

## Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 8 26 February 2021

### Council Tax Reduction

Council Tax Reduction can reduce council tax by up to 100% and is available for low income households whether they rent or own their homes. An individual may be entitled to a reduction in their bill if they are on a low income, even if they own their own home. Council Tax Reduction can't be used to reduce water or sewerage charges on the bill.

An individual can claim if they, or their partner:

- Live in the property they are applying for
- Are on a low income. This can be DWP benefits or low paid work
- Are responsible for paying the Council Tax bill
- Do not have combined savings or capital of £16,000. This is unless they are receiving Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit)

Applications can be made online at [www.highland.gov.uk/applyonce](http://www.highland.gov.uk/applyonce) or help to claim is available from the Council's Welfare Support Team by calling 0800 090 1004.

### Fuel Support for Highland Households

The Council's fuel support fund for low income households who are struggling with fuel insecurities remains open. People are able to apply for a non-repayable grant of £60. In the initial 3-week period of this important scheme, the Council received more than 4,500 applications.

It has been agreed to extend the fund until the end of March.

People who have already applied will receive an addition £60 for the month of March, taking the total grant payment to £120.

The scheme also remains open for new applications to ensure this support can still be accessed.

Eligibility is based on household income spent on fuel and being entitled to Council Tax reduction however support may still be available for those not in receipt of Council tax reduction.

Full details of eligibility and how to apply are available at:  
[www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund)

For support with an application please contact the Council's Welfare Support Team:  
[Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk)  
0800 090 1004

## Covid Testing Kits at Highland Fire Stations

The Scottish Fire and Rescue service are working in partnership with NHS Highland to provide testing kits through a number of community fire stations in Highland. Details of the sites and times open are outlined below. People must phone in advance on the number provided to pre-book their attendance.

Those locations open 0900-1200, Monday to Friday are ones where people can attend by car, complete the test in their car, and return it to the Fire Service to secure for courier uplift to take to the labs the same day. Those that are open for 1 hour per day Monday to Friday are for attendance on foot or by car to collect a home test kit, take it home to complete, and then return via priority post box and not via the Fire Station.

Further stations will be taking on this role in the coming weeks and we will share the details as they become available.

**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service COVID-19 Testing Centres**  
**For week 23/2/2021 - 1/3/2021**

<b>Highland</b>	
Acharacle	Monday - Friday 1100-1200
Dornoch	Monday - Friday 0900-1200
Fort Augustus	Monday - Friday 1800-1900
Gairloch	Monday - Friday 1800-1900
Grantown-on-Spey	Monday - Friday 0900-1230
Kingussie	Monday - Friday 1100-1200
Lairg	Monday - Friday 1100-1200
Thurso	Monday - Friday 0900-1230
Tongue	Monday - Friday 1100-1200

**For all appointments, please phone 01463 706015**

NHS Highland | TEST & PROTECT | Fire and Rescue Service | A&B|HSCPI Together | Healthier Scotland

## Public Bodies Climate Funding Directory

Appended to this week's briefing is a funding directory developed by the Scottish Government's Climate Change Division. It is a really useful tool, split into different themes and each theme is divided into *funding finder tools*, *open funds* and *relevant funds to be aware of*. The purpose of the directory is to provide a condensed and informative resource for public and community sector stakeholders when seeking funding.

## Vaccination Update

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link:  
[www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)

A stakeholder briefing from NHS Highland is also attached to this briefing

## Food Support for Groups

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## Resilience Network Contacts

The first meetings of all of the new resilience networks have now taken place. The next meetings are in the process of being scheduled depending upon what was agreed at the initial meeting and dates will be circulated to all within an area.

Where networks are already in place, should any group not already be involved with this network, the contact details for each is below.

- Caithness –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Alan Tait at Caithness Voluntary Groups [allan@cvq.org.uk](mailto:allan@cvq.org.uk)
- Sutherland – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karina Ross at Highland and Islands Enterprise [karina.ross@hient.co.uk](mailto:karina.ross@hient.co.uk)
- East Ross – Helen Ross, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Black Isle - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Asia Cielecka at [communities@black-isle.info](mailto:communities@black-isle.info)
- Wester Ross and Dingwall – Dot Ferguson, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Skye and Raasay - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Fiona Thomson at Skye Community Response Development Team [fiona@portreeandbraes.org](mailto:fiona@portreeandbraes.org)
- Lochaber – Emma Tayler, Assistant Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- B&S –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karen Derrick [enquires@vabs.org.uk](mailto:enquires@vabs.org.uk)
- Inverness City – David Haas, City Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

- Inverness Rural – Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Nairn – Willie Munro, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## Helpful Links

Welfare Support Team -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)

Self Isolation Support Grant - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation\\_support\\_grant](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant)

Fuel Support Fund

[www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund)

Energy Advice

[energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet

Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Business Support Grants -

[www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic\\_framework\\_business\\_fund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic_framework_business_fund)

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1422811/supporting\\_community\\_resilience/category/155/grants\\_for\\_community\\_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

HTSI Community Group Helpline

Telephone Number 01349 808022

Winter Conditioning reports -

[www.highland.gov.uk/news](http://www.highland.gov.uk/news)

## Climate Change Funding Directory

Theme	Funds and Resources
Local and community level	<p><b><u>Funding finder tools</u></b></p> <p>Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) Funding Finder Tool: A directory of over 1,200 funds available for charities, social enterprises and community groups in Scotland <a href="https://fundingscotland.com/">https://fundingscotland.com/</a></p> <p><u>Foundation Scotland Funding</u>: A wide range of community funding including on renewables, sustainability and education. The website shows a map to view grants available in your area and how to apply: <a href="https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/grants-and-funding-for-organisations/grant-programmes/">https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/grants-and-funding-for-organisations/grant-programmes/</a></p> <p>Scottish Government Community Funding Map: A summary of the investment being made by the Scottish Government to help communities affected by COVID-19: <a href="https://community-funding-mapping-1-1-scotgov.hub.arcgis.com/">https://community-funding-mapping-1-1-scotgov.hub.arcgis.com/</a></p> <p><b><u>Open funds</u></b></p> <p><u>Youth Place-changers Ideas Fund</u>: The fund will engage and empower young people to take the lead on changing the places where they live. Open round closing soon. <a href="https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/young-placechangers/">https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/young-placechangers/</a></p> <p>Scottish Landfill Communities Fund: The SLCF is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to contribute tax credits to benefit community and environmental projects. For information and applications: <a href="#">Looking for funding?   Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)</a></p> <p><b><u>Relevant funds to be aware of</u></b></p> <p>Climate Challenge Fund (CCF): The CCF supports community-led organisations in Scotland to tackle climate change by running projects that reduce local carbon emissions (closed now- future funding tbc). For information and application guidance go to: <a href="https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/">https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/</a>.</p>

	<p>Community Climate Asset Fund: Funding available for community based organisations to carry out green recovery related projects (closed in November 2020- future funding tbc): <a href="https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/community-climate-asset-fund/">https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/community-climate-asset-fund/</a>.</p> <p>Scotland Loves Local Fund: A fund to empower communities by enabling local delivery of projects (Closed in November 2020 – future funding tbc): <a href="https://www.scotlandstowns.org/scotland_loves_local_fund_application_form_and_guidance">https://www.scotlandstowns.org/scotland_loves_local_fund_application_form_and_guidance</a></p> <p>Investing in Communities Fund: Support to community and third sector organisations in our most disadvantaged and fragile communities to develop and deliver sustainable local solutions (round one ran in June 2019- info on round 2 tbc)- round one application and guidance: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-application-form-and-guidance/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-application-form-and-guidance/</a></p> <p>Regeneration Capital Grant Fund: Delivered annually in partnership with COSLA. Supports locally developed place based regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to support and create jobs and build sustainable communities. Next opening June 2021: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/capital-investment/">https://www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/capital-investment/</a></p> <p>Islands Green Recovery Programme: Support for green initiatives to help communities recover from the COVID- 19 pandemic. Deadline was 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020- future funding tbc. For information and guidance on applications go to <a href="https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/islands-green-recovery-programme/">https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/islands-green-recovery-programme/</a></p>
Active Travel and Low Emission Zones	<p><b><u>Funding finder tools</u></b></p> <p>Database of low emission zone, active travel and further green funding: <a href="https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/listing/grants-and-loans/">https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/listing/grants-and-loans/</a></p> <p>FOR FURTHER ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS DELIVERING WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROJECTS, go to Transport Scotland’s funding page: <a href="https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/active-travel-funding-opportunities/">https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/active-travel-funding-opportunities/</a></p> <p><b><u>Open funds</u></b></p> <p>Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Fund: For projects that work to make walking and cycling a transport mode of choice for short local journeys. Open to all public bodies. For more information and applications: <a href="https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/active-travel/smarter-choices-smarter-places/smarter-choices-smarter-places-1">https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/active-travel/smarter-choices-smarter-places/smarter-choices-smarter-places-1</a>.</p>

	<p><u>Mobility as a Service Investment Fund</u>: Supports the Scottish Government agenda for a healthier, more sustainable Scotland in that, through providing better and more comprehensive travel information, more people feel empowered to use alternative ways to travel, encouraging them out of cars and private car ownership, and so reducing carbon emissions. For applications (<b>closes Friday 26 February</b>), go to: <a href="https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/mobility-as-a-service/maas-investment-fund-mobility-as-a-service/#59812">https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/mobility-as-a-service/maas-investment-fund-mobility-as-a-service/#59812</a></p> <p>Pocket Places Fund: low cost, non-permanent, simple interventions that make the street a nicer place to live in by reducing traffic issues, improve road safety for people walking, wheeling and cycling and adding colour and life to the street. Next deadline for submitting <b>EOI is 26 March 2021</b> for projects starting in June 2021 : <a href="http://Pocket Places Scotland - Sustrans.org.uk">Pocket Places Scotland - Sustrans.org.uk</a></p>
Heat and energy efficiency in homes and buildings	<p><b><u>Funding finder tools</u></b></p> <p>Home Energy Scotland Funding Finder: <a href="http://Funding Finder - Home Energy Scotland HUB (est.org.uk)">Funding Finder - Home Energy Scotland HUB (est.org.uk)</a></p> <p><b><u>Open funds</u></b></p> <p>Scottish Government District Heating Loan Fund: Loans of over £1m with low interest repayment terms of 10-15 years. Open to local authorities, small and medium sized enterprises and energy services companies with less than 250 employees. To find out more and submit an expression of interest in funding, go to: <a href="https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/district-heating-loan-fund/">https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/district-heating-loan-fund/</a>.</p> <p>Renewable Heat Incentive: A UK Government scheme aiming to encourage uptake of renewable heat technologies amongst householders, communities and businesses through financial incentives, and contribute towards the 2020 ambition of 12% of heating coming from renewable sources. For more information and applications (open for applications until 31 March 2022): <a href="https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/renewable-heat-incentive/">https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/renewable-heat-incentive/</a>.</p> <p>SALIX energy efficiency loans: For information and applications go to <a href="https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/scotland-loans">https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/scotland-loans</a></p> <p>Warmer Homes Scotland Fund: Local authorities can refer households living in or at risk of fuel poverty to this scheme. The fund is designed to tackle fuel poverty and the impacts of living in a cold home by providing measures including insulation, heating, renewables and micro-generation to make the homes of eligible households warmer and more affordable to heat. This includes low income families, with eligibility based on receipt of income related benefits.</p>



	<p>Home Energy Scotland can be contacted on their Freephone number 0808 808 2282 and via their website: <a href="https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/make-my-home-warmer/">https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/make-my-home-warmer/</a></p> <p><b><u>Relevant funds to be aware of</u></b></p> <p>Community and Renewable Energy Scheme Funding (CARES): current round closed in June 2020- <a href="#">CARES funding available now - Local Energy Scotland</a></p> <p>Green Recovery Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme: Provides support for innovative low carbon heat solutions and integrated energy systems (current funding round closed on 13 November 2020). Funding invitation: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/green-recovery-low-carbon-energy-project-capital-funding-form-and-guidance-2/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/green-recovery-low-carbon-energy-project-capital-funding-form-and-guidance-2/</a> Guidance and expression of interest form for applicants: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/green-recovery-low-carbon-energy-project-capital-funding-form-and-guidance-2/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/green-recovery-low-carbon-energy-project-capital-funding-form-and-guidance-2/</a></p>
<p>Green jobs and new technology e.g. hydrogen</p>	<p><b><u>Open funds</u></b></p> <p>National Transition Training Fund: Funding to tackle the rise in unemployment caused by Covid-19 by offering short sharp training opportunities for people to learn in-demand skills. Aims to boost the supply of skills in areas such as sustainable green jobs and raise the profile of training opportunities linked to Scotland’s transition to a net zero economy. For further information and to apply (nb- for individuals to apply, therefore local authorities/ public bodies can point individuals here) go to: <a href="https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/national-transition-training-fund">https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/national-transition-training-fund</a></p> <p>Apprenticeships Funding: Supporting employers to take on apprentices (and individuals to find apprenticeships). For employer information go to <a href="#">Apprenticeships  </a></p> <p><u>Flexible Workforce Development Fund:</u> Eligible employers can use the FWDF to address priority skills gaps in their organisation by accessing funding to create tailored training programmes with their local college. For information and applications go to: <a href="#">Flexible Workforce Development Fund (sfc.ac.uk)</a></p> <p><u>Kickstart Scheme:</u> The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. For more information and applications: <a href="#">Kickstart Scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>



	<p>Hydrogen: the majority of hydrogen funding is administered through the CAREs scheme and EU grants. New funding arrangements for EU grants are not yet finalised.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://h2territory.eu/about-the-htp/#who-we-are">http://h2territory.eu/about-the-htp/#who-we-are</a> for more information on deployment of hydrogen- based integrated local energy systems.</p>
Climate adaptation	<p>Document with information on accessing flooding funding from a SNIFFER workshop: <a href="#">Accessing funding for flood risk management.pdf</a></p>
Land and natural capital	<p><b><u>Funding finder tools</u></b></p> <p>List of various nature based solutions funding: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects">https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects</a></p> <p><b><u>Open funds</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Forestry Grant Scheme:</u></b> Offers financial support for the creation of new woodland and the sustainable management of existing woodland. For information and applications go to <a href="#">Scottish Forestry - Forestry Grant Scheme</a></p> <p><b><u>Peatland Code:</u></b> funding for peatland restoration projects. Those wishing to contact the Scottish Government to discuss ideas for large-scale projects across multiple years should in the first instance do so at <a href="mailto:peatland.restoration@gov.scot">peatland.restoration@gov.scot</a>. For more information and application for peatland restoration funding go to: <a href="#">For Projects   IUCN UK Peatland Programme (iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org)</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Relevant funds to be aware of</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Peatland Action:</u></b> funding for peatland restoration. Current funding round closed, page to be updated soon on how to apply for the 2021-2022 round: <a href="#">Peatland ACTION - Fund - How to apply   NatureScot</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Scottish Land Fund:</u></b> Supports rural and urban communities to become more resilient and sustainable through the ownership and management of land and land assets. Current funding round closed in August 2020, however it is <b>still open to first stage applications to help communities develop their ideas or do preliminary work around taking ownership of assets</b>. For more information and applications: <a href="#">Scottish Land Fund   The National Lottery Community Fund (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Harvesting and Processing Grant:</u></b> Financial support for the purchase of specialist forestry equipment. For information and applications go to <a href="#">Harvesting and Processing (ruralpayments.org)</a></p>