**Invergrow Resource Fund**

**Guidance Notes for Applications 2025**

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# Overview

As part of the UK Government funding, Inverclyde Council have secured funding for the Invergrow project.

The aims of the Invergrow project is to:

* Increase and support community volunteers in relation to food growing in Inverclyde.
* Support the development of small and large food growing spaces.

The Invergrow project will support the workings of the Inverclyde Food Network and help implement priorities contained in the Inverclyde Food Growing Strategy.

Priority 1 - Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing.

Priority 2 – Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations.

Priority 3 – Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing.

Priority 4 - Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

# Invergrow Resource Fund

The Invergrow Resource Fund will provide an opportunity for community groups and organisations to apply for funding between £1000 and £3000 to support growing spaces and volunteering across Inverclyde. Applicants will be asked to evidence the impact of the planned funding and the relation it has to the priorities contained within the Food Growing Strategy and the aims of the Invergrow project. Please be aware that the application process starts on the 22nd January 2025 and the deadline for applications is the 19th February 2025.

# You can only apply for one of our grants if:

* Your group/organisation are actively based and provide services in Inverclyde
* You are a non-profit group or a voluntary club
* You have Public Liability Insurance (where applicable)
* You have a constitution, set of rules or Memorandum and Articles of Association which is dated and signed as ‘adopted’ by an office bearer on behalf of your group
* You have a bank or building society account which requires at least two signatures on each cheque or withdrawal
* You can spend the grant within one year of the date of our award letter
* You are applying for a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £3,000
* Your organisation is registered with Inverclyde Council (see below)

Applications will be accepted by organisations where funding is being sought for various projects/activities.

# We will not:

* Give grants to cover goods or services that you order or receive before the date on our award letter
* Award any organisation applying under £1,000 or more than £3,000 - the maximum amount which can be received
* Fund activities which have closed membership or that discriminate against other groups or residents of Inverclyde
* Fund private clubs for commercial activities but will consider requests to support initiatives designed to widen access and increase participation by disadvantaged and under-represented groups
* Fund organisations who contract with, or intend to contract with, the public sector
* Award any funding to any organisation that are seeking staff costs

**THE REGISTRATION PROCESS**

In January 2014, Inverclyde Council introduced a registration scheme for organisations seeking financial support from the Council. The registration process is designed to:

* Improve the effectiveness and impact of funding disbursed through the Grants budget
* Help the Council to confirm compliance with all relevant legislation (Health and Safety, Child Protection, etc)
* Follow the public pound and ensure best use of resources
* Inform decisions about the level of funding to be awarded to organisations

All organisations will now be required to register with the Council using the registration/application for a one-off grant.

**Your Application’s Journey**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Your registration/application form comes in and we check to see if it is complete * If your application is not complete, or there are missing supporting documents, we will contact you by letter/e-mail * Incomplete or late applications will not be assessed | | |
|  |  |  |
| * If your registration/application is complete it will be assessed. Officers of the Council will undertake a technical assessment to ensure it complies with legal and financial requirements * Organisations who fail this technical assessment will be advised of the reasons for this and given the opportunity to rectify the position * Applications which pass the technical assessment will be forwarded for consideration along with an officer assessment of how well the application meets the Council’s priorities and the aims of the Invergrow Resource Fund | | |
|  |  |  |
| * Your application will be considered by the Food Strategy Group Panel * If the panel decide to reject your application, we will let you know as soon as possible * If we decide to give you a grant, we will write to you and confirm the amount which will   be paid directly into your nominated bank account | | |
|  |  |  |
| * You will have to provide an update on actual spend and activity within one year of the award being issued | | |

# How we Assess your Application

We will look at:

* How your group/project is set up and managed
* What difference your grant will make relation to the priorities contained within the Food Growing Strategy and the aims of the Invergrow project.

As we consider your registration/application form, we may phone you for more information about your organisation or activities. We may also contact your referee.

# Successful Applications

If we award you a grant, you will have to keep to our terms and conditions. You must agree to these in advance by signing the Conditions section of this form. This does not guarantee that you will get a grant but will help us to pay any grant quickly.

# Notes to help you with the questions on the registration/application form

Please keep these guidance notes beside you and refer to them while you complete the form. **Those elements of the application which will be included in the technical assessment are highlighted in bold italics.**

**Section 1 – How your organisation is set up and managed**

This section is about your organisation’s details. The main contact requested in 1(b) must be someone from your group who can talk about your application in detail.

When completing question 1(f) it is important to give as clear a description as possible of what your organisation does. For example, if the purpose of your organisation is to represent the views of your community to public sector agencies, you should state how you go about finding out views of your community, how you go about communicating these views to the agencies concerned and give some examples of recent activities/successes in influencing decisions.

When assessing this section of your application and the documents attached officers will consider:

* How your organisation is structured and managed
* The extent to which the work of your organisation is directed and delivered by local people
* ***Whether those organisations working with children, young people or vulnerable adults have the correct safeguarding procedures in place***
* What your organisation is set up to do and how well it is achieving it aims and priorities

**Section 2 – Project, resources, and how this will benefit the growing space and community growers.**

These questions are about what your group would do with the grant if your application is successful. This section in particular will allow us to assess your application, so it is important that you complete it to the best of your ability.

At 2(a) You should describe the aim of your project and what you hope to achieve with funding for resources. You should explain how you plan to engage with the community and detail how you are going to proceed with your growing journey.

Explain why you think there is a need for the resources while detailing how this will benefit your community and growing space.

Key information to think about:

Please provide information how this will assist the projects that Invergrow are funding and provide a cost breakdown at Section 4 – Costs.

Do you have permission to use the land? You can link in with Inverclyde Council’s environmental services to ensure the land is suitable for growth.

Please ensure the Invergrow logo is present on all Invergrow funded activities and apparel where possible.

At 2(b) Please select the relevant priorities your application relates to and provide information of how your resource funding will help you achieve these priorities.

At 2(c) How will your proposed project meet the two key aims of the Invergrow project? How do you plan to increase and support volunteers in relation to food growing/growing in Inverclyde? How do you plan to support the development of small and large food growing spaces?

2(e) Please indicate if your funding will benefit a specific area of Inverclyde or benefit the whole of Inverclyde.

# When assessing this part of the application officers will consider:

* What difference your grant will make in meeting the specific needs of your community or target group
* The contribution your project can make to achieving the priorities of the Council and its partners, including its ***responsibilities in promoting equality of opportunity and addressing discrimination***

# Whether the grant will represent value for money in terms of the number of people it will benefit

* All applications will need verified before any funds are released

**Section 3 – Equalities Monitoring Information**

Inverclyde Council puts equality at the heart of our services, and we aim to acknowledge and reflect our diverse communities.You are required to answer the following questions to assist Inverclyde Council in monitoring who benefits from this funding.

**Section 4 – Costs**

Please make sure the amount you are asking for is based on real and accurate costs. We would like to see most applicants contributing something towards their costs - in cash, in- kind or both. Please try to estimate the cost of in-kind support to the nearest pound (in- kind support includes items such as volunteer time, materials, premises, transport and so on).

It is important to tell us if you are applying to another funder for anything that is included in this application. Should any other such application be successful, it is vital that you tell us as soon as practicable. Failure to disclose this information may result in an offer of grant being withdrawn or your group having to repay some or all of any grant paid out.

**Section 5 – Other Information**

It is important that you enclose all supporting documentation with your application:

***A copy of your most recent set of audited or independently examined accounts or, if you are a new organisation, a record of income and expenditure, dated and signed as approved and a copy of your most recent bank statement.***

***A copy of your organisation’s constitution, or other governing documents, dated and signed as approved and records of the last 3 meetings of your governing committee/board.***

***A copy of your most recent annual report or equivalent summary of the work of your organisation***

***For organisations working with vulnerable adults, children and young people under 16 years of age only, you are required to provide the Council with information about the steps taken by your organisation to ensure the appropriate PVG procedures are in place.***

**Failure to provide such information will result in your application being deemed as incomplete. Applications will not be assessed until all relevant supporting documentation has been received.**

We require the signature of the contact person in 4(b). In addition to this, we require the name, signature and contact details for an independent referee. This could be a local councillor, lawyer, Justice of the Peace, senior bank official or someone in your community with particular experience of your work.

**The person who signs 4(d) and the Conditions clause should not be the same person who is the contact person.**

When assessing your application/documentation officers will consider:

* ***The proportion of running costs the Council will be paying with a view to avoiding an organisation becoming entirely dependent on Council funding***
* ***Whether the proposed use of the grant could set a precedent which might impact negatively on the effectiveness of the Council’s grant scheme***
* ***The sustainability of the project if grant funding were to be discontinued***
* ***The level of turnover of your organisation as this is a small grant scheme intended for small organisations***
* ***The operating surplus or loss of your organisation and how this might impact on your ability to deliver the actions***
* ***The amount requested relative to the amount held in reserves***
* ***The efforts made by your organisation to attract funding from other sources***
* ***Compliance with procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups***
* ***Health & Safety***
* ***Cross-subsidy or state aid***
* ***Best use of public monies***

**CONDITIONS OF GRANT**

Please read the Conditions of Grant carefully and only sign them if you understand and agree to them. Organisations working with vulnerable adults and/or children and young people are now required to demonstrate that they have appropriate procedures in place prior to their grant being approved. Most commonly these procedures will relate to staff and volunteers being subject to checks through the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG).

If your organisation works with children under 8 on a regular basis that exceeds 2 hours per day for more than six days a year, you may require to be registered with the Care Inspectorate.

It is the responsibility of your organisation to establish these obligations. If you are unsure of your obligations, further information and support can be obtained from CVS Inverclyde by calling 01475 711733 or by e-mailing [admin@cvsinverclyde.org.uk](mailto:admin@cvsinverclyde.org.uk)

If on reading this guidance you feel that this grants fund is not the right source of funding for your organisation you can get information on other sources of funding and help with your application from CVS Inverclyde by calling 01475 711733 or by e-mailing [admin@cvsinverclyde.org.uk](mailto:admin@cvsinverclyde.org.uk)

**Completed registration/application forms should be sent:**

**By E-mail:** Attaching all required documents send to:[CLD.Admin@inverclyde.gov.uk](mailto:CLD.Admin@inverclyde.gov.uk)

**By handing it in to the Customer Service Centre:**

Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, GREENOCK PA15 1LY

Please mark envelope:

FAO Christopher Coumparoules, Community Learning and Development, Enterprise Centre, Port Glasgow Community Campus

**By Post (Please ensure correct postage):**

FAO Christopher Coumparoules

Community Learning and Development

Enterprise Centre

Port Glasgow Community Campus

Kilmacolm Road

PORT GLASGOW

PA14 6PP