

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	12b
Report No	CIA/19/24

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 27 May 2024

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

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current applications for grant funding over £10,000 to be determined.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee considered all applications on their merits and, as there were sufficient funds to meet awards under the 'Poverty and Inequality' and 'Other' Grants category, were able to proceed as usual. As there were insufficient funds under the Conference Funding Grants category, the Sub-Committee considered each grant award in principle and then reduced the grant proposed in each case, pro-rata to allow the grant awards to fall in line with the available budget. The awards in the Conference Funding Category were then agreed.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Consider the applications for funding.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

Funding is provided by the Inverness Common Good Fund budget for 2024/25. Members are reminded that the overall Grants Budget was reduced from £0.275m in 2022/23 to £0.161m. In addition, the budget was allocated with £0.121m for Poverty and Inequality projects and £0.040m for all other requests. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee (The Sub-Committee) have taken steps to carefully assess each application as to which category it falls to ensure proper allocation of funds takes place.

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. The ringfencing of funds specifically to address poverty and inequality will have a positive equality and socio-economic impact.

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 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)**

Consideration will be given to ensuring that appropriate standards are applied to any projects that are approved for grant support come at all in terms of Council policy.

3.7 **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 Sub-Committee meeting on 22 April 2024 is set out in **Appendix 1**.

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

1. **Poverty & Inequality Grant Applications**

- i. **Inverness Blitz:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £16,000 from the Poverty and Inequality Budget towards the Highland Youth Empowerment Program.
- ii. **UHI Inverness:** The Sub-Committee recommend refusal of a grant of £23,145 towards the Caring Conversations Project. The Sub-Committee felt that the project would be more appropriately funded from UHI core funding.
- iii. **UHI Inverness:** The Sub-Committee recommend refusal of a grant of £14,000 towards a Community Food Larder. The Sub-Committee felt there was insufficient community benefit and that it would set a precedent which would not be sustainable.

2. **Conference Funding Applications**

- i. **Hands Up for Trad:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £8,110 from the Conference Funding Budget towards the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards or Na Trads. Members are asked to note that a pro-rata reduction was applied to all successful grant applications in this category due to the limited budget available.

3. **Partnership Working Applications**

- i. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £20,000 towards the promotion of Inverness for Business Events. Members are asked to note that this application is recurring, and the sum requested should have been included within the structure of the ICGF Budget when it had been approved by the Committee in February 2024. If Members were minded to approve it would be from ICGF Reserves.
- ii. **Inverness BID/Visit Inverness Loch Ness:** as there were insufficient funds remaining in the Partnership Working budget the Sub-Committee were unable to consider this application.

4. Other Properties

- i. **Inverness Sea Cadets:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £20,000 towards building fabric improvements.
- ii. **Apex Scotland:** The Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of £17,096 towards the Apex Scotland Challenge Team.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

Date: 29 April 2024

Author: David Haas, Senior Community Development Officer, Inverness and South

Background Papers:

Appendices:

APPENDIX 1

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

£

Budget Balance Available

Poverty & Inequality			121,000	
Other			40,000	161,000

Carry Forward from 2023/24

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	50,125		
	Grants > £10k	<u>32,500</u>	82,625	
Other	Grants < £10k	63,627		
	Grants > £10k	<u>62,500</u>	<u>126,127</u>	208,752
				369,752

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)	Grants < £10k	113,752		
	Grants > £10k	<u>95,000</u>	208,752	161,000

22/04/24 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Poverty & Inequality	Grants < £10k	27,613		
Other	Grants < £10k	<u>33,239</u>	60,852	100,148

20/05/24 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval

Poverty & Inequality	Grants > £10k	16,000	16,000	84,148
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Poverty & Inequality Grants 121,000

22/04/24 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

	Grants < £10k	27,613	27,613	93,387
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Inverness Common Good Fund - Conference Funding Grants
Available Resource for Allocation

£

Budget Balance Available	24,000	
Carry Forward from 2023/24	<u>9,600</u>	33,600

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)			<u>9,600</u>	24,000
22/04/24 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants < £10k	12,400	12,400	11,600
20/05/24 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval				
	Grants < £10k	8,110	8,110	3,490

Inverness Common Good Fund - Partnership Working Grants**Available Resource for Allocation**

£

Budget Balance Available		143,000
Carry Forward from 2023/24	19,046	162,046

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for Meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)			19,046	143,000
20/05/24 City of Inverness Area Committee	Grants < £10k	9,700		
	Grants > £10k	<u>122,915</u>	132,615	10,385
22/04/24 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Grants < £10k	10,000	10,000	385
20/05/24 City of Inverness Area Committee - Recommended for Approval	Grants > £10k	<u>20,000</u>	20,000	-19,615