



Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Fund Report

Year 8 | December 2023 – December 2024





Awards at a glance.....



...

£717K awarded across
547 grants since the
Fund launched



...

£105K distributed
through **94** awards
in Year 8



...

£61K awarded through
74 bursaries



...

95% of the 2024 EDF
donation allocated

Highlights

Year 8 of the EDF Renewables UK Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has supported 17 diverse community projects throughout the fund area to the value of £37,157. In addition, a record 74 individual residents have been awarded bursaries to help them access education and training courses (total awards of £61,867), and three organisations have received educational awards to promote STEM and business skills throughout the fund area (£6,190).

The total figure awarded represents 95% of the £110,462 community benefit funding provided by EDF Renewables UK for the year.

A diverse array of community projects has been supported. The long and varied list includes playpark equipment, footpaths, a community play, an archaeology project, shinty pitch dugouts, and support to update a community action plan. Case studies in this report highlight the range of activity which Corriemoillie funding has supported in the past year.

Community awards ranged in scale from £352 to contribute to repair costs for the Victorian Gazebo in the village square in Strathpeffer, to £5,280 to contribute to the cost of a feasibility study for affordable housing development at the site of the old school in Contin.

The maximum bursary award is for £1,500 for renewable and STEM-related training, and several awards were made at this level for a range of courses such as degrees in veterinary science, a marine engineering cadetship, and electrician and plumbing modern apprenticeships. As usual, an incredibly diverse range of courses were supported with some firsts for the fund including farriery, ear wax removal and the safe use of sheep dips. With 74 bursary awards offered, this was the highest number of individuals supported in a single year since the fund launch and demonstrates continued growth in fund awareness.

Foundation Scotland continues to support three community panels in Contin, Strathpeffer and in Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon to distribute their own sub funds, and has also administered the area-wide Education & Training Fund with a panel of residents drawn from the area.

Across all four sub-funds, 27 Panel members bring local knowledge and expertise and continue to give their time generously to help direct fund strategy and make grant decisions, contributing to the resilience and wellbeing of their communities.

This report outlines the year's activity, describing how the funds are making a difference in each area. A summary of all awards and more detailed case studies, along with financial statements and governance information can be found in each section of this report.

Appendices cover background to the fund and a combined financial statement.

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1. Corriemoillie Wind Farm Education & Training Fund

1.1 Making a Difference

During the first eight years of the Fund, 398 bursary awards have been made across the fund area, supporting a total of 330 individuals at least once (76 have been repeat awards, mostly for degree courses). Monitoring feedback suggests that financial support for young under graduates has been particularly appreciated in the current climate of rising bills for rent, food and energy.

The fund also supports a smaller number of projects relating to businesses and third sector organisations, and there were three exciting and innovative awards made in 2024 in this category – support for a new science and arts festival in Ullapool; support for all primary 6 to s2 pupils in the fund area to access Newton Rooms to experience STEM subjects; and a project from Dingwall Academy Parent Council for pupils to develop and manage a mobile coffee trailer as a social enterprise.

A full list of awards is in Appendix One – case studies below show the difference the fund has made to just a few individuals in the fund area in the past 12 months.

Case Studies – Individual Bursary Awards

Robert – 360-degree Excavator Training

Robert resides in Marybank and made his first application to the fund in June 2024 to contribute to the costs of completing a 360-degree excavator course.

After a period of time as a househusband with caring responsibilities, Robert was keen to re-enter the job market. He was aware of the Scottish Government's commitment of £250 million pounds of funding into the repair of degraded peatlands and the need for qualified machine operators to make this a possibility. He had significant mini digger driving experience but to be considered for a career in peatland restoration, he was advised that an industry-recognised 360-degree excavator qualification would be required.

Robert received a £1,000 award from the fund to help towards the cost of both the training and assessment element of the three-day course carried out by a local provider.

He embarked and successfully completed the course in September 2024 and has already been contracted to carry out some in-depth peat surveying with an Inverness-based environmental consultancy firm, which should lead on to further similar contracts.



Arwen – Dinghy Instructor Training

Arwen from Ullapool completed her Higher Exams in summer 2024. She has had a keen interest in sailing from a young age, volunteering as an assistant instructor at her local sailing club.

Arwen was keen to further her sailing career so applied for funding from the EDF Corriemoillie Education & Training fund and was awarded £989 to fund the cost of the five-day Dinghy Instructor Course at the Loch Insh Outdoor Centre.

The course was completed at the end of August and the internationally recognised qualification will allow Arwen to work abroad. Firstly, though she hopes to attend University with a sailing club attached before pursuing a career in sailing.

Following on from completing her course Arwen said:

“This Royal Yachting Association Dinghy Instructor qualification has consolidated my knowledge in the sailing rules and regulations supporting the working with young people on the water, and how to handle difficult situations appropriately and safely..... This qualification gives me the knowledge and confidence of being a leader in dinghy instruction.”



Jordan – Photography HND

Jordan from Lochbroom successfully applied to the fund for costs associated with completing an HND in Photography at Edinburgh College. They were awarded £200 to help with halls of residence fees.

Jordan previously received two awards from the fund to help with achieving an NC and HNC in animal care. In their spare time, whilst studying for the HNC, Jordan developed an interest and talent for photography and took up volunteer positions taking photos in the alternative music scene.

After completing their HNC in Animal Care, Jordan made the decision to change their educational path and applied successfully to study the HND in photography which they began in August 2024.

Jordan should complete the HND in May 2025 and hopes to go on to obtain a BA with Honours in Photography.

They acknowledged that the fund; *“shows a long-term commitment to students as they move through their educational pathway.....Without EDF funding I would have not been able to achieve my qualifications to date.”*



1.2 Fund Distribution

A total of 77 awards were made during the year: 74 were bursaries for individuals, of which 15 were repeat awards to applicants on multiyear courses and 69 were for new applicants.

Three awards were made to organisations for projects to develop career aspirations and journeys through hands on science and business activities. A full list of awards made during the year is given in Appendix One.

This is a record number of bursary awards for the fund, which is still tending to see applications grow year on year.

Year	Awards
2024	77
2023	56
2022	65
2021	59
2020	62
2019	54
2018	35
2017	12

The total value of awards made was £68,057, bringing the total awarded over the first eight years of the Education & Training Fund to £426,737.

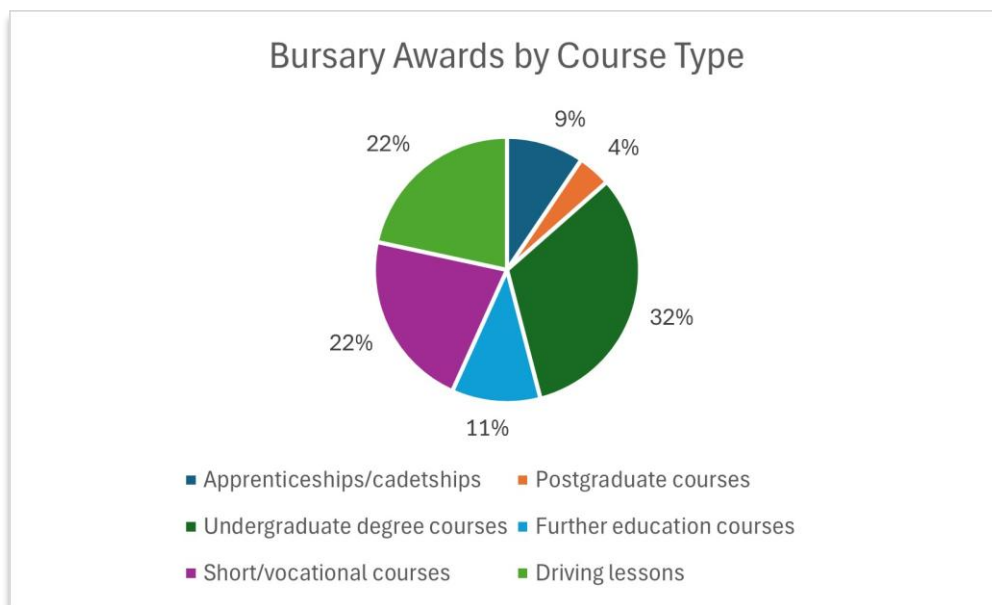
Under the bursary strand, support from the Fund enabled individuals to attend a wide variety of courses. 32% of these awards were for undergraduate degree courses, which were, in the main, being undertaken by recent school leavers. Support was given towards a wide range of courses including mathematics, veterinary science, nursing and education. A variety of further education courses were also supported including qualifications in baking, social care and shipping and maritime operations.

Short vocational courses and driving lessons made up 44% of all awards offered in 2024. Driving lessons, in particular, increased from three awards in 2023 to 16 awards in 2024. Driving lesson awards are capped at £500 per applicant.

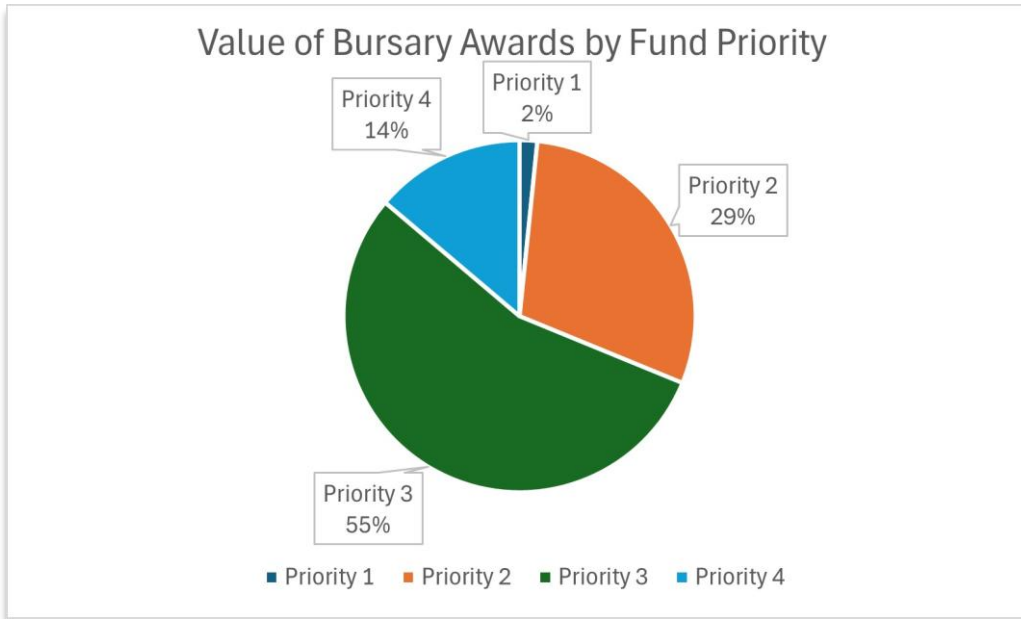
Given limited public transport options in most of the fund area, it is recognised that driving is a key lifelong skill which is needed to access most training and employment opportunities in the region.

As in previous years, a diverse range of short courses were supported, such as dog grooming, body piercing, horse riding, chainsaw training, and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language).

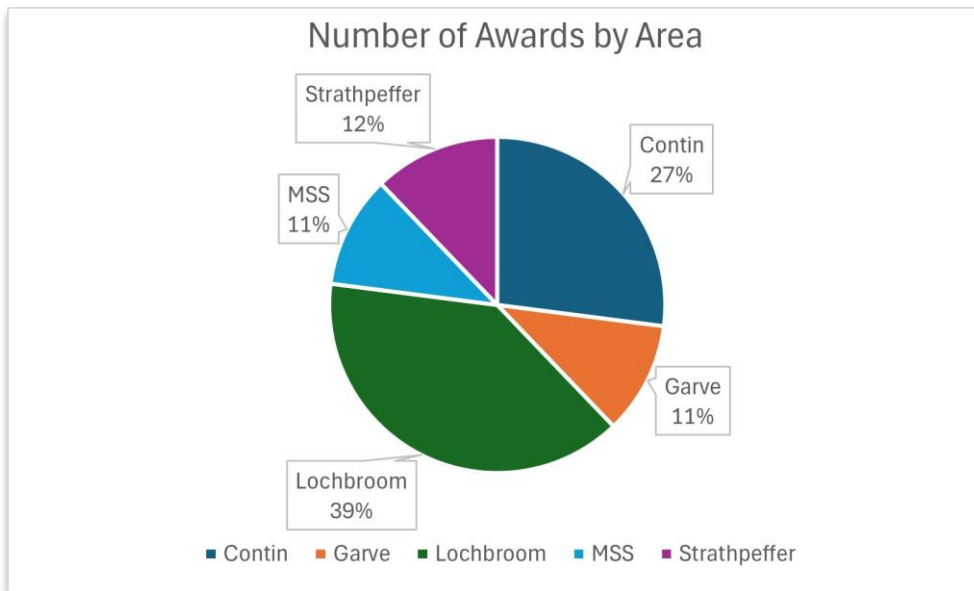
Applicants ranged in age and employment status, with some awardees seeking to enhance an established career, whilst others were embarking on a new career direction. Several apprentices were supported with equipment and travel costs for a range of skills, including electricians, a plumber, a hairdresser, a marine engineer, a welder and a farrier.



There was a decrease in bursary awards made in the Fund's high-priority areas in 2024 with 31% relating to Priority One (renewables) and Priority Two (engineering, construction, STEM/D) compared to 42% in the previous year.



There was an increase in awards in Contin (27% of applicants from 13% in 2023) and in Garve (11% of applicants from 5% in 2023) in 2024, probably due to concerted efforts locally to promote the fund through local newsletters, and an increase in requests for support with driving lessons in particular. Lochbroom remains the most represented area which corresponds with its population size.



Eight bursary applications were withdrawn or rejected at the assessment stage due to the ineligibility of some of the requested expenditure, issues with the timing of award rounds and retrospective funding. Two applications were received from individuals who did not live in the fund area and were rejected on that basis. One application was rejected by the panel as the training course was unaccredited and considered over-priced. Three applications were subsequently withdrawn by applicants due to changes in plans and circumstances. This gives a conversion rate of applications to awards of 87%.

Eight awards were cancelled/returned over the course of the year due to changes in applicants' plans or circumstances.

1.3 Panel

The EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education and Training Fund Panel makes decisions on how the fund is spent and helps promote the fund locally. It also advises on overall fund strategy. The Panel comprises one community member from each of the five community council areas, plus representatives from business and skills/training agencies, and a youth rep.

The Panel met three times during the year to consider applications to the fund in March, August and December, holding meetings online in all cases. The decision has been made to hold all meetings online for this group, which has a wide geographic spread, and is very comfortable continuing with the virtual meeting arrangements.

1.4 Finance

Statement Period: 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024

Balance brought forward	£50,112.11
Income	
EDF Renewables	£62,755.26
Expenditure	
Grants awarded - paid	£83,227.00
Grants awarded - pending	£18,950.00
Fund expenses	£0.00
Grants returned/cancelled	-£9,693.00
Balance carried forward	£20,383.37

2. Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund - Contin

The Contin Community Fund continues to support a diverse range of projects, supporting groups in the village and also looking outwith the area to contribute to projects in neighbouring communities which will directly benefit local residents.

Local priorities for the fund, based on community consultation, include access, heritage, youth activities, play park for younger kids, community gardens, social events and activities for families and other residents. The maximum award is £3,000.

The following case studies illustrate this range of activity, which allows key local initiatives to develop and also supports collaboration with neighbouring communities on shared issues such as playpark facilities.

Case Studies

Everything to Play For!

Strathpeffer Residents' Association received an award from the Contin Fund of £3,000 in March 2024 to contribute to the cost of play equipment for under-5s to encourage active outdoor play for very young children and families.



For several years, Strathpeffer Residents Association has been developing an ambitious project to create a community park on land adjacent to the primary school. The land was purchased in 2021 and since then work has been carried out to resolve drainage issues, create a path network, build cycle trails, plant trees and install playground equipment for older children.

As there is no playpark provision in Contin, and since children from Contin attend school in Strathpeffer, the Contin fund has supported this project over the years. The fund has previously contributed £1,000 towards the cost of footpaths and £1,000 for junior play equipment. The Corriemoillie Strathpeffer fund of course has contributed too, and in somewhat larger amounts given the location of the park. Nonetheless, the Contin contributions have been welcomed as helping to reach the substantial funding targets for the various project phases.

In 2024 the next phase of the playpark plans came to fruition, after significant fundraising efforts, to install equipment for pre-school age children, to complement the equipment already installed for older kids in 2023. The total cost of this project was over £100,000 to create the toddler play area with suitable surfacing and a fun range of play items including a climbing unit and swings.

Local volunteer Averil reported on the project:

“Throughout the spring and early summer of 2024, considerable effort from the Strathpeffer Resident’s Association team and community was directed at fundraising for Phase 2. The grant applications work coupled with the ongoing “Easygiving” income and personal donations ensured the Phase 2 playpark design could meet the aspirations for a wide range of accessible friendly toddler play items. The original design had to be modified as the all-inclusive roundabout was going to be complex and very expensive. The revised design replaces this with a large trampoline unit which can be used by everyone including wheelchair users; we believe this will be a very popular play item. Design finalisation meant the order was able to be placed with supplier Kompan in early July who then commissioned the equipment build by their suppliers.

“After equipment delivery to site at the end of September, the work took place during October with the installation of the equipment bases, the pouring of the safety surface and finally full installation of the play items.



“Following snagging and inspection, the park was signed over to SRA on 29 November. An intensive week of soil moving and structuring around the park edges and into the “tele-tubby” mounds, was followed by turf laying needed to protect the safety surface edges.

“The park will open as soon as possible but some time is needed to give the soil and turf a chance to settle before it can take the heavy footfall of the many toddlers and parents that are expected to visit.

“Whilst we had a group of workers doing the topsoil and turf work, there were parents arriving to use the existing park from villages around the area, including Contin - it feels as though the park is becoming a destination play area which is encouraging for us after the work of the last number of years!”

Home is where the heart is - support for community housing

Contin Community Trust received an award of £5,280 in August 2024 to contribute to the cost of a feasibility study for affordable housing development at the site of the old school in Contin.

Contin Community Trust (CCT) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee which owns and operates the Community Hall in Contin. The Trust also owns the former school buildings and schoolhouse, which are on the same site.

Contin School has been closed for over 10 years and children now attend primary in Strathpeffer. The school building, a mix of Victorian era and more modern but dilapidated annexes, currently lies empty. The schoolhouse was until recently rented out to a family by CCT but has been vacant since August and is in need of renovation before it can be rented out again.



Now that the new hall is built and in use, CCT is investigating the feasibility of developing affordable housing on the site to address a local need and improve what is currently a fairly derelict space.

CCT volunteers are working in partnership with the Communities Housing Trust (CHT) who can provide expertise and support with this project.

CHT is a registered charity and social enterprise based in Inverness. They regularly work in partnership with a variety of public and private stakeholders in order to provide affordable housing and accompanying infrastructure to support the social and economic wellbeing of local and rural communities. Since formation in 1998, they have worked on more 120 community-led construction projects, as well as offering a series of related services, such as support with acquiring land, undertaking community consultations, and securing funding for builds.

The project will determine the feasibility of developing the former school and its surrounding land into affordable housing to bring the school building back into community use, address local housing needs and protect the community's cultural heritage. The aim of the project overall is to refurbish the school house, refurbish and convert the school building into housing units and build new units on the site of the annexe which would be demolished.

Feasibility funding will be required to develop a viable scheme including options and site appraisal analysis, community consultation, business planning, design work, planning approval and Building Warrant up to pre-construction stage. Funds in this development phase will be required for architectural and engineering services, project management and planning fees, with this award from the Corriemoillie fund relating specifically to project management support costs.

Developing a community housing scheme is a complex, time consuming project, and local volunteers will need professional support and expertise to help them deliver and manage this project.

This project will potentially have a high impact on the local community, providing affordable energy efficient housing for local families and retaining residents in the community. It addresses the issue of the derelict school buildings and puts the site to good use and will potentially generate income for the local Trust helping to sustain other projects such as the community hall. Due to the significance of the project, the panel decided to award more than the usual maximum amount with a grant of £5,280 and feedback that the group could reapply for further funds as necessary.

2.1 Awards

Five awards were made during the year, to a total value of £15,926. These are shown in the table below. This brought the total number of awards made over the eight years to 42 and £86,853 in value. The award value represents 91% of the EDF donation for the year.

Applicant	Project	Award
Contin Baby and Toddler Group	To contribute to hall hire and equipment costs to support young families with the opportunity to play and socialise.	£1,646.23
Contin Community Council	To create and perform a community-based outdoor play to bring the community together.	£3,000.00
Contin Community Council	To contribute to the cost of professional archaeological services to work with the community on the next stage of investigation about Contin's origins and share skills and learning.	£3,000.00
Contin Community Trust	To contribute to cost of the feasibility study for affordable housing development at the site of the old school in Contin.	£5,280.00
Strathpeffer Residents Association	To contribute to cost of play equipment for under-5s to encourage active outdoor play for very young children and families.	£3,000.00

No applications were rejected, so the conversion rate from application to award was 100%.

2.2 Financial Statement

Statement Period: 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024

Balance brought forward	£29,478.95
Income	
EDF Renewables	£17,578.25
Expenditure	
Grants awarded - paid	£17,574.85
Grants awarded - pending	£0.00
Fund expenses	£30.00
Grants returned/cancelled	£300.00
Balance carried forward	£29,752.35

2.3 Governance

The EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Contin Community Fund Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent and helps promote the Fund locally. The Panel can comprise one nominee of Contin Community Council and up to six other representatives from the community, with all places currently filled.

3. Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund - Strathpeffer

The Corriemoillie Strathpeffer Community Fund continues to be well subscribed in a small community which boasts a significant number of community owned assets – including the community centre, community park, footpath initiatives and the iconic Pavilion.

Funding continues to support a wide range of activities – contributing to large capital works, as well as providing crucial support for equipment and other services for local groups to thrive.

An internal fund review was conducted by the panel in 2024 with broad agreement to continue the current fund arrangements but to review the priorities in light of the updated Community Action Plan in 2025.

The following case studies give a flavour of some of the projects currently underway in the village – footpaths for a new garden project and ongoing support to the community centre – and show how relatively small amounts of funding can make a big difference.

Case Studies

On the Right Path!

St James and St Anne's Church was awarded £2,000 in April 2024 to fund a 25 metre all abilities path in a planned sensory garden to make a new community space accessible to all and to provide volunteering opportunities.

St Anne's Episcopal Church in Strathpeffer serves the local community and is part of the Diocese of Ross, Moray and Caithness. The Church has been in existence since 1900 and has a prominent site in the centre of the village. It provides two services a week, with more services at certain times of the year such as Easter and Christmas. The Church has a congregation of 30 and is a registered charity.

The idea for this project came out of the Covid pandemic and increased awareness of social isolation that many people were still experiencing. Reverend Boothby was conscious of the potential for the unused land around St Anne's as a potential open space/community garden. She was aware of the work the Peffery Way Association were doing and wanted to see if there was appetite to get local people involved in redeveloping the grounds which are in such a central location. The first thing was to get a small steering group together. This meets informally and comprises a local gardener/horticulturalist, one Church member, Rev Julia Boothby, the Chair of the Community Council, the team leader for the Community Payback Scheme and a local resident (who is also a keen gardener).

The Church has been well supported by a local gardener/horticulturalist who has provided some professional expertise. They have also benefitted from a partnership with the Highland Community Payback Team whereby offenders repay the community for their crimes. So far, Community Payback activities have included clearing laurel and other invasive species and taking down a fence.

The garden at St Anne's backs on to the grounds of the Strathpeffer Pavillion and it is intended that both garden areas will complement each other. Access is currently possible from one site to the other. In the longer term, a more formal access agreement may be put in place but for now an informal arrangement is working well between the two groups.

The Church has consulted with other local groups including the Community Council and the local Primary school. They have also taken advice from the Think Health Think Nature programme, social prescribers attached to local doctor's surgery and the Change Mental Health project.

Reverend Julia Boothby said: "The Grant from Corriemoillie Wind farm fund meant that we were able to begin work on the paths for the planned sensory garden. This involved creating an all-abilities path with turning and banked area around the church as well as landscaping the planned garden areas. This was a very exciting step forward as it allowed the structure of the garden to become visible for the first time. Further local funding allowed us to complete the path works and the next stage will be to install seating and raised beds followed by lots of planting. Having the grant made a great difference to the progress of the garden project and marked a real turning point in the plans. We are very grateful and look forward to developing the garden more fully this year."



This project is focused on improving the natural environment of the church grounds with positive environmental impact across the board. The grounds currently have very few plants and shrubs and the new sensory garden will increase the diversity of planting across the whole area. Biodiversity and ecology will improve as the area attracts different species and habitats are established. Bird and bug houses will be installed to encourage this. The grounds will be managed organically going forward so soil, air and water pollution will be minimal. A substantial amount of overgrown laurel has been removed to make space for a wider range of more suitable, non-invasive shrubs.

Under the guidance of the local Conservation Officer, sycamore trees have been thinned to remove weak specimens and improve overall light to the area. The area surrounding the mature yew and remaining trees is being carefully managed to minimise disruption to the health of the trees. Work is also underway to improve drainage, surface water flow and reduce flooding from the nearby main road on to the church grounds.

This is a great example of a partnership approach improving local spaces for wider benefit.

Staying Centred - Practical Support for Key Community Facilities

Strathpeffer Community Development Trust (SCDT) operated under the name of Strathpeffer Community Association until 2021. It became the Development Trust following on from the work of the community to develop a Community Action Plan (CAP) for the area in 2019. Individual groups are responsible for their own projects within the CAP and SCDT is charged with keeping the whole plan on track.

SCDT owns and operates the Strathpeffer Community Centre, which hosts a range of regular classes and activities for all ages and also provides a venue for larger events such as the science festival and the annual Christmas Fair. SCDT estimate that they reach over 1,500 people each year. The centre provides free wi-fi and use of a computer for job searching. There is a Sharing Larder providing free donated food at the Centre, and SCDT has also recently taken on running a community shop, in premises at the old railway station.

In November 2023, SCDT received a grant of £2,225 for a range of essential and practical items necessary for the safe and viable ongoing running of the centre. This included a music licence for events, an additional computer monitor for centre users, defibrillator pads and PAT testing equipment (to ensure the safety of small items of electrical equipment).

The grant also paid for the centre manager to complete PAT testing training which means that this work will now be done in-house, reducing future running costs for this essential activity.

The defibrillator pads have already been used.

Volunteer director Miranda said: “The defibrillator pads were essential for our community and unfortunately can only be used once each time. The police used the machine only a week after we installed it on the outside of the building and were able to follow the instructions until the ambulance could arrive.



There have been several members of the community who have commented how grateful they are that this provision is available as we are in a rural location and it is a considerable distance to the nearest A&E.”

The community centre is a vital community resource and this project highlights some of the practical and ongoing issues which a facility like this needs to address in order to remain viable. Access to the local wind farm funds allows the community centre to fund a range of essential items which might be difficult to fund from other sources but which are key to the sustainability of the centre.

SCDT is proactive in developing new activities and providing community support and has previously received grants to support the local refugee community, to set up a community shop and most recently to update the community action plan. An award in 2024 of £1,250 was made to purchase further key equipment such as safety mats and barriers for the toddler group, a card reader to help with income generation and funds to set up new support services in the community relating to mental health and money advice, currently being developed.

“The grant funding has been very helpful and has enabled us to meet the regulations and requirements for the Community Centre to remain open as a vital resource for the community. It was very timely and sent through to our account quickly when we received confirmation of the grant.”

3.1 Awards

Nine awards were made during the year, to a total value of £14,202. These are summarised in the table below. This brought the total awarded over the past eight years to £116,032, and the total number of awards to 61. There continues to be strong demand for funding from a range of local groups. No awards were rejected in 2024 making an application conversion rate of 100%.

81% of the annual EDF donation was awarded in 2024. The fund is usually fully subscribed due to high levels of local demand. However, in 2024, the bulk of applications (seven) came in for the first round and due to a decision to retain funds for applications later in the year, smaller awards were made than usual.

The second round in fact had few applications (one), so the underspend for the year was higher than usual. One application was considered on a short notice basis due to urgency of the request to meet match funding deadlines.

Projects supported should relate to the Community Action Plan and demonstrate local benefit. The maximum award is £3,000.

Applicant	Project	Award
Caberfeidh Shinty Club	To contribute to the cost of purchasing two portable dug outs and shipping costs.	£3,000.00
St James & St Anne's Church	To fund a 25m all abilities path for access in a sensory garden for everyone to enjoy and provide volunteering opportunities.	£2,000.00
Strathpeffer and District Community Rowing Club	To contribute to the cost of a Wemyss Skiff boat kit and trolley to increase volunteer opportunities in boat building and participation in coastal rowing.	£3,000.00
Strathpeffer Community Council	To contribute to repair costs for the area of the Victorian Gazebo in the village square.	£352.00
Strathpeffer Community Development Trust Limited	To fund hall hire for a range of new activities to support vulnerable groups and families and to purchase equipment such as card reader and banners to help promote the hall and run it effectively.	£1,250.00

Strathpeffer Community Development Trust Limited	To contribute to updating the Community Action Plan and developing a Local Place Plan through community consultation to inform future planning decisions about the use of land within the area and shape the future of the village.	£500.00
Strathpeffer Pavilion Community Trust	To purchase a container for additional storage relating to the Pump House restoration project and general Trust activity.	£1,500.00
Strathpeffer Residents Association	To contribute to cost of play equipment for under-5s to encourage active outdoor play for very young children and families.	£1,000.00
The Old Strathpeffer Railway Station Trust	To improve the governance of Old Strathpeffer Railway Station Trust by updating tenant lease agreements to a modern and fit for purpose standard.	£1,600.00

3.2 Financial Statement

Statement Period: 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024

Balance brought forward	£5,034.94
Income	
EDF Renewables	£17,578.25
Expenditure	
Grants awarded - paid	£13,202.00
Grants awarded - pending	£4,000.00
Fund expenses	£56.00
Grants returned/cancelled	£0.00
Balance carried forward	£5,355.19

3.3 Governance

The Strathpeffer Panel, comprising the members of Strathpeffer Community Council, makes decisions on how the Fund is spent and helps promote the Fund locally. The panel met twice in 2024 at the Community Centre with the option of joining remotely available.

4. Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund – Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon

The Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Fund was launched in November 2019 and made its first awards in 2020, a few years later than the other Corriemoillie funds. The fund area is mostly very rural, with Marybank village being the main centre of population. There are few local groups active in the area though each of the three communities involved has a community facility – Fairburn Hall in Marybank, the Old Sawmill at Scatwell and the historic Strathconon Hall.

Along with SSE who also operate funds in the area, Foundation Scotland is providing support to local groups with the first steps towards producing a community action plan for the area. Initial talks were held in 2024 with the community council and Fairburn Hall and support will be given to organise a community engagement event for 2025.

Given the limited capacity in the area to date, recent awards have focussed on support for individuals through cost-of-living vouchers and help for local children to attend trips and activities. The case study below highlights the potential for the fund to support community activity and enhance quality of life in a rural area.

Case Study

Bowled Over

Scatwell Community Association received an award of £1,550 in autumn 2024 to purchase indoor bowling equipment.

Established in 2014, SCA leases the old sawmill building from Scatwell Estate which they have sufficiently renovated to use as a venue for a range of community events intended to bring people together and foster community spirit. The building is basic, but repairs have been made to the roof and building fabric, including insulation improvements, and there is also now an electricity and water supply. Regular community events are held such as games nights, lunches, "craft and craic" sessions and seasonal community gatherings such as Burns Night and Christmas celebrations. In the last year approximately 100-150 people have accessed SCA. All the events are free of charge.

In 2024, SCA requested funding to purchase indoor carpet bowling equipment including underlay for the uneven floors and a starter kit comprising a carpet, bowls, jack and a centre block. The aim was to offer the community a new opportunity for social interaction, helping to foster community spirit and alleviate isolation, particularly amongst the older generation. The bowling equipment will be free to use and all ages will be encouraged to take part. The plan is to hold bowling evenings on a once weekly or once fortnightly basis.



They will be held 'just for fun' and there won't be any competition element. SCA expects between 10 and 20 people per session. Following some online research, a specialist supplier has been identified to purchase the equipment.

SCA have been having repairs carried out on the sawmill roof which was leaking badly in places, so they have fitted insulation and new roof sheets. This work was finished in late autumn 2024 which delayed the purchase of the bowling kit. The aim is to get everything organised in early 2025 following all the Christmas & New Year festivities. There was feedback with the grant award that it might be worth liaising with the Marybank bowling group.

SCA contacted the Fairburn Hall organises and will get some support from them once they are set up, with the potential for some friendly meetings between the two groups!

4.1 Awards

Three awards were made during the year, to total value of £7,029. This represents only 56% of the annual EDF donation. This makes a total of 20 awards since the Fund launched in 2020, with a total value of £59,362.

No applications were rejected, making a conversion rate of 100%.

The Fund aims to support projects which will provide positive change and strategic impact. Projects must meet one of the following outcomes:

- enhance quality of life for local residents
- contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities
- promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

The maximum award is £5,000.

Applicant	Project	Award
Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon Community Council	To supply vouchers for groceries at Christmas for 55 households with young and elderly members, to alleviate cost of living pressure and improve quality of life.	£4,390.00
Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon Community Council	To purchase and install a new notice board at Curin to keep the community informed and connected.	£1,089.20
Scatwell Community Association	To cover the costs of indoor bowling equipment to improve social and recreational opportunities.	£1,550.00

4.2 Financial Statement

Statement Period: 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024

Balances brought forward	£24,623.16
Income	
EDF Renewables	£12,551.05
Expenditure	
Grants awarded - paid	£8,279.20
Grants awarded - pending	£0.00
Fund expenses	£15.00
Grants returned/cancelled	£600.00
Balance carried forward	£29,480.01

4.3 Governance

The EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Fund Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent and helps promote the Fund locally. Panel membership is comprised of two members of Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Council, with the remainder recruited from the wider community. Panel meetings are held in person at Fairburn Hall with the option of video conferencing also available.

5. Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund - Lochbroom

5.1 Awards

The Lochbroom Fund is normally administered as a micro-grant scheme by Lochbroom Community Council, with Foundation Scotland providing a single award to the Community Council in each year, for it to then disburse as small charitable grants of up to £250 to individuals and to groups.

Any underspend (£257.95) is ringfenced and will be carried over to the next year of microgrant awards.

Nine awards of £250 were made in the year, summarised below:

Macphail Centre	Community art project to celebrate local wildflowers
Lochbroom Football Club	Equipment for junior and adult football sessions
West Edge	Path repairs in Leckmelm Wood
Lochbroom Leisure Centre	Kayaking training sessions
Welcome Ullapool	Dog poop bags for poop collections
Ullaspool	New inflatable for use in the community pool
Ullapool Swimming Club	Training for new swimming coaches
Ullapool Primary Parent Council	Outdoor play equipment
Ullapool & District Youth Group	Rent and broadband

5.2 Financial Statement

Balances brought forward	£0.00
Income	
EDF Renewables	£2,507.95
Expenditure	
Grants awarded - paid	£2,507.95
Grants awarded - pending	£0.00
Fund expenses	£0.00
Grants returned/cancelled	£0.00
Balance carried forward	£0.00

For more information contact:

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Appendix 1 - Education & Training Fund Award Summary

Bursary Awards:

Reference	Summary	Award	Priority	Project Area
FR-0085804	To contribute to the costs of course fees for a MSc in Climate Change Finance & Investment.	£1,000.00	Priority 1	Lochbroom
FR-0077709	To contribute to the costs of studying for an MA in Mathematics (Year 1)	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Garve
FR-0077949	To cover the costs of completing one Open University module for a diploma of higher education in engineering.	£564.00	Priority 2	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0078019	To contribute to the costs of completing a five year BVSCi (Year 1) in Veterinary Science.	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0078034	To contribute to the costs associated with completing an apprenticeship (Year 1) to become an electrician.	£300.00	Priority 2	Strathpeffer
FR-0078154	To purchase a laptop and associated items to help the applicant complete an NPA (National Progression Award) in Construction Operations.	£700.00	Priority 2	Contin
FR-0079148	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons and travel costs associated with an apprenticeship in fabrication/welding.	£1,040.00	Priority 2	Garve and District
FR-0080345	To contribute to costs relating to BSc Applied Psychology (Year 2).	£1,000.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0081506	To contribute to the costs associated with completing a Marine Engineering Cadetship.	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0081512	To contribute to the associated costs of studying for a BSc in Animal Biology (Year 2).	£1,000.00	Priority 2	Contin
FR-0081933	To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BSc in Mathematics.	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom

FR-0082451	To contribute to the associated costs of studying for an MSc in Veterinary Biosciences (Year 4).	£300.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0082716	To contribute to the costs associated with completing an apprenticeship in plumbing.	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Garve and District
FR-0082931	To contribute to living costs whilst studying for a BEng Mechanical Engineering (Year 3).	£300.00	Priority 2	Contin
FR-0083513	To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Year 2).	£1,000.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0084476	To cover the costs of completing a OU module in Electronics: Signal Processing, Control and Communications.	£594.00	Priority 2	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0084800	To contribute to accommodation expenses whilst studying Naval Architecture with Ocean Engineering (Year 3).	£300.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0085141	To cover the course fees of a BSc in Professional Practice (Paramedic Science) (Year 2)	£1,000.00	Priority 2	Lochbroom
FR-0087542	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons and travel expenses associated with an electrician apprenticeship.	£1,200.00	Priority 2	Strathpeffer
FR-0087906	To contribute to the costs associated with completing an NC in Fabrication and Welding Engineering.	£1,500.00	Priority 2	Contin
FR-0077715	To cover the costs of completing the BHSQ (British Horse Society Qualification) Level 2 horse riding qualification.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Contin
FR-0077976	To cover cost of fees for SVQ3 in Social Care	£1,200.00	Priority 3	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0078018	To contribute to the costs of completing the one year PGDE Primary Education course allowing the applicant to pursue a career in primary teaching.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom

FR-0078042	To contribute to the costs of completing a two day body piercing course.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Contin
FR-0078363	To cover the costs of a new laptop to aid with studying and training related to their job as a senior early years practitioner.	£605.00	Priority 3	Contin
FR-0079097	To contribute to the associated costs of studying for BA (Hons) International Marketing (Year Three)	£300.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0079881	To contribute to childcare costs whilst the applicant studies for a BSC in nursing studies.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0079980	To contribute to the costs of completing a Royal Yachting Association Dinghy Instructor course.	£989.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0080143	To contribute to costs relating to studying for an MA in Ancient History (Year 2)	£600.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0080528	To contribute to the costs of studying for a degree in Economics and Finance (year 3)	£200.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0080668	To contribute to the costs of student accommodation whilst studying for a NQ Bakery SCQF Level 6.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0080683	To contribute to the cost of fees to complete an SVQ Level 3 in Social Services and Healthcare.	£1,150.00	Priority 3	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0080700	To contribute to the associated costs of studying for an MA in Primary Education.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Strathpeffer
FR-0080723	To contribute to the costs of equipment relating to Hairdressing apprenticeship and also for driving lessons.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0080724	To contribute to the associated costs of studying for a BSC in Paramedic Science (Year 2).	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0080779	To contribute to the associated costs of completing an HND in Photography (year 4 award)	£200.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom

FR-0080952	To contribute to the costs of rent whilst studying for an MA (Hons) in Economics & Politics.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0081077	To contribute to the costs of completing a BDes in Illustration (Year 3)	£200.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0081079	To contribute to living costs relating to BA in Social Work (Year 2).	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0081180	To contribute to the costs of completing a 16 week Art Portfolio Course.	£500.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0081308	To contribute to the costs associated with studying for a BA(Hons) in Business with Marketing (Year 1).	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Contin
FR-0081320	To contribute to the costs of studying for MA in Spanish and Business (Year 1)	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Strathpeffer
FR-0081444	To contribute to the costs of completing a chainsaw certification course.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Garve and District
FR-0081496	To contribute to the costs of completing a 360 degree excavator course.	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0081500	To contribute to the costs of completing a dog grooming course.	£390.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0081503	To contribute to the costs of completing an HNC in Soft Tissue Therapy.	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Contin
FR-0081951	To contribute to the course fees of a post-graduate certificate in Education.	£740.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0083321	To cover the fees of a three week restorative aquaculture course.	£935.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0083688	To meet the costs of completing a Level Two City & Guilds Award in the safe use of sheep dips and the required PPE.	£710.00	Priority 3	Strathpeffer
FR-0083837	To contribute to the costs of accommodation whilst the applicant completes an MSc in Product Design.	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0084809	To contribute to the costs of rent while the applicant studies for an MA in Italian and Spanish (Year 2).	£600.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom.

FR-0084980	To contribute to the costs associated with studying for a BA in Health & Social Studies (Year 1).	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Garve and District
FR-0085552	To cover the fees for an ear wax removal course and to contribute to the associated travel costs.	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom.
FR-0085572	To contribute to the course fees of a Level Three Apprenticeship in Farriery (Year 1).	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Strathpeffer
FR-0086317	To contribute to the fees of a Biodynamic CranioSacral Therapy course.	£1,500.00	Priority 3	Garve and District
FR-0087647	To contribute to the costs associated with an NC in Shipping and Maritime Operations.	£1,000.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0087672	To contribute to the associated costs of completing an access module in Psychology, Social Science and Wellbeing through the Open University.	£700.00	Priority 3	Lochbroom
FR-0075449	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Strathpeffer
FR-0077671	To contribute to the costs of an intensive driving course to enable the applicant to retain employment and gain more independence.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0077983	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon
FR-0078350	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0078678	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0079087	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Garve and District
FR-0080326	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0080339	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0080692	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Strathpeffer

FR-0081268	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Strathpeffer
FR-0081339	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0081340	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0081437	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0081516	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons and the associated expenses.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0081519	To contribute to the costs of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0081521	To cover the costs of completing a Level 5 TEFL Course (Teaching English as a Foreign Language).	£550.00	Priority 4	Contin
FR-0085546	To contribute to the cost of driving lessons.	£500.00	Priority 4	Garve and District

Support for Business/Organisations

Developing career aspirations and journeys:

Applicant	Project	Award
Ulluminate CIC	To contribute to cost of community outreach and education day for Ulluminate science and arts festival.	£1,250.00
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	To fund travel and setup costs to enable all primary 6 to s2 pupils to access the Newton Room in Dingwall or the popup version in Ullapool to educate and inspire young people about STEM subjects.	£3,000.00
Dingwall Academy Parent Council	To help senior pupils develop and manage a mobile coffee and baking trailer, and develop a community garden, as a social enterprise to improve skills and employability and forge links with local businesses.	£1,940.00

Appendix 2 - Background to the Fund

EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is a charitable fund established to benefit people living in the community council areas of Contin; Garve & District; Lochbroom; Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon; and Strathpeffer (the Area of Benefit). This report covers the operation of the Fund from 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024, its eighth year of operation.

The Fund is linked to EDF Renewables' Corriemoillie Wind Farm in Ross-Shire and annual donations equate to £5,000 per MW of installed capacity at the Wind Farm per year. Donations to the Fund rise annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index. Based on the wind farm export capacity of 48.45MW, the funding totalled £242,250 in the first year of operation (2016 - 2017) and is expected to continue for the operating lifetime of the wind farm, which is likely to be 25 years.

The Fund is split into six sub-funds. Each community council area has its own local community fund and there is an Education and Training Fund covering all five community council areas. The Education and Training Fund accounts for 20% of the overall funding with the remaining 80% split across the five communities as follows:

Community council area	Proportion of remaining funds
Contin	7%
Garve & District	80%
Lochbroom	1%
Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon	5%
Strathpeffer	7%

This report covers those sub-funds held and administered by Foundation Scotland and therefore not the Garve & District sub-fund, which is administered by the Lochluichart Community Trust.

Appendix 3 – Education & Training Fund Framework

The Fund was established to support a range of specific outcomes:

- a) More individuals resident within the Area of Benefit are equipped with the range of skills and confidence required to enter into and retain employment in the key sectors the Fund supports;
- b) Micro (1-10 employees) / small (11-50 employees) businesses are able to create new job opportunities or retain existing jobs that may benefit individuals resident in the Area of Benefit;
- c) Micro / small businesses that employ individuals from the Area of Benefit have the necessary skills and confidence to grow and sustain their operations in order to secure their long-term future.

The Fund continued to focus on the following priority sectors in Year Eight:

Priority 1: Renewables and energy industry related

Priority 2: Engineering, construction and related trades, health & safety, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Digital)

Priority 3: Industries which will benefit job retention in the area, including tourism, forestry and timber technologies, rural development, agriculture (including crofting, environmental conservation; estates management; aquaculture/fisheries management, equestrian, other land-based industries, food & drink, health and social care, creative industries, life sciences, finance and business services, haulage, education and other sectors generating benefits for the local community

Priority 4: Other education courses that enhance employability and the success of micro and small sized businesses, including ability to set up and grow your own business. Examples are: marketing & sales, IT & web development, managing staff, accounts / financial management, entrepreneurship and business sustainability

Awards were offered under three distinct strands:

Bursaries to support individual's costs of attending training, education courses or apprenticeships with a maximum award level of £1,500 in year 1 of the course, £1,000 in year 2, and £300 each in years 3 and 4 for Priority 1 and 2 sectors, with decreasing amounts available for Priority 3 and 4.

Support to businesses of up to £2,500 per organisation per year for staff training and development leading to a recognised vocational qualification.

Support of up to £3,000 for activities that enable individuals to **develop their career aspirations and journey**. This includes access to learning resources that support the development of career aspirations, learning and development that increases employability, and activities that inspire and motivate individuals by developing links with prospective employers

Appendix 4 - Financial Statement

Statement Period: 16 December 2023 to 15 December 2024

	Education & Training	Contin	Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon	Strathpeffer	Lochbroom	Total
Balances brought forward	£50,112.11	£29,478.95	£24,623.16	£5,034.94	£0.00	£109,249.16
Income						
EDF Renewables	£62,755.26	£17,578.25	£12,551.05	£17,578.25	£2,507.95	£112,970.76
Expenditure						
Grants awarded - paid	£83,227.00	£17,574.85	£8,279.20	£13,202.00	£2,507.95	£124,791.00
Grants awarded - pending	£18,950.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,000.00	£0.00	£22,950.00
Fund expenses	£0.00	£30.00	£15.00	£56.00	£0.00	£101.00
Grants returned/cancelled	-£9,693.00	-£300.00	-£600.00	-£0.00	£0.00	-£10,593.00
Balances carried forward	£20,383.37	£29,752.35	£29,480.01	£5,355.19	£0.00	£84,970.92

