

Agenda Item	10d
Report No	CIA/24/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 14 September 2022

Report Title: Inverness Common Good Fund Grant Applications Over £10,000

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current applications for grant funding over £10,000 to be determined.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to consider the applications for funding which are as follows:

- Free North Church
- City Decorative Lighting

3. Implications

3.1 Resource – any funding awards will come from the Inverness Common Good Fund grant budget for 2022/23.

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

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - Applications are considered on merit which includes compliance with Council policies. The need to ensure that the residents of the former Burgh of Inverness are the main beneficiaries is paramount.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - Consideration is given to ensuring that applications meet reasonable expectations in respect of climate change and carbon clever targets.

3.5 Risk - There are no known risk implications in respect of this report.

3.6 Gaelic - Applications if successful will be required to meet expectations set by Council policy in this regard.

4. Grant Applications

4.1 The current summary of funds available following the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee meetings on 27 June 2022 and 15 August 2022 is set out in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 **Booklet A and Appendix 2** include details of current grant applications for more than £10,000. Members are invited to consider the following application:

- i. **Free North Church (Booklet A):** The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee recommend refusal of a grant of £17,250. The Sub-Committee considered that the project has not identified that it would bring sufficient benefit to the citizens of Inverness.
- ii. **City Decorative Lighting (Appendix 2):** Members are asked to consider the internal application from the Inverness City Area Manager and Principal Project Manager Housing & Property for a grant of £70,000 towards City Centre decorative lighting. This follows a decision taken at CIAC 17th February 2022, to set aside £100K towards improving decorative lighting, set aside in addition to the regular decorative (Festive) Lighting budget of £73k. This included a recommendation to the new Council to support a further allocation of up to £100K, should budgets permit, from the 22/23 ICGF budget. The grants budget has the capacity to support this application. The ICGF Sub-Committee has not considered this application given the previous determination from CIAC for this to come back to a future meeting of the CIAC.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

Date: 22 August 2022

Author: David Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Background Papers:

APPENDIX 1

**Inverness Common Good Fund
Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available - Grants 2022/23	275,000
Grants committed from previous years and not drawdown	306,092
	581,092

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)	Grants < £10k	47,967		
	Grants > £10k	258,125	<u>306,092</u>	275,000
Homologated 27 June 2022	Grants<£10k	6,500	6,500	268,500
27/06/22 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants < £10k	17,055	17,055	251,445
Homologated 15 August 2022	Grants < £10K	2,500	2,500	248,945
15/08/22 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants < £10k	34,385	34,385	214,560

Grant Balances Remaining as July 2022

	£
Grants Under £5,000	75,000
Approved 27 June	1,060
Homologated 15 August 2022	2,500
Approved 15 August 2022	24,635
Balance Remaining for allocation grants under £5k	46,805
Grants Over £5,000	200,000
Homologated 27 June 2022	6,500
Approved 27 June 2022	15,995
Approved 15 August 2022	9,750
Balance Remaining for allocation grants over £5k	167,755

Total Balance Remaining

£214,560.00

**Inverness Common Good Fund
Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available - **Conference Funding 2022/2023** 40,000
 Grants committed from previous years and not drawdown 42,850

82,850

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)		42,850	<u>42,850</u>	40,000
27/06/22 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants<£10k	5,400	5,400	34,600



APPLICATION FORM FOR ORGANISATIONS APPLYING FOR GRANT AND DISCRETIONARY FUNDING AND FUNDING IN KIND FROM THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL – Over £10,000 – Common Good Funds

Name of Organisation:

Free North Church

Name of Project or Activity Requiring Support:

Platform and Sound Upgrade

Which of the Council's funding streams are you applying to?

(Please provide closing date details where applicable)

Common Good Fund

Is the amount you are applying for:

£5,000 or under Under £10,000 £10,000 or over

Total amount applied for: £17250.....

Estimated cost of funding in kind applied for: £N/A.....

Please detail what funding in kind has been applied for e.g. Council staff time, use of premises or equipment, waiving of fees or administration support

N/A

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

Third Sector (voluntary or community) organisation		Community Council	
Registered Charity If yes – Registration numberSC016901.....	✓	Company Limited by Guarantee If yes – Company Number	
Other - please specify.....			

Please remember guidance to completing the application form is available [here](#). Appropriate links to the guidance are situated throughout the form: [This page](#)

For official use only Application reference number			
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PART 1: ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES OR PROJECT

Guidance on completing part 1: [ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES OR PROJECT](#)

1.1 What is the name of your activity or project?

Platform and Sound Upgrade

1.2 When will your activity or project take place? (specifically those for which you are seeking an award from The Highland Council)

Start date (month and year).....November 2022.....

End date (month and year)..... November 2022.....

Location.....Free North Church, Inverness.....

1.3 What activity or project do you want us to support?

For example:

- *Aims of the project and how you are going to do it*
- *Help with running costs or for a specific project or activity?*
- *Who will benefit*

Please note that the Council will be unable to provide any resources not specified on this form or supporting information.

We are seeking funding to replace the existing sound system in the sanctuary of the Free North Church. This will allow a wider range of microphones and instruments to be used through additional sound inputs on the platform. The upgrade will improve the reliability of the sound system compared to the current system. Safety will also be improved by the removal of existing trip hazards on the platform.

Modelling undertaken by the supplier of the system indicates that there will be a marked improvement in sound dispersion and coverage compared to the existing system. The improvement in sound quality would apply to all sources – microphones, media playback and instruments.

The project will benefit the regular congregation of the Free North Church and other users of the building. Concerts are held by different choirs in the building. Those given by the Acclaim Choir can attract over 500 people to the building. The University of the Highlands and Islands also use the building for graduation ceremonies. Weddings and funerals are held in the building. Each of these different uses of the building depend upon high quality sound, whether speech, music or media playback for those present to fully benefit from the event taking place.

Since the recent installation of livestreaming equipment, the benefit of any upgrades to the sound system will extend to those who are unable to attend the building in person and who participate in services and events online.

1.4 Does your activity or project involve building or landscaping work?

Yes No

If yes please answer both a) and b) below.

a) Does your organisation (Please tick):
Have ownership of the land or building

Yes No

OR

Hold at lease of at least 5 years that cannot be ended by the landlord?

Yes No

b) Is planning permission needed for your project? Tick one option below.

Planning permission not required

Planning permission required and has been granted

1.5 Please tell us how your project or activity will help the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Get rid of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Make sure that people from different groups* are treated fairly and have equal chances to use services and that there is more equality between groups*;
- Make sure that people from different groups* get on together.

*Groups are people who have “protected characteristics” in the Equality Act: age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability, marriage and civil partnership, race and sex.

For example are people with protected characteristics likely to face barriers; how you intend to tackle these barriers; does your project promote inclusion?

All are welcome to attend our public services and events. Access to the building is suitable for all users regardless of disability. The proposed sound system upgrade will be of particular benefit to those with impaired hearing.

As mentioned in 1.1, it is anticipated that the improvement brought from the sound system will extend to those who are housebound and participate in services and events via livestreaming.

1.6 Where relevant and appropriate please describe any contribution your project may make towards promotion of the Gaelic language?

1.7 Please tell us if you have spoken to anyone about your application for advice and support – e.g. Local Highland Council Elected Member, Community Council Member, Council Staff, local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) – If yes, please provide details:

This application has been discussed with David Haas, Inverness City Manager.

1.8 Please tell us about any funding in kind you are seeking from the Council:

Detail i.e. premises, facilities, staff time, waiving of fees	Estimated value

1.9 Please provide a breakdown of how much will your activities/project will cost and how much **Funding you are applying for from The Highland Council:**

Item/Activity	Breakdown of Total Costs £	Year 1 £	Year 2* £	Year 3* £	Total £
Staffing					
Other Costs e.g. property costs, transport, equipment, insurance, marketing	Supply and installation of digital mixer, additional sound inputs on platform, speakers and amplifier upgrade. Training on the use of the new equipment.	34505.35			34505.35
Total Project Cost £		34505.35			34505.35
Total Funding Request £		17250			17250

1.10 **Other funding relating to this project** Please include other funders and own resources and income. Continue on separate sheet if required.

Organisation and status of application	Year 1 £	Year 2* £	Year 3* £	Total £
Free North Development Fund	17255.35			17255.35
Successful <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful <input type="checkbox"/> Awaiting Decision <input type="checkbox"/>				
Successful <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful <input type="checkbox"/> Awaiting Decision <input type="checkbox"/>				
Totals	17255.35			17255.35

*See guidance notes for specific funding stream to see if you are able to apply for more than one year of funding.

- 1.11 Please tell us how you know that there is a need for this activity or project and how your approach will meet this need. This might include:
- a. Community support for your project (e.g. surveys, etc.)
 - b. Statistics which show the need for your project (e.g. unemployment figures, crime statistics)
 - c. Evidence from similar projects which shows that they have worked (e.g. research from elsewhere or evaluations of previous local work)

Feedback from within the congregation of the Free North indicates that there are some who struggle to hear well through the existing system. Sound quality from media playback is currently poor; the new system should lead to a significant improvement.

Currently the number of audio inputs at the platform is too limited with, for example, a single input serving both an instrument and voice which means that these cannot be controlled independently. Extra inputs at the platform will allow for more versatility in terms of available microphones and instrument inputs which will be of benefit for regular Free North services and also other events hosted in the building.

- 1.12 Is this a new or additional activity or project? – Yes No **X**
If yes, what change will your activities or project make in your community?

If No, how has your activities or project been funded in the last three years?

This project would complete a wider package of audio-visual upgrades undertaken in the Free North including projection and live-streaming. These have largely been funded by congregational giving.

- 1.13 Please tell us how you will know that your activities or project is working and that you are benefiting your community. You only need to provide targets for the years in which your project will operate. See the detailed guidance for examples of targets.

How you will know you have made the change?		
Year 1 Measurable Outcome	Year 2 Measurable Outcome	Year 3 Measurable Outcome
System installed and working		
Favourable feedback from building users		

- 1.14 If it is intended that this activity or project continue beyond the period of Council support, how will it be funded?

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- 3.3** a) When did your organisation start? Month.....May.....Year.....1843...
- b) What geographic areas and/or communities of interest (e.g. Young people, people with disabilities, older people, people from an ethnic minority background) does your organisation cover?

Our church is an all age Christian fellowship for the Inverness area.

- c) Is there any restriction on who can join your organisation?

Yes No If yes, what are they and why do you have them?

All are welcome within the Free North, but as a church those who join must be professing Christians.

- d) How many people are on your governing body or management committee? ...18...

- e) Are there Highland Council Elected Members or Officers or Community Councillors on or attending your Management Committee or Board? *(please note that this will not affect your application)*

Yes No

If yes, please provide names:

Highland Council Elected Members	Role i.e. Office Bearer, Voting Member, Ex-official / advisory, other

Community Councillors	Role i.e. Office Bearer, Voting Member, Ex-official, other

Council Officers	Role i.e. Office Bearer, Voting Member, Ex-official, other

3.4 Does or has your organisation receive(d) any other funding from The Highland Council? Please provide information relating to Council funding for the last 3 years:

Yes

No

If yes –

a) What is/was it for, and from which Service or Ward budget was it provided?

Year 1:
Year 2:
Year 3:

b) How much funding do/did you receive?

Year 1:
Year 2:
Year 3:

c) Estimated value of existing funding in kind, and from which Service or Ward budget was/is it provided?

Year 1:
Year 2:
Year 3:



INVERNESS COMMON GOOD FUND


HIGHLAND COUNCIL INTERNAL APPLICATION FORM

Applicants should note:

If applying for over £10,000 a report will also be required for the City of Inverness Area Committee.

The Inverness Common Good Fund cannot be used in place of Council funding.

Applicant	David Haas (Inverness City Area Manager) and Jason Kelman (Principal Project Manager)
Service and Service Function	Communities & Place Property and Housing
Project	<p>City Lighting</p> <p>The Committee will be aware that £100k has been set aside within the 2022/23 ICGF budget to improve City decorative lighting. An assessment has been made and in order to progress a phased improvement programme, commencing with the High Street, an additional £70k will be required. The balance within the grants budget sits at £214k. Setting aside £70k for this significant improvement to City amenity will still leave £144k in the grants budget.</p>

	<p>The proposal is attached, giving you some detail and confirming the high-quality outcome, befitting of a modern City.</p> <p>The intention will be to leave the decorative lighting in place throughout the year, thereby reducing maintenance costs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  EFLA KSLD_0772_Developi </p>
Project Cost	<p>Any External Quotes should be submitted along with your Application.</p> <p>The cost of the estimated works is £200k</p>
Service Contribution	The Council does not have a budget for the provision of decorative lighting units.
Budget Holder	
<p>Do you have Budget Holder/Committee approval? Preferably this should be agreed prior to lodging Application. Yes/No</p>	
ICGF Contribution Requested	£70k
Other Funding/Partner Contribution	N/A
<p>Is this Other Funding/Partner Contribution approved? Yes/No</p> <p>Please note evidence will be required to be submitted.</p>	
Justification for use of ICGF	The provision of decorative lighting within the City Centre has been seen as a fundamental benefit to the

Funds (with focus on the benefit for the residents of the Burgh of Inverness)	City community for many generations. With the investments being made in the Victorian Market and Inverness Castle, the phased improvement of the current lighting units, many of which date from the 1990s underlines the commitment of the ICGF to support increased footfall and longer dwell times within the City Centre.
Signature	David Haas Inverness City Area Manager
Service Budget Holder Signature	
Date	22 August 2022