

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CC/09/24

The Highland Council

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 20 May 2024

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund – Assessment of Application from Ringfenced Funding

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for several funds that are available for communities/organisations to access in Highland. At present it comprises elements of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund along with the Highland Coastal Communities Fund and the Place Based Investment Programme, both of which are Scottish Government Funding streams to support economic regeneration and sustainable development in Highland. Area Committees are awarded devolved allocations according to approved formulae and decision making on which projects should receive funding sits with elected Members.
- 1.2 At Caithness Committee on 13 November 2023 Members agreed to ringfence £50,000 of Community Regeneration Funding allocated to Caithness, towards a project linked to ongoing regeneration works within Wick Town Centre.
- 1.3 An application has now been submitted for consideration, and technically assessed by the Community Regeneration Fund team.
- 1.4 To aid Members in their decision making, the following appendices are provided to this report:-
- **Appendix 1** – Project Application Form; and
 - **Appendix 2** – Technical Assessment RAG Summary

RAG status on key criteria is based on the application form and supplementary information provided from the applicant. The application presented is technically eligible – if any criteria are marked as red this does not indicate an eligibility concern but reflects the quality of information provided or outstanding requirements that may require technical conditions to be applied to any award of funding.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Consider** the application presented and agree whether to approve, defer or reject it. An approval of funding should detail the amount approved and outline any conditions of funding that Members wish to attach to the approval over and above the required technical conditions. A deferral would allow the applicant to resubmit the current application at a future date with updated information or for the project to be approved subject to further funding becoming available. A rejection would mean that the application will not proceed and any future application to the fund should be brought forward initially as a new expression of interest; and
- ii. **Agree** the approved CRF grant award for the application up to the value of the ringfenced funds of £50,000 set aside.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - Caithness have set aside ringfenced funding of £50,000. The application under consideration totals a request of £50,000. Therefore, there are no resource implications in approving the funding award as requested.
- 3.2 **Legal** - When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are assessed/mitigated and any back-to-back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - The focus of the funding is economic recovery, regeneration, and community resilience. Consideration on issues relating to equalities, poverty and rurality are dealt with on an individual basis for applications and covered in the technical assessments of projects.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - Mitigation of the climate/ecological emergency is a specific aim of the CRF funds. All applicants are required to evidence environmental sustainability as referenced in the technical assessments.
- 3.5 **Risk** - A balanced approach to risk is necessary when disbursing grant funds as sometimes it is necessary if a community led project is to proceed, to forward grant payment. Factors such as past knowledge of and project experience of the grant recipient, release of funds related to invoices/works completion certificates etc are considered in such assessments.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.

3.7 **Gaelic** - Consideration given within individual project applications in line with the Council's policy.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 9 May 2024

Author: Fiona Cameron, CRF Programme Manager
Mark Crowe, Project Officer

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Project Application Form
Appendix 2 – Technical Assessment RAG Summary



Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) Application Form (v3 Oct 2023)

Key considerations

Please refer to the [Application Guidance](#) (link below) and [Fair Work First Summary Guidance](#) when completing the application form as there are important supplementary information you need to be aware of. Answer the questions concisely, describing clearly and directly what the project you are seeking funding for is delivering, and the outputs it hopes to achieve. Do not exceed the word limit given as the CRF Team and decision-making group have many applications to assess.

To ensure you have the best opportunity to score well during the assessment, please refer to the [Assessment Criteria Matrix](#) (link below) when completing the application form.

A Fair Work First statement must be provided with the application form - this is applicable for all applicants including those who do not employ staff and/or only work with volunteers.

Supporting documentation must be submitted with the application form (see section 8.2).

Projects must not incur expenditure before the project has been approved.

Please complete the [CRF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#) detailed from page 10 at the end of this form.

When detailing your project budget, ensure that costs are based on recent quotations or price comparisons. Accuracy is crucial, given the current challenges posed by market inflation. We seek well-developed and robust projects that can commence within three months of approval and be completed and claimed within 12 months.

Double click the icons to download:



CRF Assessment
Criteria Matrix.pdf



CRF application
Guidance (v3 Oct 23).pdf

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1	Project reference number	CRF2350
1.2	Organisation	The Highland Council
1.3	Project title	Wick Town Centre Regeneration Project
1.4	Project summary you wish to be funded (max 100 words)	Infrastructure repair and improvement works to enhance the appeal of the town centre of Wick. The aim is to help attract increased numbers of locals and visitors, to boost the economy of the town centre, creating a travel hub at the riverside area of the town centre. This will continue to build on recognised investment to date and to add to the other projects that are in place to improve the town centre of Wick as a

		package / suite of projects that will contribute to a more vibrant town centre.	
1.5	Project costs	Total project cost	£68,000
		Match funding	£18,000
		CRF grant requested	£50,000
1.6	Start date (from 1 st March 2024 unless specified when you're invited to submit a full application)	01/06/2024	
1.7	End date (by 1 st March 2025)	31/03/2025	
1.8	Please confirm you have read and understood the CRF privacy notice	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.9	Please choose ONE main strategic objective the project will meet (see Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for definitions at the end of this form)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing community resilience
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling poverty and inequality
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Addressing causes of rural depopulation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Helping economic recovery and sustaining growth
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling the climate emergency and working towards net zero

SECTION 2: CONTACT AND ORGANISATION DETAILS

2.1	Organisation	The Highland Council	
2.2	Address and postcode	Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. IV3 5NX	
2.3	Main contact name	Phil Tomalin	
2.4	Position in the organisation	Community Development Manager	
2.5	Contact number		
2.6	Email address		
2.7	Website address	www.highland.gov.uk	
2.8	Organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/>	Company limited by guarantee
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Constituted group
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public body
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity
		<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIO
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):
2.9	Organisation registered number	SO304257	
2.10	Is the organisation VAT registered?	By confirming this, you are declaring the organisation VAT status as per HMRC. If this changes at any time during the project, you must	

		notify the CRF Team as this may affect the offer of grant. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.11	If the organisation is VAT registered, please provide the number.	GB663758203
2.12	Is the VAT related to the project being reclaimed from HMRC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole
		<input type="checkbox"/> Partial
		<input type="checkbox"/> None
2.13	Provide details of VAT exemptions.	

SECTION 3: PROJECT DETAILS

3.1	Please confirm the location of the project including post code.	Various sites within Wick Town Centre
3.2	Are you applying on behalf of a partnership project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Is there a partnership agreement in place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Is your organisation the lead applicant?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Do you own the land or asset?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Are you leasing the land or asset?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.7	If ownership or lease agreements are not in place, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	
3.8	Does the project require planning permission or other statutory regulatory consents?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	If consents are required, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	The areas of works come within the control or ownership of the Local Roads Authority, who will be undertaking or overseeing the works

SECTION 4: THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

4.1 List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales. Projects must be completed and fully claimed by 1st March 2025.

Activity name	Achieve by (date)
Resurfacing of St Fergus Road with traffic calming measures	31/03/2025
Resurfacing of Pathways at the Riverside area with level access kerbing	31/03/2025
Demarcation of taxi ranks and other parking such as coach parking bays	31/03/2025
Other associated works as required	31/03/2025

4.2 Please describe the project, explaining how it will achieve at least one of the funds' strategic objectives selected in 1.9, and which outputs it hopes to achieve as listed in the CRF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework at the end of this form.

Addressing causes of rural depopulation – a number of local organisations as well as the local community want to see investment in the amenity of the local town centre to make the place more attractive. This will help to strengthen a sense of community, to also strengthen the appeal of the local town centre and to support the town centre as a travel hub that supports not only the town's urban and suburban communities but also the rural communities. This creates a greater sense of community well-being with place-based investment supporting the sustainability of local population.

Helping economic recovery and sustaining growth – investment in the local amenity of the town centre, as part of a suite of projects seeks to strengthen a sense of place will support increased footfall, encouraging people to stay and spend longer periods of time in the town centre. Together with the suite of other projects, this will encourage local people and visitors especially to support the local businesses in the town centre, contributing to economic recovery within the town centre and to support businesses in becoming more sustainable.

4.3 How will the project benefit local communities or the local economy?

The Ancillary Works project will benefit the local community in the following way:

The town of Wick has over 7,500 residents, is a community hub for the surrounding local rural area of East Caithness and, with the considerable increase in the number of visitors due to the popularity of the NC500 and the increase in staycation visitors has been seeing investment in the infrastructure to maximise the economic benefit all of this can provide for the town centre economy.

One of the key visions for Wick is to regenerate the town centre. Many projects have already been put in place to do this including the renovation of the public convenience at Whitechapel Road; the full resurfacing and restoration of the Riverside Car Park; the purchase and demolition of buildings; installation of art works as part of the Sustrans "Pocket Lanes" project and a number of other minor projects.

There are however a number of ancillary works that, together, contribute to a project that enhances the look of the town centre and that Highland Council, due to resource and finance pressures are unable to deliver and won't be able to deliver in the foreseeable future.

However, by engaging a number of organisations including the local Community Council and various departments and officers at Highland Council including Criminal Justice Community Payback, and local Members, a number of small projects that enhance the area have been completed.

This phase of the project will see the remaining ancillary works completed to support the regeneration of the town centre, improve the amenity of the town centre, improve access to essential public facilities, provide a safer and more secure environment, contribute to the focus of developing the area as a travel hub and to provide a sustainable and more commercially viable amenity area for all.

4.4 What local need or opportunity will the project address and has this been recognised in a local plan?

Refer to the supporting plan and spreadsheet.

Travel hub – creating a recognised travel hub supports the Council's and Scottish Government's active travel plans. This will also support local transport initiatives focusing on managing transport requirements within the town centre, providing improved road networks and footpaths, cycle routes and making it easier for visitors and locals to access the town centre amenities, businesses, and services.

Safer and more secure environment – the improved amenities will create a greater sense of security with improved CCTV camera surveillance supporting the projects listed. Improved roads with traffic management measures installed, coach parking, demarcation of taxi ranks, level access for less able persons will all contribute to a greater sense of safety and security.

4.5 How do you know there is local support for the project? How can you evidence this?

Part of the vision for investment in the town centre of Wick and one of the key projects that sits as part of the suite of projects within the portfolio of town centre investment is the Wick Street Design project. The consultations held with many of the local people clearly evidenced the desire of local people to see investment in their town centre.

This was reported in the local press and can be viewed online here:

<https://wickstreetdesign.commonplace.is/>

With responses to feedback in particular here:

<https://wickstreetdesign.commonplace.is/en-GB/news/responding-to-your-feedback>

Increasingly there has been a consideration by the public that they would wish to see increased funding to improve the state of disrepair of the roads and footpaths in the town centre. Whilst this project does not look to fund the repair of roads, it seeks to supplement and bring additionality and significant improvement to the current road and footpath network within the town centre of Wick and in the Riverside Area of the town centre in particular. This will significantly improve safety and security with additional traffic calming measures, and the demarcation of vehicular access and

parking. This compliments the Council's work where the Council would not be able to deliver the additionality itself because of constraints within its budget to only undertake essential priority repairs.

4.6 How will the project be supported/maintained/sustained after CRF funding?

The Wick Development Trust, the Local Community Council, Local Council Members, and a number of third sector organisations are committed to continuing the vision of investment of redevelopment, redesign and regeneration of our local town centre. The Highland Council will provide services to support the sustainability of the project within the budget of its support services. Other organisations will support the sustainability of the amenities within the scope of their operation.

4.7 What will be the lasting benefits and legacy?

The lasting benefit will include improved amenity and visual appearance, an improved travel hub, improved access to services and facilities within the town centre, a reduction in maintenance costs and increased lifespan of the infrastructure, and an improved sense of place and community well-being.

4.8 Describe how you intend to mitigate negative environmental impacts that may arise in delivering the project. It may be that the project specifically seeks to address climate change issues or implement net zero ambitions/solutions.


The project supports active travel, through improved facilities for walking, cycling and wheeling. The project also supports accessing amenities for play and exercise at the Wick Riverside – popular with walkers, runners, children seeking access to play parks, parking to have pedestrian access to services and facilities within the town.

The travel hub seeks to improve access to local bus transport with an improved town centre bus stance and support facilities / amenities for visitors at the Wick riverside.


4.9 In developing the project, explain how you have considered equalities issues and taken groups with protected characteristics into account in the development/delivery of the project. How will you ensure that no one is excluded or disadvantaged from benefitting from the project? Will the project target specific groups for example?

A number of initiatives have been taken to address equality:

- Lowered and level access considerations within the provision of amenities where appropriate
- Disabled access and facilities considered where appropriate within the suite of projects being delivered
- Increased safety and security through the additional CCTV cameras that are now part of the town centre CCTV system
- Increased access for bus users and local transport users, increased provision for various types of vehicles within the town
- The projects will continue to consider equality issues where appropriate

4.10	<p>All applicants are required to provide a statement how the organisation is committed to advancing the Fair Work First Policy including the 'Real Living Wage' and 'Effective Workers Voice' criteria. The statement should be agreed jointly by the employer and an appropriate workplace representative or a trade union representative if one is in place.</p> <p>This statement is applicable to all groups and organisations even if you do not employ staff and/or only work with volunteers. Projects cannot progress without a signed statement - refer to the Fair Work First guidance for more information. Complete the following Fair Work First Statement and Declaration form and submit with the application. Double click the icon to download.</p>  <p>FWF statement and declaration template.c</p>
<p>Have you provided a Fair Work First statement in a separate document with this application? Please ensure it is signed by an appropriate workplace representative.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Can you confirm if you have the Living Wage Accreditation and/or planning to be certified.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Applied <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Is the Fair Work First statement on your organisation website?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not have a website <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>How many people do you employ or how many volunteers do you have?</p>	<p>Circa 12,000</p>
<p>Do you currently pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>As part of your procurement assessment process, do you ensure that traders/suppliers pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>How do you provide channels for Effective Voice in the workplace for staff and/or volunteers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line Management Relationship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff /Engagement Surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suggestions Schemes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intranet/Online Platforms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Forums / Networks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Recognition/Collective Bargaining

SECTION 5: PROJECT BUDGET

5.1	Main project expenditure – costs should be as accurate and current as possible from recent quotations or price comparisons. Please refer to the guidance note on eligible expenditure and only complete the overheads and management fees summary where you would like to claim more than 10% of costs.		
	 CRF overheads and management fees sum		
Budget Heading	Detailed costs	Revenue/Capital	Amount
Construction	Road and Footway Improvement Works	Capital	£68,000
Total revenue expenditure			£0.00
Total capital expenditure			£68,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST			£68,000.00
VAT included in these costs?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Reasonableness of cost - please explain how you have obtained project costs listed in 5.1. These should be from recent price comparisons or quotations but if you have not been able to achieve this, explain how costs were developed.	The works have been measured and assessed by the locally based Roads Team, and as such the prices are based on current labour, plant and material prices.	
5.3	Please explain how your project will achieve value for money.	Additionality – with the current revenue and capital budgets available to Highland Council they would only be able to undertake essential priority repairs. CRF will allow enhanced works and the additionality to Wick Town Centre Regeneration.	

SECTION 6 – MATCH FUNDING

6.1	Match funding details – All projects must start within three months of approval.		
Name of funder	Confirmed	Date confirmed or expected	Amount £
Highland Council	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	April 2024	£18,000
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
			Total match funding	£18,000
			CRF requested	£50,000
			Total project cost	£68,000
6.2	Will the project involve “in kind” support?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3	If yes, please detail.		Various items of works within the Regeneration Plan have and will be undertaken by local volunteers, such as cleaning and repainting of street furniture.	
6.4	Please explain why public funding is required to deliver the project.		Highland Council budgets within Roads currently only allow for essential priority repairs. Public Funding from CRF will allow additional works to contribute towards the town centre regeneration.	
6.5	Please explain what the remaining bank balances are for in your accounts.		N/A	
6.6	Please explain why unrestricted funding in your annual accounts cannot be used to deliver the project and/or used as match funding.		N/A	

SECTION 7 – INCOME GENERATION

7.1	Will the project generate income?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.2	If yes, how will the income benefit the organisation? Will it be re-invested to help with the sustainability of the project – if so, how? A copy of a business plan and/or budget forecast must be provided with the application.	N/A
7.3	How will you ensure that local organisations/businesses are not disadvantaged because of the project? Are they supportive of the project?	The local community, the local community council and local businesses have been keen to see the regeneration of the town centre. Local Members were elected on the basis of committing to the regeneration of the town centre and are fully supportive of the project. The regeneration of the town centre has been featured and covered in local press articles over recent months and years.

7.4	Have you considered taking out a loan for the project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.5	If not, please state why?	Members discretion on use of funds – a loan would be inappropriate
7.6	Have you previously received public funding?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.7	If yes, please provide details of awards for the last 3 fiscal years and if any were awarded under Public Subsidy.	

Funding	Date	Amount £	Public Subsidy?
Wick Whitechapel Public Toilets	23/02/2022	£50,000.00	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wick Whitechapel Public Toilets	01/03/2023	£134,098.41	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Click or tap to enter a date.	£	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 8 – SIGNATURE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

8.1 Main applicant, chairperson or equivalent – the person signing this application has the authority within the organisation to apply for grant funding.

I declare that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the guidance notes and understand and accept the terms and conditions noted within them.

The data provided in the application (and claim) forms are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Signature: Phil Tomalin (signed electronically)

Date:
07/05/2024

Print: PHIL TOMALIN

8.2	You must enclose the following supporting documents (where applicable) with the application. If they are not available, please state why.	Yes / No / Not applicable
1	CRF Monitoring & Evaluation framework (page 9 below)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Bank statement – please provide a full bank statement with the organisation address. It must be the latest statement at the time of application submission.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Annual financial accounts – latest available.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Constitution or articles and memorandum.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Committee Members or Directors List.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

6	Policies – relevant organisational policies applicable to the project such as child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities, Fair Work First policy.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Valid organisation insurance policy.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Evidence of need and demand i.e. letters of support, community consultation reports, photos, feasibility study	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Confirmation of match funding letters	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Permissions – i.e. planning, building warrants, marine licences	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
11	Business plan (income generation projects only)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
12	Job descriptions (for CRF funded posts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
13	Evidence of control/ownership of asset – i.e. lease, title deeds	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
14	Partnership agreement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for missing documentation:		

Completed forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk quoting your unique project reference number. Please ensure you have labelled the supporting documents as per 8.2 of the guidance note:

The application form should follow the naming convention example:
CRF0123 – (Name of organisation) final application form

Supporting documentation should be labelled as: **document type followed with the title** – for example:

- Match funding – The Highland Council
- Match funding – National Lottery
- Insurance – Zurich 2022/23 annual policy
- Organisational policy – health and safety
- Organisational policy – Fair Work First statement
- Permissions – Planning granted July 2022
- Permissions – Building warrant granted Aug 2022
- Bank statement – Bank of Scotland Nov 2022
- Letter of support – name of Councillor
- Letter of support – community council/group
- Letter of support – name of local business

Appendix 2 - Technical Assessment RAG Summary Spreadsheet

CRF ref	Organisation	Project title	Project description	Total project cost	Grant Requested	CRF % rate	Project Robustness	Engagement & Support	Meeting a need/demand	Legacy & Exit Strategy	Equalities issues/ impacts	Environmental sustainability	Value for Money	Match funding	Meets Local Priorities	Additionality	Score	Officer assessment comments
CRF2350	The Highland Council	Wick Town Centre Regeneration Project	Infrastructure repair and improvement works to enhance the appeal of the town centre of Wick. The aim is to help attract increased numbers of locals and visitors, to boost the economy of the town centre, creating a travel hub at the riverside area of the town centre. This will continue to build on recognised investment to date and to add to the other projects that are in place to improve the town centre of Wick as a package / suite of projects that will contribute to a more vibrant town centre.	£68,000.00	£50,000.00	74%	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	26	The applicants project fits into a jigsaw of projects under the aims of Wick Town Centre Regeneration. Whilst funding has been identified for essential and urgent repairs to footways and access roads, this is part of a wider budget for Caithness and can not cover the wider aspirations of improving the whole sections and the aesthetics of the town centre. Whilst the application offers a costs and an explanation this budget cost has been arrived at from officers with knowledge of the cost of works, if approved, members may be minded to condition a more detailed breakdown in a costed schedule of works as a pre-start condition.

All projects are given a rating of red, amber or green against key assessment criteria. As part of the application paperwork applicants are made aware of the criteria for these. These ratings are then converted into scores as follows: Red = 1; Amber = 2; Green = 3. This allows a total score for each project to be provided. Ratings are based on information provided during the application process and are provided as a guide only.

All projects presented are eligible but if Members wish to approve projects that have red or amber ratings it would usually suggest that additional conditions will be attached to the award to address these concerns.