on their physical and mental health. The provision of new Wheeled Sports facilities in Inshes Park will help meet this outcome.

By encouraging both improved physical health and increased opportunity to develop social skills and interact with peers, the facilities proposed will improve the quality of life for its users. By increasing and improving the range of sports facilities, Inshes Community Association will continue to expand and develop opportunities for more people to become more active and healthier.

○ **Scottish Government's 2014 Legacy Plan**

This plan sets out the key legacy aims and ambitions and highlights a wide range of initiatives, which will be taken forward with key partners over the next 10 years. The plan focuses on an Active Scotland, Connected Scotland, Flourishing Scotland and a Sustainable Scotland.

Improving the Nation's health is the overarching theme of the plan and the Active Scotland component of the plan includes two key initiatives. Both are aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of physical activity and sport to individuals and communities that will, in turn, contribute to improving the health and fitness of people in Scotland.

These initiatives are the Active Nation and the development of Community Sport Hubs. Active Nation aims to create a popular and high-profile movement to motivate people of all ages across Scotland to become more active. Community Sports Hubs are focused on the bringing together of communities of interest to share best practice and shared values across a range of sports.

The development of a new Wheeled Sports facility aligns with this strategy.

○ **Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan: Updated Programme Pipeline (2015)**

This policy document highlights regeneration activity focusing on ensuring that people live in socially, physically and economically sustainable communities. Inshes Community Association will increase the provision of Wheeled Sports facilities in the area, supporting evidenced demand and creating a sustainable and economically beneficial facility and new opportunities through coaching, instruction, and increased visitor numbers to the local area.

○ **Physical Activity Implementation Plan -A More Active Scotland**

This 10-year plan adapts key elements of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity (which makes the case for increased action in tackling physical inactivity) to Scotland, and links it directly to the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions from the Commonwealth Games. Underpinning delivery of the overall commitments of the plan will be a series of detailed action plans which define how the plan's commitments will be met.

In addition, the Scottish Government and its partners continue to spread the word about the importance of physical activity, informing people about how and where to get involved through the following websites:

- www.takelifeon.co.uk – this gives ideas for a more active lifestyle
- www.activescotland.org.uk – this gives information on sports and activities available locally – just enter a postcode or an activity
- www.take30.co.uk – this is Ramblers Scotland's guide to walking for health and fitness.
- www.healthyworkinglives.com – this helps employers promote physical activity in the workplace

By providing opportunities to increase participation in sport and outdoor activities, Inshes Community Association will contribute towards achieving the outcomes of the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan.

○ **Let's Make Scotland More Active**

The National Strategy for Physical Activity (2003–2022), most recently reviewed in 2008, aims to change Scotland's reputation for inactivity. This Strategy sets out the vision that: "People in Scotland will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life." This requires changes in both policy and culture. However, as the World Health Organisation (WHO) has noted:

"There is insufficient action and limited policy orientation for encouraging the adoption and maintenance of physically active lifestyles within supportive political, social and physical environments... political leaders and decision-makers need to be convinced of the importance of physical activity for health."

The provision of a Wheeled Sports facility, directly in response to the community's explicit needs(evidenced in Feasibility Study), will help to support this policy, making it easier for people of all ages in Inverness South to safely participate in wheeled sports.

○ **Sport for Life- A Vision for Sport in Scotland**

This is **sportscotland**'s Corporate Plan. They recommend an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. In an active Scotland, ways are sought to be physically active every day. This includes the following key areas:

- Keeping moving at home and at work. Taking an active approach to getting around. Choosing to be active in our leisure time.
- More of us will take part in sport because we see it being relevant to our lives.
- Being involved in ways that suit us.
- Meeting fewer barriers.
- Feeling more included.
- We will all experience more of the benefits of sport.
- For some of us, by taking part. For others, through our communities.

Inshes Community Association' plans strongly resonate with the above vision.

○ **Preventing Overweight and Obesity in Scotland: A Route Map Towards Healthy Weight.**

This joint policy directive, proposed by the Scottish Government and CoSLA, aims at helping central and local government decision-makers to deliver long-term solutions to obesity and overweight. With lack of exercise cited as a prominent reason for obesity in Scotland, any expansion or development of facilities that will support a more active lifestyle should be strongly supported.

○ **Start Active, Stay Active**

This UK-wide report, published jointly by the four home countries Chief Medical Officers, includes guidelines on the volume, duration, and frequency of physical activity required at different points in life. With relevance to sports facilities, the report highlights the need for a lifelong approach to fitness and exercise documenting recommendations for each age range. In relation to adults in sport, the report recommends the following:

“Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes physical activities on at least 5 days a week.”

By providing new facilities, shaped by community consultation, participants would be more likely to increase the frequency of usage, thus bringing their levels of activity in line with the recommendation of the Start Active, Stay Active report.

○ **Take Life On**

This Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing campaign promotes healthy, active lifestyles through various online, media and event marketing. The focus is on encouraging people to find activities near them, understand the health implications of inactivity and obesity, and to ultimately reduce the resultant strain on the NHS in Scotland. Therefore, it is clear, that by developing any new facilities in Inshes Park Inshes Community Association will create the opportunities to encourage local residents (and visitors) to remain active and healthy in line with the Take Life On strategy.

4.4 Does the project require planning permission or statutory regulatory consents?	YES
If YES, please detail below – if consents are in place, please provide evidence with the application	
Type	Date granted/expected
Full planning permission 18/00957/FUL	9 th May 2018 but given COVID extension

SECTION 5: BUDGET

This can be provided in a separate excel spreadsheet if preferred. Delete the example below before completing this section.

5.1 Main project expenditure		
Budget Heading	Detailed cost	Amount
Construction costs	Site Clearance	£2000
	Health and Safety, Site Temporary Fencing, Site portacabins, toilets etc	£7000
	Groundworks	£25,000
	Mesh Rebar	£15,000
	Welding	£5,000
	Shuttering	£20,000
	Concrete works	£92,000
	Landscaping	£5,000
	Fixtures and Fittings	
	Contingency 10%	£17,100
	VAT	£37,620
	Sub Total	£225,720
	Total	£225,720
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£225,720

5.2 Reasonableness of cost – how did you obtain project costs?

We openly tendered on Public Contracts Scotland and accepted the lowest tender

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING

6.1 Please give details of confirmed match funding if applicable:

If match funding is confirmed, please provide letters of awards with the application

Name	Date awarded/expected	Amount £
Inverness Common Good Fund	Approved	30,000
Place Based Investment Fund	Approved	50,000
Own funds	Approved	9,000
Total match funding		£89,000
PBIP Grant requested		£136,000
Total project cost		£225,000

6.2 Will the project involve “in kind” support?

This should not be counted as confirmed match funding for the project

No

SECTION 7 – REVENUE GENERATION PROJECTS

For projects that will generate revenue, please submit a business plan and financial forecast with the application.

7.1 Will the project generate revenue?

No

If yes, how will the revenue benefit the organisation? How will it be utilised?

7.2 Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?

No

Please state your reasons: We have no assets against which a loan could be taken out and no revenue by which we could repay it either.

7.3 Have you had support from other organisations in developing the project? If so, please specify the organisation and contact person.

Name of organisation (e.g., Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Business Gateway etc.)	Contact Person
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Gaelic Primary School	Kirsty McVicar
Highland Disability Sport	Janet Home
Drakies Primary School	Scott Callander Headteacher
Inshes Primary School	Miss F Jamieson Acting Headteacher
Milton of Leys Primary School	Meg Sneddon
High Life Highland	Steve Walsh Chief Executive
Milton of Leys and Inshes Community Council	Gordon Whittet
Inverness Skate Board Club	Taran Campbell

7.4 Has the organisation previously received public funding?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 years:

Funding	Date of award	Amount £	State Aid YES/NO
Inverness Common Good Fund	September 2020	30,000	No
Place Based Investment Fund	November 2021	50,000	No

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1	Applicant organisation	Crown Church of Scotland	
1.2	Project title	Crown Church –a community resource	
1.3			
	Project costs	Total cost of project £82,604.05	£
		Match Funding £8,260.41	£
PBIP grant requested		£74,343.64	
1.4	Project start date	19 th April 2022	
1.5	Project end date	16 th September 2022	

1.6 Which of the following programme objectives will the project meet?

See guidance notes for further information.

1. Town centre revitalisation	YES
2. 20-minute neighbourhoods	YES
3. Community wealth building	YES
4. Net zero	YES
5. Wellbeing and inclusive economic development	YES
6. Tackling inequality and disadvantage	YES
7. Community ownership	YES

SECTION 4: PROJECT DETAILS

*Please refer to the **Guidance Notes** to complete this section. It provides important information, definitions, and examples to ensure you answer each section correctly.*

4.1 Project location - include postcode

Crown Church, Kingsmills Road, Inverness IV2 3JT

4.2 Do you own the land/building, or a lease/control of asset is in place?

Lease agreements must be for at least 10-years. Please provide evidence of ownership or lease with the application. If not in place, what are the arrangements to obtain this and by when?

Details: We own the buildings. Evidence attached to email.

4.3 The Project

(a) Please summarise the project, explaining how it will achieve the funds' objectives as noted in 1.7, and list which outcomes it hopes to achieve.

Summary of the Project – Community Ownership

Crown Church has begun a major upgrade of its facility at Kingsmill's Road Inverness. This followed on from a strategic review of how the church could improve and strengthen the service to the community of the Crown area and wider Inverness. As part of the Review the church very early on identified the lack of facilities in the area for leisure, recreation, and community-based activities.

Prior to the Review the church building consisted of the sanctuary with seating capacity for 450. Two reasonably large halls, one on the ground floor and one immediately above that on the first floor. There was a kitchen and a suite of toilets to service the lower hall and similar on the first floor, but the kitchen was little more than cupboards with a sink and kettle. There were also two lounges on the ground floor, one larger than the other and two offices with separate toilets and a small kitchen.

Added to the facilities on the site, volunteers from the church, working with volunteers from other churches, created the Olive Grove Café in an empty building previously the Kingsmill's Post Office and was run successfully for 10 years until the Covid lockdown. It was felt the small size of the premises and the lack of good ventilation would not make it suitable for some time to come, and the lease was given up. The café specialised in home cooking and home baking and was frequented regularly by local people of all ages, particularly older people who would meet their friends regularly. In the evening the facility was used by several community groups for meetings. The Church also quickly recognised the difficulties that Crown School had in trying to identify sufficient space to add two further Nursery classrooms for an additional 68 pupils. This would have meant a very old school, with limited space would have had a fairly large increase in the number of pupils while having to cope with reduced open space for play. To resolve this dilemma the Church has leased the lower hall which is presently being converted into two classrooms to accommodate these 68 pupils thus avoiding the loss of play areas.

To compensate for the lease of the hall the church made plans to completely redesign and renovate other parts of the building to maximise wider community use.

The first phase of this redesign is almost complete with a refurbished upper hall, state of the art kitchens and toilets, installation of a lift for all ability access, new fire escape, new access with television screening for security purposes for some of the groups that use the facility, new double glazing, and insulation throughout, secure storage space for individual users and a new AV and loop system.

A bonus to the change of use and the upgrading of facilities has been the fact somewhere in the region of 90 people have been employed on site across a variety of skills over various periods during the last 18 months of lockdown.

Moving forward the next part of the project will be in February 2022 to remove the fixed pews from the sanctuary area and replace them with chairs, thus creating space for much greater flexibility of use. This area previously was very limited in what uses it could be put to and was almost 60% of the floor space of the building that basically was used for 3 hours on a Sunday and for the occasional funerals during the weekdays. With the much greater flexibility that moveable seating brings it is intended to greatly increase the use of this space throughout the week.

This will be followed by a further upgrade of the remainder of the facility in line with the church and community concept which will create space for greatly increased use for leisure, recreation, and community facilities.

This application will enable us to begin this upgrade by:

1. Making safe the attic space of the sanctuary which has plank walkways with no handrails and does not meet health and safety standards. Access is required as part of the wider upgrade and regular maintenance of the electrical systems, the upgrade of the insulation and regular inspection of the roof space
2. Making safe the stonework surrounding the large stained glass McGilp window which we completely refurbished in 2017. The stonework was not at the time treated, but it is showing signs of the damage which was inflicted when this window was protected from damage by stones being thrown at it in a way which has caused the stonework to begin to flake.
3. Rewiring and replacing the light fittings in keeping with changing the use of the building from worship on Sundays only into a community facility.
4. Replacing much of the AV system which sometimes fails when we are livestreaming services due to ageing equipment. This will allow the sanctuary along with the upper hall to be used as a first-class conference facility for small conferences.
5. Double glazing the McGilp window to reduce the carbon footprint of using the sanctuary and requiring it to be heated every day.
6. Insulating the attic with appropriate insulation to bring it up to modern standards to again reduce our carbon footprint.

Achieving the funds' objectives

We will find better collaboration and more community involvement in the provision of services as the community are invited to share our buildings to provide a wide variety of activities.

We will be looking specifically at the needs of our local community and doing our best to encourage better mental and physical health as we recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The return of the Olive Grove café within the facility will be part of this.

We will be increasing the numbers employed to 7 by providing two new employment opportunities for local people and encouraging the continuation and development of existing posts. One will be for an IT expert to operate our equipment when required, but also to train up volunteers in its use. The other will be for a Caretaker/Administrator for the suite of buildings. We will continue with the part-time employment of a secretary, cleaner, organist. The Young Crown Youth Worker is a full-time post.

We will be taking advantage of the opportunities represented by technological change.

We will be continuing with our drive towards zero carbon which we began with the refurbishment of the upper hall and our Eco Congregation group will be encouraging the local community to join us in our efforts to reduce carbon and adopt ever more sustainable lifestyles to protect our planet.

(b) How will the project benefit local communities and surrounding locality areas?

Who will benefit from the project? Anyone from the local communities who wishes to apply to make good use of the facilities we will offer and residents from the surrounding area who wish to join in with these activities. We currently provide space for Crown Corner Club (the after-school club for Crown Primary), and for the Breakfast Club. We have kept fit classes, choirs, a wind band, two toddler groups, a youth club, a full BB company for boys from 4 up, Guides and Brownies and Rainbows, a senior citizen's group.

We intend to provide café facilities. The new Crown Primary Nurseries will be able to partner with us to allow the children to visit and talk with OAPs who will be regularly on the premises –for example at a new Lunch Club, or the Friendship Club This will be of great benefit to both children and adults.

Employment opportunities in the local area for Nursery staff, kitchen staff, people who wish to offer classes for keep fit or other opportunities commercially, and the church’s own staff. This will allow more people to travel sustainably to work.

(c) What need or opportunity will the project address? How do you know there is local support for the project? *Please provide evidence of community support with the application i.e., letters of support/consultation reports*

Although the work on our buildings is by no means complete, our Halls Booking Officer is receiving numerous applications for space to rent. We have no Community Centre in the area, the Primary School will no longer be available for external rents, and the Secondary School is mostly used for sporting activities and is of course not available during the day.

(d) List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales – this will be the project delivery plan. *Projects must be completed and claimed by the end of September 2022.*

Activity name	Achieved by (date)
Making safe the attic of the sanctuary	July 2022
Upgrading lighting and insulation	August 2022
Treating the stonework round the stained-glass window	August 2022
Fitting the double glazing to the stained-glass window	August 2022
Renewing AV equipment, screens / loop system	July 2022

(e) In developing the project, please detail how you have considered the following:

Environmental impact – *describe how you have taken into consideration how the project specifically addresses climate change/net zero ambitions.*

The Church of Scotland’s policy is to aim for net zero carbon by 2030. The completion of the refurbishment of the upper hall has started our work towards this. We have double glazed the windows, installed efficient radiators, and insulated the walls and ceiling.

The same treatment will extend now to the sanctuary, with the large stained-glass window to be double glazed and the attic to be insulated, our future includes the double glazing of all the windows – (we do not plan to do this now as we intend to bring the new entrance to the sanctuary in from the current office area which will be extended and roofed, to the transept, through the existing stone walls and windows. (See plans). We also expect to be able to replace our gas boilers but are not convinced that the current technologies are yet good enough to heat our large space so we will leave this work until the next phase of our long-term plan. By providing first class facilities in the local area, people will find less need to use their cars to travel to a different area.

The congregation’s Eco Congregation group will be taking forward other initiatives to encourage the community to embrace green policies.

Equalities impact – explain how you have taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development of the project. How will you strive to ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project?

We have agreed with The Highland Council that a lift will be installed as part payment for the lease of our lower hall and use of our land. This will enable easy access for the disabled and more elderly. Future plans to make a new entrance will create better ramp access. We have provided an accessible toilet, and 3 unisex toilets which will not discriminate against those for whom gender is an issue. We are aware of many people who are living their lives in the early stages of dementia, and of others with autism, and we have ensured the décor is such that the premises are decorated and equipped in ways which make it easy for these people to feel comfortable. We already welcome several people from other cultures at our different activities and hope that our upgrade will bring even more. We have always tried to provide relevant groups for all ages from babes to very senior citizens on our premises, With the Crown Primary Nursery occupying what was our lower hall, there will be the same multi-cultural mix as there is in Crown Primary, where approximately 20 different languages are spoken amongst children in their homes.

(f) How will the project be supported after PBIP funding and what will be the lasting benefits?

Crown Church has looked after, extended and refurbished its premises over the past 120 years, and will continue to do so into the future. We have provided most of the finance for the upper hall from our own resources, We have agreed with Highland Council as part of their long lease agreement that major refurbishment of the downstairs toilets and installation of a lift will be carried out at the same time as the nurseries are prepared, the kitchen upgraded, and the external fire escape rebuilt and enclosed, Together with bringing the sanctuary space into use throughout the week, and the state of the art AV and catering facilities we can offer, we will be providing a first rate facility for the community of Crown and within a 5 minutes walking distance of the town centre, and 10 minutes from the railway and bus stations. The rental income will help to support our staffing of the facility, the heating and lighting, and the general upkeep

(g) Please outline how the project fits with local plans and strategies

The Highland Council are encouraging a move away from single use buildings with a much greater emphasis on shared space, particularly in established urban areas such as Crown. The need to build on irreplaceable green open play space was avoided by sharing our halls for additional nursery classroom space with our neighbours Crown School. By working closely and sharing with our neighbours we also have the use of their car park when not in their use thus making our facilities much more sustainable and viable.

Our intention is to enhance and upgrade our building while retaining the important external features to enhance the Conservation Area. We will factor in and balance energy and building conservation. Our building, internal and external, will have all abilities access.

Having additional all-ability community space within 5 minutes of the Town Centre and 10 minutes of the bus and railway station creates opportunities to work in collaboration with others to promote the Town Centre for seminars and conferences.

4.4 Does the project require planning permission or statutory regulatory consents?	NO
If YES, please detail below – if consents are in place, please provide evidence with the application	
Type	Date granted/expected

SECTION 5: BUDGET

This can be provided in a separate excel spreadsheet if preferred. Delete the example below before completing this section.

5.1 Main project expenditure		
Budget Heading	Detailed cost	Amount
Attic access safety works	Widening walkways and fitting handrails	£2403.92incl VAT
Stonework round McGilp Window	Treating stonework to strengthen and prevent flaking	£5386.80 incl VAT
Lighting rewiring and fitments	Run new wiring to all light fitments. Provide localised control and dimming capability.Allow for emergency lighting incorporated within new light fitments. All lighting LED	£39,690 incl VAT
	Scaffolding	£2296.32 incl VAT
	Provision of access steps for maintenance	£990 incl VAT
AV upgrade	Upgrade of public address system, cameras, screens, streaming capability, replacement of cables and hardware as required – professionally assessed	£16,800 incl VAT
Double glazing of McGilp window	Specialised double glazing to enhance refurbished stained glass	£14,000 incl VAT
Insulation of attic space	Bringing insulation up to modern standards	£1036.97 incl VAT
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£82,604.05

5.2 Reasonableness of cost – how did you obtain project costs?

Estimates from contractors.

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING

6.1 Please give details of confirmed match funding if applicable:

If match funding is confirmed, please provide letters of awards with the application

Name	Date awarded/expected	Amount £
Crown Church reserves		£8,260.41
Total match funding		£8,260.41
PBIP Grant requested		£74,343.64
Total project cost		£82,604.05

6.2 Will the project involve “in kind” support?

This should not be counted as confirmed match funding for the project

Yes

If yes, please detail:

Volunteers time to supervise the work, carry out all necessary admin, payment of invoices; provision of free office space; provision of laptops. Our Architect's fees have already been paid. The contract will be supported by Crown Church staff. Contractor's facilities will be provided and paid for by Crown Church.

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Applicant organisation	Ardersier Community Hub	
1.2 Project title	Ardersier Outdoor Gym	
1.3 Project costs	Total cost of project	£16,900
	Match Funding	£0
	PBIP grant requested	£16,900
1.4 Project start date	As soon as funds are secured.	
1.5 Project end date	Two months from start date.	

1.6 Which of the following programme objectives will the project meet?

See guidance notes for further information.

1.	Town centre revitalisation	YES
2.	20-minute neighbourhoods	YES
3.	Community wealth building	YES
4.	Net zero	YES
5.	Wellbeing and inclusive economic development	YES
6.	Tackling inequality and disadvantage	YES
7.	Community ownership	YES

1

SECTION 4: PROJECT DETAILS

*Please refer to the **Guidance Notes** to complete this section. It provides important information, definitions, and examples to ensure you answer each section correctly.*

4.1 Project location - include postcode Couple of possible location preferred following community consultation: - Old Children's playpark, end of Station Drive (Council owned land) IV2 7RD or - Adjacent to shore path in village/common (different landowners) IV2 7RU
4.2 Do you own the land/building, or a lease/control of asset is in place? <i>Lease agreements must be for at least 10-years. Please provide evidence of ownership or lease with the application. If not in place, what are the arrangements to obtain this and by when?</i>
Details: IV2 7RD is council owned. IV2 7RU is multiple owners, depending on area of siting.

4.3 The Project

(a) Please summarise the project, explaining how it will achieve the funds' objectives as noted in 1.7, and list which outcomes it hopes to achieve.

The project is to purchase and erect an outdoor gym in the village of Ardersier, located in Inverness East Rural – 05 area.

The Place Principle would be achieved as the community have been consulted about these potential additions and the majority are wholeheartedly in favour of an outdoor gym. The nearest alternatives are currently all a bus ride or drive away and this incurs a cost. A local outdoor gym would be more accessible to all if local.

Regeneration Strategy would be achieved if a new outdoor gym was to be placed in Ardersier:

Firstly, if it were to be placed in the IV2 7RD location, this would visually regenerate the old existing children's play park, which has fallen into disrepair and currently still stands in the location.

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Secondly, the gym would be available to all the community 24/7, as outdoors. It would encourage physical and social benefits for the users, tackling diversity, discrimination and isolation.

Scotland's Economic Strategy would be achieved as this project would be a moderate financial investment to our village. This investment in our community could provide us important infrastructure to make real public health improvements in our village.

Developing individuals' skills, knowledge and enjoyment of healthy pastimes in an innovative, fun, productive and community-based way. The obesity projections by Public Health Scotland over the next few years is worrying and the introduction of such an asset to our village would allow for individuals to work together to reduce such figures. This project will create resilient and strong individuals and has no detrimental impact to the environment.

Town Centre Action Plan would be achieved as Ardersier is flourishing and has recently saw many new homes built by Springfield in our village, with more to come. We are a vibrant and inclusive community, who would really benefit from some further local amenities. Many of the community do not own transport and the bus link we have to Inverness is indirect and takes around an hour to complete a journey, which directly only takes 20 minutes. We have no buses running directly to Nairn any longer. So a healthy, encouraging space to meet and exercise locally would encourage cross generational contact, newcomers meeting the rest of the village and possible further forward development of the area. We are currently not a town but if the village keeps expanding the way it is we lack current amenities.

Climate Change Plan this project is emission free, so is beneficial to the environment.

Public Health Scotland Strategic Plan speaks repeatedly of the benefits of any exercise.

The proposed 12 station outdoor gym has specifically targeted machines to target all over body fitness. As mentioned before the predicted obesity figures and their associated costs on services, needs to be addressed preventatively in as many locations as possible.

Fair Work Healthy Health bodies, lead to healthy minds. Pride, confidence and self-efficacy are all benefits of regular exercise. Opportunities should open as people discover the benefits of using the gym equipment to achieve fitness and health improvements

(b) How will the project benefit local communities and surrounding locality areas? Who will benefit from the project?

Mostly local residents and those in the surrounding area will benefit from an outdoor gym in our village. All local residents from older teenagers to elderly people, of all abilities can take part as they feel comfortable. It will encourage healthy lifestyles, better health outcomes and initiate social cross-generational relationships within our community. There will be no inequalities, apart from physical limitations of individuals. All people will be able to use the gym, regardless of any diversity or inequality others may perceive

(c) What need or opportunity will the project address? How do you know there is local support for the project? *Please provide evidence of community support with the application i.e. letters of support/consultation reports*

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A consultation was completed on social media with the local community. The majority are in favour of this project becoming a reality. They are keen to have regular use of a more sustainable way of exercising, as opposed to using public transport or their vehicles to go to neighbouring towns to use facilities. Proof of this can be found on 2 Facebook pages: Ardersier & Petty CC page and Ardersier Community Forum page.

(d) List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales – this will be the project delivery plan. *Projects must be completed and claimed by the end of September 2022.*

Activity name	Achieved by (date)
Securing Funds	End of February 2022
Deciding location	End of February 2022
Ordering of equipment	End of March 2022
Erection of equipment	End of May 2022
Grand Opening day	On completion.

(e) In developing the project, please detail how you have considered the following:

Environmental impact – describe how you have taken into consideration how the project specifically addresses climate change/net zero ambitions.

This project has no negative environmental impacts and will encourage people outdoors to enjoy their surroundings more.

There are already streetlights in position the IV2 7RD site.

The existing broken play park items would need removed to regenerate the area with the gym equipment.

Equalities impact – explain how you have taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development of the project. How will you strive to ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project?

All would be welcome at the facility, regardless of their origins and individuality. There is already talk within the community of friend's groups organising themselves to support and encourage each other. We would hope this would grow within different sectors of our community.

(f) How will the project be supported after PBIP funding and what will be the lasting benefits?

Ardersier has a strong and consistent record of fundraising for community based projects. We have recently purchased our own column Christmas lights and fund raised to purchase these and will fund raise further for upkeep.

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If sited in either proposed site the council already cut the grass in both areas. Should problems occur with the equipment beyond its warranty, then we shall fund raise to repair. We have also factored in costs for a regular proper servicing of the equipment by the supplier in this funding application.

(g) Please outline how the project fits with local plans and strategies

As part of the area included in the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan, recognition is given to the expansion of housing and subsequent growth of Ardersier area.

As mentioned previously a development of an outdoor gym in an expanding residential area would be beneficial for many aspects of community life.

4.4 Does the project require planning permission or statutory regulatory consents?	NOT SURE
<i>If YES, please detail below – if consents are in place, please provide evidence with the application</i>	
Type	Date granted/expected

SECTION 5: BUDGET

This can be provided in a separate excel spreadsheet if preferred. Delete the example below before completing this section.

5.1 Main project expenditure		
Budget Heading	Detailed cost	Amount
Purchase of equipment and fitting	£9500 + vat =£11,400 from fresh air Fitness	£11,400
Groundworks	Preparation work, hire of equipment and labour	£2,000
Servicing for 10 years	Full service of equipment by supplier every 2 years	£3,500

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	TOTAL PROJECT COST	£16,900

5.2 Reasonableness of cost – how did you obtain project costs?
Special offer quote from Fresh Air Fitness (time limited) for equipment. Service plan cost also supplied by Fresh Air Fitness.
Site visit from ground work professional for groundworks and removal quote.

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING

6.1 Please give details of confirmed match funding if applicable: <i>If match funding is confirmed, please provide letters of awards with the application</i>		
Name	Date awarded/expected	Amount £
None		
Total match funding		£0
PBIP Grant requested		£0
Total project cost		£0

6.2 Will the project involve “in kind” support?
This should not be counted as confirmed match funding for the project

Yes

If yes, please detail:
As a community we shall endeavour to do as much the completing work (bulb planting, etc) as possible.

SECTION 7 – REVENUE GENERATION PROJECTS

For projects that will generate revenue, please submit a business plan and financial forecast with the application.

7.1 Will the project generate revenue?

No

If yes, how will the revenue benefit the organisation? How will it be utilised?

7.2 Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?

No

Please state your reasons: When we saw the place based investment money available we thought this would be a very fitting project for it to fund for our community.

7.3 Have you had support from other organisations in developing the project? If so, please specify the organisation and contact person.

Name of organisation <i>(e.g. Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Business Gateway etc.)</i>	Contact Person
No	

7.4 Has the organisation previously received public funding?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 years:

Funding	Date of award	Amount £	State Aid YES/NO
Highland Council Ward 17 Discretionary budget	Dec 2021	2743.92	no

PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Applicant organisation	The Highland Council	
1.2 Project title	Hydro Ness	
1.3 Project costs	Total cost of project	£2,995,000
	Match Funding	£2,695,000
	PBIP grant requested	£300,000
1.4 Project start date	Phase 1 (Construction) – May 2021 Phase 2 (Visitor Experience) – March 2022	
1.5 Project end date	Phase 1 (Construction) – March 2022 Phase 2 (Visitor Experience) – August 2022	

1.6 Which of the following programme objectives will the project meet?

See guidance notes for further information.

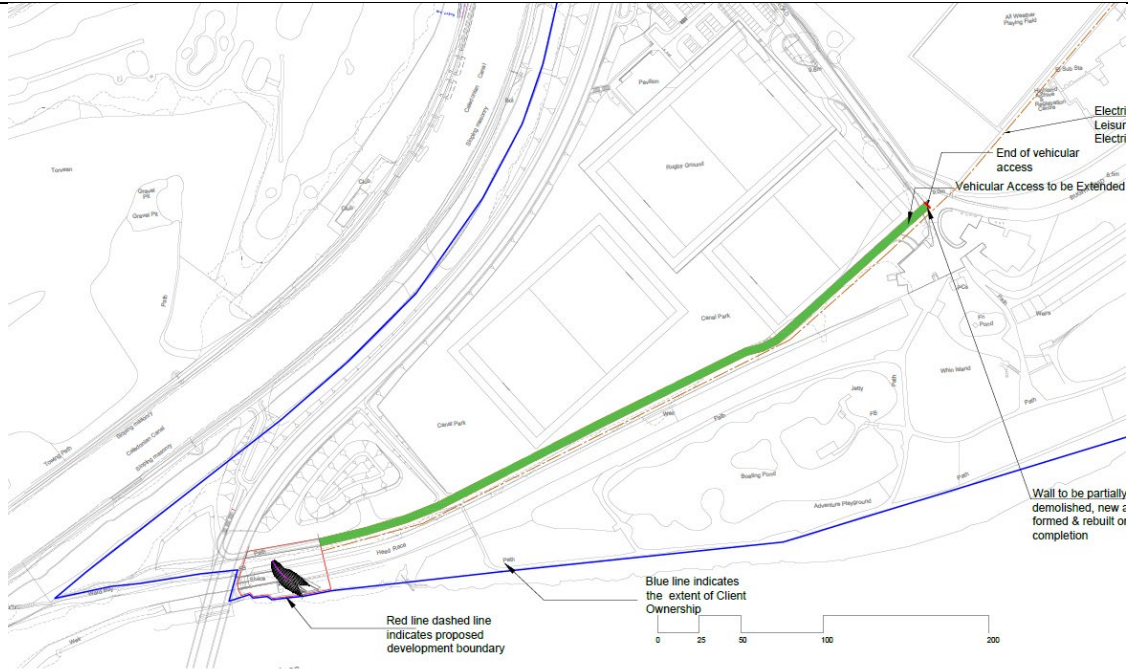
8. Town centre revitalisation	YES
9. 20-minute neighbourhoods	NO
10. Community wealth building	NO
11. Net zero	YES
12. Wellbeing and inclusive economic development	YES
13. Tackling inequality and disadvantage	NO
14. Community ownership	NO

SECTION 4: PROJECT DETAILS

*Please refer to the **Guidance Notes** to complete this section. It provides important information, definitions, and examples to ensure you answer each section correctly.*

4.1 Project location - include postcode

Situated on the west bank of the river ness directly adjacent to the holm mills bridge.



4.2 Do you own the land/building, or a lease/control of asset is in place?

Lease agreements must be for at least 10-years. Please provide evidence of ownership or lease with the application. If not in place, what are the arrangements to obtain this and by when?

Details: The site is fully owned by Highland Council and as such requires no lease agreement.

4.3 The Project

(h) Please summarise the project, explaining how it will achieve the funds' objectives as noted in 1.7, and list which outcomes it hopes to achieve.

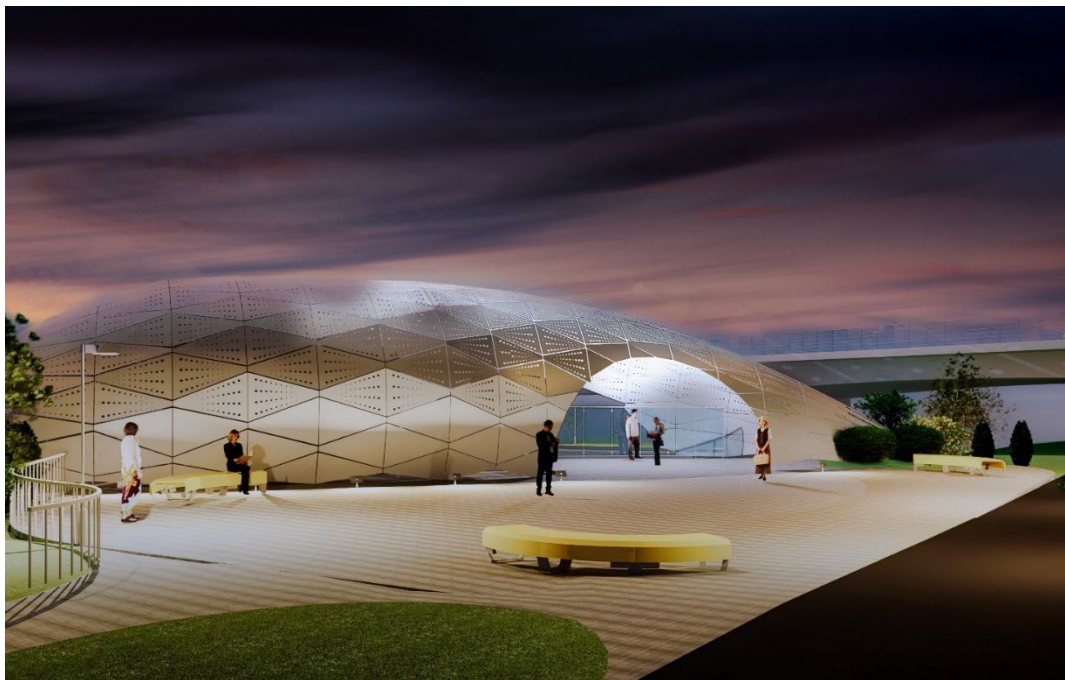


Figure 1 - Render of complete structure

The project itself is broken down into 2 phases. Phase 1 relates to the construction of the hydro scheme (including turbines, working mechanics and connection the Inverness Leisure Centre) and accompanying stainless steel shell/envelope. Phase 2 is focused on the development and implementation of high-quality interpretive content which will enhance the visitor experience and encourage increased footfall and interest (any funding award would directly fund Phase 2 works).

Situated on the banks of the River Ness, directly adjacent to the Holm Mills bridge, this flagship Archimedes screw project will generate and supply over 500,000 kwh of green electricity annually to the nearby Inverness Leisure Centre (one of the highest consuming buildings across our estate) – this will offset the organisations reliance on grid supplied electricity and also help reduce the councils carbon footprint (by 142,000kg CO2e annually).

The project utilises historical infrastructure from a disused hydro scheme and will see vast improvement of the immediate surrounding area to create a destination through the introduction of interpretive landscaping. This intervention is a long-term investment for the organisation and the asset itself will last well over 50 years. In addition, the site itself will act as a hub for STEM learning, inspiring young engineers and further demonstrating Highland Council's commitment to sustainability. We have also encouraged strong interest and support from Highland Schools, launching a naming competition that saw over 10000 entries suggesting names with an accompanying poster.

The innovative structure and supporting interactive content will ensure the scheme is a welcome addition to a high footfall area of the city, strengthening the river as an attraction and re-introducing it as valued asset for renewable generation. The scheme will be fully accessible to the public and will allow visitors to see first-hand how renewable energy and old technology can help address a very modern problem.



Figure 2 - Site Image from 11/01/2022

Whilst the River Ness Hydro will have a vitally important functional purpose, the stainless-steel envelope and the rich history of the site and river presents a unique opportunity to attract, educate and, hopefully, inspire a wide range of visitors. Located adjacent to a popular core active travel route, the site is likely to experience high footfall and as such requires strong supporting interactive materials to help promote key themes and associated messaging – this will serve to strengthen the visitor experience. Key themes include:



A key objective of the content and messaging will be to demonstrate how nature and science work together to support positive change and promote sustainability. As a STEM learning hub, the site will present a unique opportunity for Highland students to access and appreciate small scale ‘run of the river’ hydro, and learn how green, sustainable engineering can be applied in life.

As mentioned previously it is hoped this site will educate and inspire people. The site will display unique Highland content and will focus on community – how people have shaped the Highlands, their role in renewable energy and their role in the transition to net zero. The information below sets out how each key message will embed community, environment, and economy:

Power of the River – In many ways the foundation of life in Highland, the importance of water across the region cannot be underestimated. Water has helped shape communities and continues to help shape the Highland economy; this is seen as a potential opportunity to appreciate water in a more holistic way, acknowledging its role in everyday life whilst being clear that climate change presents risk to water levels and rural communities, damaging the Highland economy.

Nature and Science - The River Ness Hydro uses simple, effective and proven science and engineering that works with nature, rather than against it to create renewable energy. By harnessing the natural power of the river to create energy the scheme won’t negatively impact the natural environment, utilising Archimedes screw technology to ensure salmon habitat are protected and can navigate the River without risk of harm (this will be demonstrated through a connected fish counter). Moreover, improved planting and landscaping of the surrounding area will celebrate the unique nature of the Highlands and improve a neglected area of the river.

Renewable Energy and the Hydro Mechanics - The Highlands is a leading area for renewable energy generation and yet has the potential continue to grow and inspire and encourage sustainable change. There are many hydroelectric schemes across Highland, however, none are fully accessible. The River Ness Hydro will provide a truly unique opportunity for visitors to see how renewable energy and innovation first-hand through a fully accessible scheme designed to educate, inspire and celebrate; it is hoped this will encourage the next generation of engineers, or at the very least make visitors think about how their behaviours positively or negatively impact their surrounding environment.

Environment and Ecology - The Highland environment is diverse and beautiful, and the River Ness is celebrated for providing habitats to a wide range of biodiversity. The scheme will celebrate the unique environments in Highland which supports a wide variety of plant, animals and other species. The content on site will explore the species native to Highland and celebrate the community projects ongoing across Highland to boast the regions biodiversity and inspire people to get involved.

Climate Change and Sustainability - The climate and ecological emergency is a global issue. There are many ways that people can be more sustainable and help reduce human impact on the planet and reverse the effects of climate change. However, many people still do not know the basics of climate change and the site will help communicate key information regarding the climate and ecological emergency – making people more aware of what is happening in Highland. Highland communities need to feel empowered to take action to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and transition to a more sustainable lifestyle.

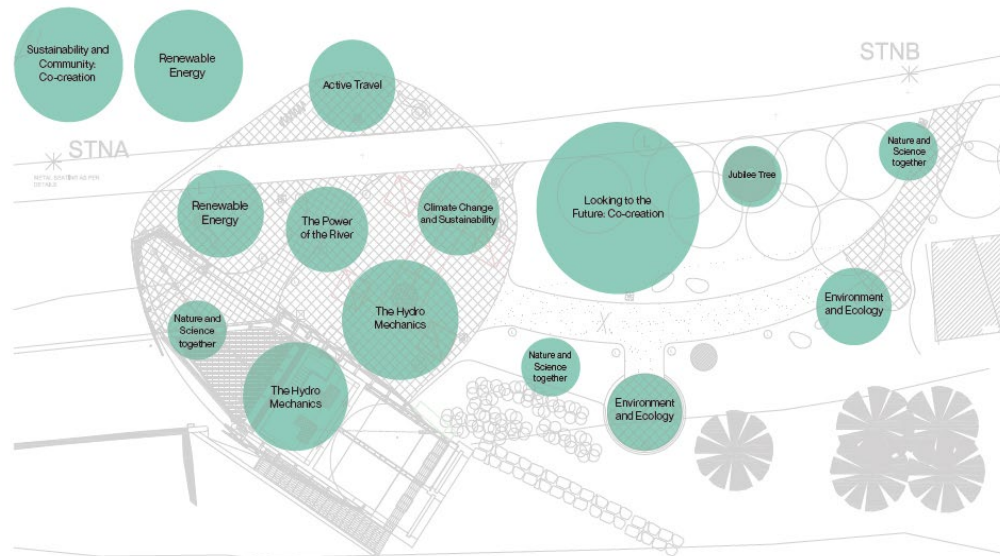


Figure 3 - Site plan overlaid with thematic content

Given the high-profile nature of the respective proposals, it is vitally important that the RNH project is respectful of and compliments the Inverness Castle Redevelopment – this is a truly transformational project for the City and Region and given the close proximity between Inverness Castle and the RNH site, it is imperative the visitor experience is cohesive and of the highest quality. This will help promote a “cross visiting” experience and market the River Ness and City as attractive and enriching destinations. This funding request will be vital in ensuring high quality and long-lasting interpretive content is delivered that is robust enough to handle the elements and wear and tear.

**(i) How will the project benefit local communities and surrounding locality areas?
Who will benefit from the project?**

The hydro site was a dilapidated parcel of land that has been severely neglected. Adjacent to a high footfall active travel route and perched underneath the Holm Mills Bridge, this site was highly visible and yet offered very little to the public. The site itself had historical but damaged and neglected hydro infrastructure in situ which serviced the old Whin Park Mill; this infrastructure has now been upgraded to allow for its reintroduction as a source of green energy generation. Other community/area benefits include -

- Local communities will see a direct benefit as the energy generated will directly supply ILC, mitigating against energy price increases and protecting it as an asset for physical activity and wellbeing.
- Acting as a STEM learning hub, the site will educate and inspire students across Highland and also help support the aims and objectives of Science Skills Academy (SSA), in seeing increased and sustained interest in STEM related subjects.
- Strengthen the River as a focal point and an attraction that helps secure significant economic benefit for the City and Region.

- Act as a flagship project for Net Zero and also demonstrating successful delivery of a transformational projects, acting as an evidence base and enhancing the organisations reputation as a reliable delivery agent for funding partners (used as a project example to help secure LUF for Highland).

(j) What need or opportunity will the project address? How do you know there is local support for the project? *Please provide evidence of community support with the application i.e., letters of support/consultation reports*

To support national and regional ambition in respect of climate change and in order to proactively demonstrate compliance with the new reporting requirements, the Council must continue to invest in the decarbonisation of its operations and service delivery. Not only does this project deliver tangible benefits (both carbon and financial savings as mentioned previously, as well as opportunity for further reinvestment via the Salix RF), it also offers far wider benefits that would be impossible to quantify – the opportunity for young pupils, visitors and the general public to take pride in a key city centre development and see positive action first-hand whilst hopefully feeling inspired. It helps re-frame the city and project a hugely positive image for Inverness and Highland.

The project team, in conjunction with partners at Science Skills Academy (SSA), launched a naming competition across Highland schools. The response was overwhelming and over 100 pupils submitted posters and naming suggestions for the scheme. Feedback from teachers indicated this exercise stimulated real interest in sustainability and this approach – working in collaboration with young people to help inform future content – will surely form a strong foundation for future collaboration amongst like minded organisations.

Due to the complex nature of the project and to ensure stakeholders were fully aware of the proposal robust engagement has taken place and full consultation, in particular relating to the physical build and also environmental considerations as per mandated by SEPA , was undertaken with no challenge or objections. Furthermore, the Inverness Courier ran a public poll which finished with high public support from the project (>80%). Additionally, the project has received significant media attention and widespread praise – a number of construction magazines and websites have run articles updating readers on the project and its benefits. A small sample of the positive coverage can be accessed via the following links -

[BBC News](#)

[STV News](#)

[Inverness Courier – Nicky Marr](#)

[Ross-shire Journal](#)

[Scottish Construction Now](#)

[Press and Journal](#)

[EV Rally of Scotland](#)

Michael Golding, CEO of Visit Inverness Loch Ness said “The River Ness Hydro will be the first site within the destination which allows visitors to connect with the energy sector, which is key to our local communities. It is vital to the project that the signage is of a suitable standard to meet expectations of the project which has attracted great interest. The signage has the ability to connect visitors and passers-by on the active travel route with the Hydro, the local energy sector and importantly all that the wider destination has to offer. This is significantly important to both support the recovery from the pandemic but also to ensure the long-term sustainability of the tourism sector.

Tourism is everyone’s business, around the Loch Ness and River Ness area it employs 26% of all people, it is therefore essential to our communities and we believe successful delivery of the interpretive signage at the River Ness Hydro can make a meaningful difference achieving the aligned strategic aims for a sustainable tourism sector.”

(k) List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales – this will be the project delivery plan. *Projects must be completed and claimed by the end of September 2022.*

Activity name	Achieved by (date)
Contract award	March 2022
Initial order placed	Early April 2022
Materials on site	May/June 2022
Install period and snagging	July 2022
Final account settlement	August 2022

(l) In developing the project, please detail how you have considered the following:

Environmental impact – *describe how you have taken into consideration how the project specifically addresses climate change/net zero ambitions.*

As mentioned, the project will directly supply green electricity to the nearby Inverness Leisure Centre (one of the highest consuming buildings across the THC estate). This will see an annual carbon reduction of ~140 tonnes of CO₂e. Furthermore, key messaging – **which would be directly funded through any PBIB funding award** – will ensure the addition of high quality and robust interpretive boards that further articulate the project drivers and key environmental benefits. Acting as a STEM learning hub the site will present as an extension of the classroom (Science Skills Academy are reworking their curriculum to include the project as a demonstration of sustainability) and will therefore have a much wider positive impact, inspiring future engineers and positive action.

The main build is being undertaken by P Bradley & Co, in partnership with HydroNI, and Spaans Babcock who are supplying and installing the turbines. These organisations have been involved in installs of over 70 Archimedes screw turbines in the UK (with an installed capacity of 5,500kW) and not one of these schemes has failed to meet its predicted output. It is worth noting, all on-site conduct relating to working in the river environment will be in accordance with SEPA regulations and strong consideration has been made to ensure the build period does not disrupt the surrounding natural ecology (including birds, bats and salmon).

Furthermore, all materials are high quality and long-lasting minimising the need for repair or replacement due to the elements.

Additionally, the scheme will have little impact on the river water levels or flow. The working channel for the scheme is 7m wide whilst the adjacent stretch of river varies in width from 75m to 100m. The average daily flow rate on the river from SEPA gauges is 91m³/s, whilst the hydro’s design flow rate is 4.5m³/s, therefore, the maximum abstraction will be 0.05 times the mean daily flow. This also means that the schemes future performance is not solely reliant on the condition of the weir.

Supporting statements from partners and key stakeholders –

Keith Masson, Climate Change and Energy Team Manager - *“The Highland Council has a long-standing commitment to climate action, and in May 2019, declared a climate and ecological emergency, recognising the pressing need to proactively address the dangers the changing climate presents.*

As a result of this declaration, a number of innovative projects have been developed, but the Ness Hydro scheme currently represents our most ambitious and impactful approach to reducing our corporate carbon footprint. In addition, the proposed interpretative content has significant potential to inspire a future generation of scientists and engineers as well as acting as a hub for STEM learning, creating a lasting legacy for both the city of Inverness as well as the wider Highland region.

The project team have been dutiful in their considerations of all sustainability aspects of the project, which has both minimised the carbon footprint of the build whilst ensuring it will continue to deliver positive benefits for many decades to come.

The Hydro Ness project will make a significant contribution to the Council’s net zero ambitions, and I am delighted to offer my support in respect of the application to the Place Based Investment Programme.”

Equalities impact – *explain how you have taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development of the project. How will you strive to ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project?*

Utilising a wide range of materials, ranging from static boards to QR codes, we feel this intervention will provide a unique and inclusive experience for all visitors – interactive elements will cover audio, video, kinaesthetic and touch (surfacing of some features will be laser etched and textured to provide a different communication medium). Furthermore, there will be some Gaelic presence on site including references to Highland specific content that pays respect to the unique nature and history of the region.

Access to the main platform paviour area will be fully inclusive and high-quality surfacing will allow wheelchair and buggy access. Underneath the envelope consists of a tight grating floor which will act as a precaution in the event of extreme flooding, therefore this might limit access to wheelchairs or buggies.

Supporting statements from partners and key stakeholders –

Home Energy Scotland support for River Ness Hydro

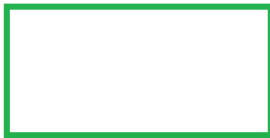
Thank you for sharing the details for your project, **River Ness Hydro**, and your application for financial support from the Place Based Investment Programme for sourcing and installing the hydro's interpretative content for the public. I am pleased to confirm our support for the project as we understand it will generate renewable energy of around 550,000 kWh annually and significantly reduce The Highland Council's carbon footprint.

Home Energy Scotland is managed by Energy Saving Trust and delivered through a network of five advice centres across Scotland. Our advice centre covers the Highlands and Islands. We work with people and organisations to help tackle fuel poverty and the climate emergency – both key priorities for the Scottish Government.

We recognise the importance of River Ness Hydro as it will supply Inverness Leisure nearby, reduce the council's carbon emissions by over 140,000 kg per annum and promote the benefits of renewable energy to the public through its interpretative content at a highly visible location.

We fully support The Highland Council's bid for funding for the River Ness Hydro and hope that your application is successful.

Yours sincerely



Grant Mackay

Centre Manager

Home Energy Scotland Highlands and Islands

(m) How will the project be supported after PBIP funding and what will be the lasting benefits?

The project will become an asset that sits within the current Property portfolio managed by Finlay MacDonald (Head of Property). An annual maintenance allowance will help ensure the asset is well looked after and all regulatory measures are fully adhered to (in line with guidance from SEPA and OFGEM).

The asset will operate for a period of over 50 years (and well beyond with replacement of some operational elements i.e., gears and motors). Over this period the asset will continue to supply over half the demand of ILC, protecting the organisation from astronomical increases in electricity prices and reducing carbon emissions, whilst feeding the Salix RF (allowing other energy efficiency projects to be undertaken).

The interpretive content will not be static. The Project Team are in discussions with the University of Highland & Islands to use this scheme and the related interpretive content to help form part of the multimedia courses curriculum (or as a specific project piece). This would provide students with the opportunity to work with real stakeholders, producing high quality content that reflects the changing commitments of the organisation and celebrating successes here in Highland. This partnership will ensure the content is regularly refreshed to reflect Highland Council, and our partners, ambitions. This presents a unique opportunity to educate and inspire future generations, demonstrating the art of the possible, whilst acting as a destination for City visitors.

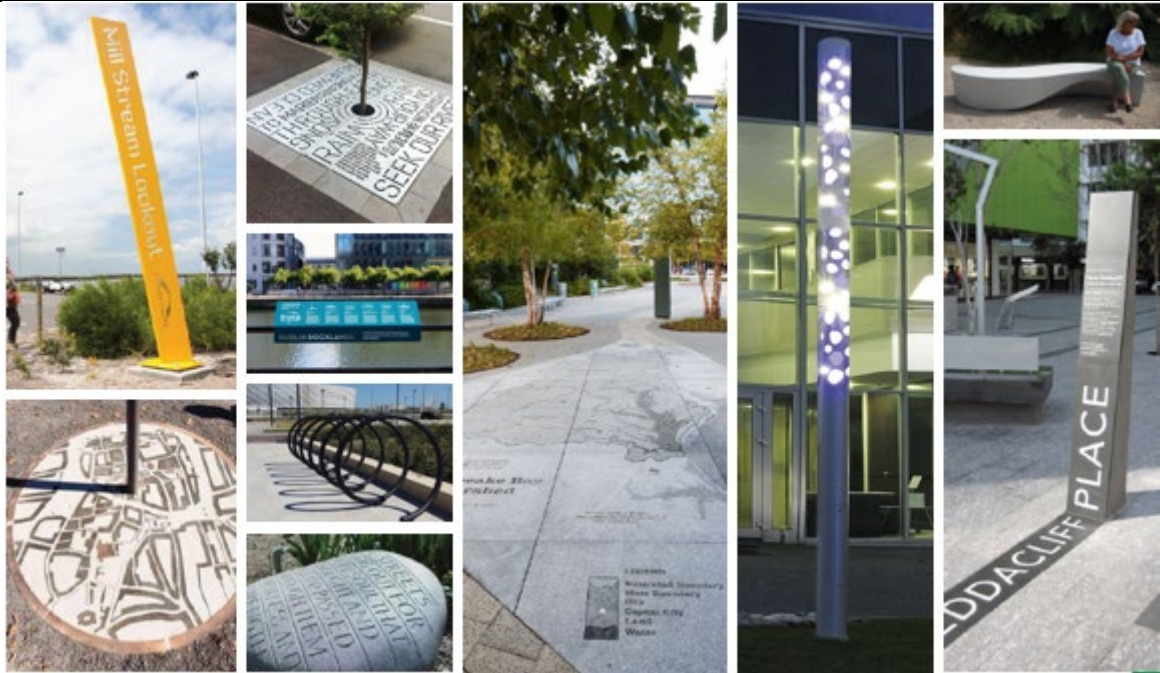


Figure 4 - Ideas board on proposed interpretive content

(n) Please outline how the project fits with local plans and strategies

The Highland Council's Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) sets a vision that Highland will be an exemplar carbon region by 2050, transitioned to a green, circular economy, serving as a global centre of excellence for renewable energy innovation and generation, with the most attractive sustainable leisure, recreation and tourism destinations in the world. The ambitions are well represented by the Hydro Ness project, which provides demonstration of the Highland Council commitment to a sustainable future, whilst creating a unique, innovative destination on the banks of the River Ness, one of the city's greatest assets. The Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan identified the Ness-side area, including Canal Parks and Torvean as a major area for development and, since its adoption in 2015 this vision of a high quality area, has become greatly connected by new multi-modal transport infrastructure (West Link), dramatically improved in terms of sports and recreation provision with major new city destinations at Canal Parks Pavillion and pitches, Torvean Park and is now seeing major investment in new city neighbourhoods at Ness-side (Tulloch) and Ness Castle (Barratt). In the near future this area will be further complemented by a major new city destination at Torvean Gateway, as envisioned by the Torvean Gateway Development Brief. The Hydro Ness scheme sits in the heart of this transforming part of the city and region and offers a significant attraction to complement the major public and private investment in this area, which is realising the Council's long-held vision for the area.



Figure 5 - Site image from Jan 22

4.4 Does the project require planning permission or statutory regulatory consents?	YES
If YES, please detail below – if consents are in place, please provide evidence with the application	
Type	Date granted/expected
Planning approval revised reference 21/01265/FUL (original 18/04451/FUL)	Granted 2021
SEPA licence reference CAR/L/1173413	Granted 2020

SECTION 5: BUDGET

This can be provided in a separate excel spreadsheet if preferred. Delete the example below before completing this section.

5.1 Main project expenditure		
Budget Heading	Detailed cost	Amount
Construction	Phase 1	£2,670,000
Interpretive Content	Phase 2 - inclusive of management fee, full design work and sourcing off all content (including transport and install on site)	£325,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£2,995,000

5.2 Reasonableness of cost – how did you obtain project costs?

Costs have been determined through a combination of soft market intelligence as well as detailed cost submissions from design consultants (consultancy input have been accessed legitimately through existing contracts and in full compliance with tender/procurement procedures, to ensure costs, timelines and ideas are of the required standard and impact required).

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING

6.1 Please give details of confirmed match funding if applicable:

If match funding is confirmed, please provide letters of awards with the application

Name	Date awarded/expected	Amount £
Salix Finance Ltd contribution	2020	£1,075,000
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing	2020	£1,620,000
Total match funding		£2,695,000
PBIP Grant requested		£300,000
Total project cost		£2,995,000

6.2 Will the project involve “in kind” support?

This should not be counted as confirmed match funding for the project

Yes

If yes, please detail:

Partner organisations including HLH, Science Skills Academy, Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Scottish Canals, Home Energy Trust and Creative Services Scotland have all contributed time and support free of charge as part of a working group to ensure the project is multi-faceted in the benefits it can help realise for the city.