

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	7
Report No	SR/3/25

Committee: Isle of Skye and Raasay

Date: 17 February 2025

Report Title: Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To present current funding requests to the Isle of Skye & Raasay Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) allocation for discussion and decision by Members.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Consider** the CRF applications presented and agree whether to approve, defer or reject each application. 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 an 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 each application up to the value of the available area allocation.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - Isle of Skye and Raasay has a remaining balance of £26,370.74 from the 2023/24 CRF allocation. Applications under consideration total £15,900 therefore there are no resource implications in approving the CRF funding award as requested. There is also sufficient income available within the parking income to meet this request.

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 **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 advance 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.
- 3.4 **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.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - No risks arising directly from this report. Risks within projects are identified and managed on a project-by-project basis by the applicant organisation.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 A separate screening for impact for each application is not required, however consideration of impacts for equalities, socio-economic impact and consideration of the impact on the individual community is part of the assessment criteria and included within the assessment report. This supports the decision-making process.

5 Background

- 5.1 Community Regeneration Funding is an umbrella term for a number of funds that are available for communities/organisations to access in Highland. 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.
- 5.2 Broad eligibility criteria for the fund is as follows:-

All projects are expected to be able to meet at least one of the following priorities:-

- economic recovery;
- community resilience;
- mitigating the impact of the climate/ecological emergency; or
- addressing the challenges of rural depopulation

Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are:-

- sustainable/viable;
- providing value for money;
- providing additionality; and
- able to evidence positive impacts and wide community benefit

5.3 Within Isle of Skye and Raasay, the following 2023/24 funding table highlights the commitment to-date and the funding remaining available for investment:-

CRF 23/24 allocation	£500,572.83
Awarded to-date	£636,234.34*
Funding remaining	£26,370.74

*includes reallocated amounts generated through underspends

One application is under consideration with a total grant request value of £15,900.

5.4 To aid Members in their decision making, the following appendices are provided to this report:-

- **Appendix 1** – Project Application Form; and
- **Appendix 2** - RAG Summary Spreadsheet

RAG status on key criteria is based on the application form and supplementary information provided during the application process. All applications presented are 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 will require technical conditions to be applied to any award of funding.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 31 January 2025

Author: Fiona Cameron, CRF Programme Manager
Marie-Anne Gray, Project Officer

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Project Application Form
Appendix 2 – Project 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	CRF2358
1.2	Organisation	John Muir Trust
1.3	Project title	Blà Bheinn Visitor Facilities
1.4	Project summary you wish to be funded (max 100 words)	The John Muir Trust are proposing to update the existing green toilet facility at Blà Bheinn to accommodate an unprecedented increase in visitor usage. An existing cattle grid and fencing also require replacing to ensure safe access for users upon entrance to the site. These facilities have become overused and

		degraded due to the increasing number of vehicles using the site for day and overnight stops.	
1.5	Project costs	Total project cost	£42,156.00
		Match funding	£26,256.00
		CRF grant requested	£15,900.00
1.6	Start date (<i>from 1st March 2024 unless specified when you're invited to submit a full application</i>)	18/02/2025	
1.7	End date (<i>by 1st March 2025</i>)	30/04/2025	
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 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	John Muir Trust	
2.2	Address and postcode	Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN	
2.3	Main contact name	John Macrae	
2.4	Position in the organisation	Skye Property Manager	
2.5	Contact number		
2.6	Email address		
2.7	Website address	https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/	
2.8	Organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/>	Company limited by guarantee
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Constituted group
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Public body
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charity
		<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIO
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):
2.9	Organisation registered number	SC002061	
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 <u>must</u>	

		notify the CRF Team as this may affect the offer of grant. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11	If the organisation is VAT registered, please provide the number.	
2.12	Is the VAT related to the project being reclaimed from HMRC?	<input type="checkbox"/> Whole
		<input type="checkbox"/> Partial
		<input checked="" 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.	Blà Bheinn Car Park B8083, Isle of Skye IV49 9AU
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.9	If consents are required, please provide details if applied and/or the arrangements to obtain these and by when.	Planning - 18/04309/FUL Decided 21/10/2018 Building Warrant - 23/01906/NDOM6 Approved 09/01/24

SECTION 4: THE PROJECT PROPOSAL		
4.1	List the main activities to deliver the project including timescales.	
	Activity name	Achieve by (date)
	Materials on site	31/03/2025

Installation	30/04/2025
	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Click or tap to enter a date.

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.

Word limit 850

The John Muir Trust manages a car park at the foot of the Munro Blà Bheinn, in the Strathaird area of Skye, which open to the public 24hrs a day and 365 days a year. The car park has a capacity for thirty-four cars and ten campervans, and it is common for visitors to sleep in vehicles within the car park overnight. The car park regularly reaches capacity, particularly during the summer months due to an influx of visitors on Skye. In recent years, visitor numbers have increased significantly leading to the overuse of the site's compost toilet facilities and cattle grid, the latter of which is nearing non-functional use.



Public toilets in the area are understandably scarce, with the nearest facilities being at Elgol, a 20-minute drive South, and the larger more populated town of Broadford (a 20-minute drive from Blà Bheinn in the opposite direction). The current toilet system on site is designed to work effectively for up to 4,000 uses per year, averaging at only 11 uses per day. However, the toilets are receiving significantly more usage than their capacity; a people counter on the toilet door indicates that more than 30 people use the facilities each day, equating to over 11,000 uses per year. Consequently, human waste is building up in the toilet systems, having not had safe decomposition time before the vaults reach their limit and need to be emptied. The presence of non-decomposed human

faeces and unhygienic conditions pose a risk for the member of JMT staff who is responsible for emptying the toilet vaults. Since the Trust is forced to bury some non-decomposed human faeces yet to be pure compost, we are also at risk of breaching environmental regulatory law concerning the treatment of solid waste from composting toilets.

The high volume of toilet waste means it is commonplace for holes to be dug to bury the waste, which only serves to scar the natural landscape and take away from its beauty. As the land around the toilet and car park is not a suitable disposal site, it is required that the waste is transported along a public road in a hired trailer – posing additional hygienic and reputational risks. Additionally, and due to inappropriate use by visitors, plastic waste that has been discarded down the toilet is also being buried.

The existing cattle grid at the entrance to the carpark, is more than 20 years old and has suffered greatly over the last few years from increasing usage. Its metal bars are bent and buckled, while fixing points have become stressed. This has resulted in a very noisy and unsafe entry point into the car park.

Proposal

Blà Bheinn toilets require the introduction of a septic tank system. The proposed septic tank system has capacity for 100 flushes per day, against a current use of 30-40 flushes per day. The proposal is therefore future proofed against usage up to 300% of current levels. Early indications suggest the septic tank would not need emptying like a conventional domestic tank would: the site has a much lower-than-average water usage compared to a domestic property as there are no showers, baths etc, and it uses a limited range of detergents.

Concurrently, JMT would like to replace and upgrade the cattle grid in order to secure the long-term access to the site, which must be capable of accommodating an increasing number of larger vehicles.

Ground assessment and architectural plans have been received for the septic tank system, which can be seen in the attached documents. We have also received planning permission and quotations for the work (see financials section), and it is expected that the project can be completed within 2 months. JMT are targeting a completion by the end of April 2025, in time for the summer season, subject to funding.

Match Funding has already been secured through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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

How have people and businesses in the local community been involved in planning and developing your project?

Local opinion (Strathaird Peninsula and Skye as a whole) and concerns over a lack of sanitary provision on the Strathaird Peninsula have been raised through many channels to the Trust - both directly and indirectly and from a variety of stakeholders, ranging from business owners, crofters to dog walkers. If funding can be raised for the project and a new septic tank system installed at Blà Bheinn car parks, this will address the problem directly for the local community and help mitigate against negative impacts resulting from the increased visitor numbers to the area. Subsequently,

the area will remain an attractive and idyllic location, helping to promote Skye as a wild destination, and ensuring the continuation of tourists to the area – boosting the local economy.

The JMT already has an established volunteering programme, and this project will continue to support a Volunteer Ranger opportunity, monitoring the usage and effectiveness of the site. The project creates an opportunity for schools and students to learn about how local environmental/community issues can be tackled in a sustainable way (which can be included as part of the John Muir Award or Duke of Edinburgh Award) e.g. learn about compostable toilets as a low-impact and sustainable facility for visitor management. Additional stakeholders who will benefit from the improved car parking facilities, toilet upgrades and better health and safety parameters include the UHI, rural skills course providers, and forestry operators.

The project will provide a host of JMT volunteering opportunities for a range of people to get involved in, working to improve local people's relationship with their environment by creating a sense of place, and providing an example of how collaborative action can bring positive change. The upgraded facilities will encourage more visitors and locals to use the site - encouraging an active community of people connected by their positive experiences of Blà Bheinn and better access to the outdoors for walking, orienteering, wildlife watching, and well-being benefits.

The existing project already supports a local workforce from Skye through the provision of JMT staff (maintenance and cleaning). Moreover, the upgrade of the facilities required the use of local architects for design and will also support local construction workforces – JMT's preferred route for installation. Materials will be sought locally where possible, showing an investment in the local area and a wide range of support for local businesses. In the long-term, the project will continue to attract visitors to the south of Skye which will have a positive knock-on effect to surrounding villages, towns and wider local economy.

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

Word limit 400

Public conveniences play a vital role in shaping the visitor experience and provide an essential commodity for visitors. Good provision across the island, in some cases, will determine whether a visitor will return to a destination or positively recommend a destination to others. They also help prevent unwanted behaviours around outdoor toileting on the island by supporting a wider network of facilities across the island.

While the project was complete in 2019, the project supports the ambitions of the local area place plan 'Skye and Raasay Futures'. The project is mentioned in the document as an infrastructural project required to develop the islands capacity for providing essential tourism facilities, in support of our visitors. The project is also noted as previously supported activity in The Highland Council's Highland Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan delivering key tourism infrastructure priorities in Highland.

The project also supports the Highland-wide Local Development plan by encouraging Highland to 'be a place of outstanding natural and cultural heritage - heritage assets including the landscape and wildlife will have been safeguarded and enhanced.'

4.5	How do you know there is local support for the project? How can you evidence this?
<p>Word limit 400</p> <p>This project is based on historical John Muir Trust work with the community. Local opinion and needs have been discussed within community meetings, and the JMT's land team on Skye maintain day to day contact with local people as part of their role remit. Collaboration has already taken place with relative stakeholders (local and Island wide) such as Nature Scot, Community Councils, and the local Destination Organisation Group, like Skye Connect. This was required to decipher priorities for the area, help bring the correct incentives and identify opportunities for businesses in the surrounding area. The project received written positive correspondence in the initial build from the Local Community Association, Mountain Bothy Association, Skye Guides, and local residents and walkers.</p> <p>Staff of the Trust's land management team continue to join Strathaird and Torrin community meetings and other boards to update them on JMT projects. A staff presence on Skye means there is also day to day opportunities to exchange ideas and act as a sound board for the local community.</p>	
4.6	How will the project be supported/maintained/sustained after CRF funding?
<p>Word limit 500</p> <p>The John Muir Trust will be responsible for the future maintenance of the site as owners of the land. Site patrol will form part of this role, with a patrol and maintenance plan to be devised. The Skye Conservation Officer will have direct responsibility over the site, which will be maintained by themselves and local volunteers. Recurrent work will involve cleaning toilets (local employment opportunity supported by donation post income), emptying donation boxes, general maintenance and tidying of the grounds, and observation and provision of up-to-date information. Sporadic work will involve impromptu wooden building and car park maintenance, as well as treatment of wooden structures. Any longer-term maintenance work would call for a local labour if volunteer skill is insufficient.</p> <p>The Trust also work jointly with Mountain Bothies Association to help clear up litter/waste left from Skye Trail users, with collaboration on how to best inform best practice.</p>	
4.7	What will be the lasting benefits and legacy?
<p>Word limit 500</p> <p>The visitors, including walker's, motorhome users, and campers, will benefit by being able to use accessible, hygienic and sustainable toilet facilities (fit to manage the correct capacity), making the site a more positive and attractive place. The natural environment will benefit from the facilities, as high volumes of non-decomposed human waste will not need to be buried locally or transported for disposal across Skye. Residents will benefit from this project through improved visitor experience and increased footfall to the area (likely boosting local economic benefits), local employment opportunities and community engagement/achievement. Additionally, the facilities will mitigate against the misuse of facilities and degradation of the landscape, helping to preserve an idyllic wild area of Scotland.</p>	

There will be immediate local work for the planning and building phase of the project - the Trusts preference is to use a local contractor, employing local staff and materials to deliver the project where possible.

There is scope to collaborate and share best practice developments with Campervan hire business's and to be part of a Skye or Highland wide development of a code of conduct for motor vehicles, with the information board and JMT social media being instrumental in this.

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.

Word limit 500

The car park is within an NSA and in keeping with JMT principles, the facility upgrades will continue to blend with the natural landscape as much as possible.

The John Muir Trust would like resources to be sourced locally where possible and for locally skilled people to be involved in building and maintaining the site, including local volunteer rangers for future work and research. The project will serve as an example of sustainable approaches for toilet car park facilities around Scotland that are low impact and built to last.

All work is carried out sensitively and as far in keeping with the natural environment as possible. Appropriate native grass and flower seed will be sown, and trees replanted in key areas where vegetation has been removed. This practice aligns with the JMT's Mission Statement to enhance natural landscapes for generations to come. It forms part of a wider JMT Management plan to ensure both short and long term solutions for associated visitor use are sought, and assets continue to be invested in and improved over time.

The Trust will also use social media as a way of reaching visitors and community members to share best practice guidance 'in advance' when advertising hot spots (e.g. long-distance trail users). Any environmental issues, like fire hazards or access issues can be addressed on notice boards, in addition to seasonal fauna to look out for. Signage and interpretation panels on site already educate visitors by informing them of best practice and local disposal sites in the area. This should have a positive knock-on effect for local business as it will encourage non-resident campers to use designated sites to dispose of their waste.

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?

Word limit 500

In the original build of the toilets the Trust worked closely with Nature Scot over the design of the project to make sure it is in keeping with the surrounding environment and the local disability access panel for challenges on accessibility. As there is no formal change to the access of the toilets and only underground work is taking place, it is not expected there will be disadvantages to any groups

using the facilities. Doors to the facilities for example already cater for wheelchair access and have provision inside to cater for users with needs. This project is for all residents, businesses and visitors to Skye.



4.10 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.

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.




FWF statement and declaration template.c

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.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you confirm if you have the Living Wage Accreditation and/or planning to be certified.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applied <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Fair Work First statement on your organisation website?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not have a website <input type="checkbox"/>
How many people do you employ or how many volunteers do you have?	
Do you currently pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
As part of your procurement assessment process, do you ensure that traders/suppliers pay the Real Living Wage hourly rate?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>How do you provide channels for Effective Voice in the workplace for staff and/or volunteers?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Line Management Relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Staff /Engagement Surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestions Schemes <input type="checkbox"/> Intranet/Online Platforms <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Forums / Networks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Recognition/Collective Bargaining
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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 sur

Budget Heading	Detailed costs	Revenue/Capital	Amount
<i>Materials (Toilets)</i>	<i>Waste Treatment Tank and associated piping</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>14,400</i>
<i>Installation (Toilets)</i>	<i>Installation of treatment tank</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>7,440</i>
<i>Materials (entrance system)</i>	<i>Cattle Grid and associated fencing</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>11,856.00</i>
<i>Labour and Plant Hire (entrance)</i>	<i>Installation of cattle grid and fencing</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
<i>JMT Management Time</i>	<i>Project Management</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>3,280.00</i>
<i>Contingencies</i>	<i>Project Contingency</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>2,180.00</i>
Total revenue expenditure			£3,280.00
Total capital expenditure			£38,876.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST			£42,156.00
Is VAT included in these costs?			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

VAT included in these costs? Yes No

5.2	Reasonableness of cost - please explain how you have obtained project costs listed in 5.1.	We work closely with tradespeople who live on or near our properties, these relationships have been built over a number of years on differing projects, using local trades and suppliers ensures carbon
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	These should be from recent price comparisons or quotations but if you have not been able to achieve this, explain how costs were developed.	costs associated with projects are kept to the minimum. All Trust expenditure must go through a minimum two stage process designed to ensure value for money and best use of charitable funds. Quotations on work are sought from out with trusted suppliers from time to time , this ensures we test the market effectively.
5.3	Please explain how your project will achieve value for money.	The project has been designed and researched by specialists to ensure goods and materials supplied are of the highest standard and can stand the test of time.

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 £
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	January 25	£26,256.00
	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			£26,256.00
CRF requested			£15,900.00
Total project cost			£
6.2	Will the project involve “in kind” support?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6.3	If yes, please detail.		
6.4	Please explain why public funding is required to deliver the project.	The Trust has suffered significant financial challenges over the last two years, resulting in less reserves available for larger scale projects.	
6.5	Please explain what the remaining bank balances are for in your accounts.	As a charity we are designed to protect the Uks wild places, this involves a multi disciplined	

		approach across several departments which incurs a hefty financial burden.
6.6	Please explain why unrestricted funding in your annual accounts cannot be used to deliver the project and/or used as match funding.	Unrestricted funding is the hardest of all income to generate, this money is used to provide support to the business through staff costs and associated administration

SECTION 7 – INCOME GENERATION

7.1	Will the project generate income?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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.	The site is donation only, and is expected to raise enough income to reinvest back into the maintenance of cleaning of the site.
7.3	How will you ensure that local organisations/businesses are not disadvantaged because of the project? Are they supportive of the project?	The facilities have already been on site since 2019 and were supported by local communities, groups and businesses. It is not expected an increase of capacity at the toilet site or improved entrance will cause any concern or disadvantage to local organisations and businesses.
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?	The JMT has faced financial tests in recent years. The charity has taken steps to address these challenges, including reducing costs and commissioning reviews. The Trust would like to avoid the need for loans in all possible circumstances. In this case, the site simply not generate enough income to pay back a loan as well as maintain and pay for local staff to manage the facility.
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?
Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund	15/02/2019	£65,579	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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"/>
	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:

Print: John Macrae

Date:

30/01/2025

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Constitution or articles and memorandum.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Committee Members or Directors List.	Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Confirmation of match funding letters	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Permissions – i.e. planning, building warrants, marine licences	Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Job descriptions (for CRF funded posts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Evidence of control/ownership of asset – i.e. lease, title deeds	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
14	Partnership agreement	Yes <input checked="" 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 - Project technical assessments - RAG Summary Spreadsheet

Isle of Skye & Raasay Committee - 17 February 2025

Ref No	Organisation	Project title	Project description	Total project cost	Grant Requested	% 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	
2358	John Muir Trust	Blà Bheinn Visitor Facilities	To replace the existing composting toilet facility at Blà Bheinn car park with water based units to accommodate an unprecedented increase in visitor usage. The existing cattle grid and fencing to the entrance of the site also require replacing to ensure safe access for users. These facilities have become overused and degraded due to the increasing number of vehicles using the site for day and overnight stops.	£ 42,156.00	£ 15,900.00	38%	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30

NOTE - RAG assessment criteria scoring. Red Amber Green ratings are based on information provided during the application process and are provided as a guide only. The ratings are converted into scores as follows: Red - 1, Amber - 2, Green - 3. This allows a total score for each project to be provided. All projects presented above are eligible for funding. Where a project has been awarded Red or Amber against any criteria, this does not reflect an eligibility issue but does flag up that there are outstanding concerns, or that only brief information was provided within the application. If Members wish to approve projects that have Red or Amber ratings then we would seek to address these concerns by applying technical conditions to any funding award made.