

Where can I get help and advice?

If you think your idea meets the criteria, you should contact your Ward Manager and your Councillor to discuss it further.

You can find their details on the Highland Council website. They will be able to advise if the service you want to take over is already provided by the Council and whether or not the idea sounds feasible.

If you are a new organisation, Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) can assist you with setting up appropriate structures and governance arrangements.

If your EOI is approved, we can discuss with you whether some support to develop your business plan would be helpful.

Other sources of funding

The Highland Council offers a variety of grants for projects in the Highland area. It is worth considering if you qualify for other sources of funding.

These may be instead of, or in addition to the Community Challenge Fund but it is important that you are applying for the right funding for your project– this will save you a lot of time and effort.

You can find more information about the range of available grants on the Highland Council website:

www.highland.gov.uk

Who has the CCF Helped so far?

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust have taken over the running of the pontoons and public toilets in Kyle of Lochalsh.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company have undertaken the Village Officer role including street cleaning and winter gritting of footpaths.

The Kirkmichael Trust have taken over the derelict kirk buildings at Kirkmichael, turning them into a community and tourist resource.

Examples of services you may be able to provide:

- Toilet maintenance
- Street cleaning
- Grounds maintenance
- Community works
- Care services
- Day care
- Nurseries



Important Dates

There are 4 rounds of applications annually. Please refer to our website for the application dates for this year:

www.highland.gov.uk/challengefund

Contact details

The Highland Council
www.highland.gov.uk
ccfund@highland.gov.uk

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FUND



Empowering our communities



What is the Community Challenge Fund?

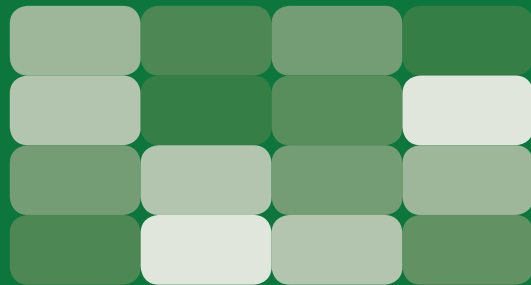
The Highland Council has set aside £1 million to help community groups who wish to help run Council services in their area.

Fund criteria

Could your community group:

- ▶ Deliver a Council service at a lower cost?
- ▶ Provide a higher level of service at the same cost?
- ▶ Reduce the Council's cost for maintaining premises? For example taking over of buildings or assets.
- ▶ Deliver a project which could prevent the need for Council services to be provided or expanded in the future? For example projects which would address rural deprivation and access to services in rural areas, reducing and preventing fuel poverty and supporting employability.

The Community Challenge Fund would provide you with support and funding to help you get started.



Considering your idea

You must be able to demonstrate:

- ▶ How you will benefit your community
- ▶ That there is support for the project in the community
- ▶ That the project would not be achievable without a start-up contribution

Think carefully about your idea to ensure it meets the criteria.

It is important to note that you do not have to take over a service permanently - it could be for a shorter term of around 2 or 3 years as a pilot exercise.

After the pilot there may be an opportunity to take on the service for a longer period, another short term period or for you to 'hand back' the service to the Council if you feel that the arrangement isn't working for your community.

Details like this will be discussed if your application is successful and will be written into a contract (called a Service Level Agreement). This will clearly outline your responsibilities, the Council's responsibilities and also what will happen if something goes wrong.

You should be clear about your aims and how your project will benefit the community. You need to think about how you can show you have the support of the community.

Who can apply?

- ▶ Community Councils
- ▶ New and established community groups
- ▶ Established social enterprises

How do I apply?

If you feel you meet the criteria for the fund, you should complete an Expression of Interest form. This can be found on the Highland Council website, on our Community Challenge Fund pages.

What happens next?

Your Expression of Interest will be considered by senior officers and a Panel of elected members.

If your Expression of Interest is accepted you will be asked to make an application or complete a business plan. We can offer advice and support with this application.

If you are unsuccessful you will receive feedback and advice regarding your Expression of Interest. You are welcome, and encouraged, to re-apply with your amended idea at the next round of applications.

