

Panel Guidance: The panel is asked to assess each application against the following guidance.

“The selection panel are asked to use their experience and judgement to assess the applications to determine those that would benefit most from the injection of finance from the Cross.

National charities are welcome to apply to Highland Cross for funding for projects that are of direct benefit to people in the Highlands. However the panel will wish to examine why the funding is required where a charity has a major national fundraising operation. They will also require assurances that the assets will continue to be applied to the benefit of people in the Highlands for the foreseeable future and that there is a sustainable plan for their use should the national charity cease operations in the Highlands.

In making their assessment of each project the assessors are free to consider any factors that they determine as relevant however they are asked to include in their considerations the factors of:

**Immediacy of benefit:** Will this donation allow the project to commence or sustain beneficial activities or will it form part of a larger project that may take years to come to fruition? It has been a general feeling of past Committees that it is less desirable to have funds sitting in a collection account for years. It has generally been felt better for funds raised to be applied to the benefit of the community as close to the event as possible. In some cases an application has been deferred until it was nearer completion and then the Cross has contributed a sum necessary to complete the total as described in the next section.

**Identification of an item for purchase:** It has been the practice of the Cross to attempt to fund a specific facility. A bus for a single group, a radio scheme for the Mountain Rescue in Glen Affric or Casualty Kits for rural emergency Doctors. Where the appeal is on a major scale then the contribution is preferred to be for a discrete portion of the provision such as the provision of all the gym equipment for the Highland Cardiac unit.

**Sustainability:** If a bid is being made on behalf of a third party – such as medical equipment for a hospital – there requires to be assurance that the equipment is welcomed by the recipient. Do they have the staffing etc to ensure that it is appropriately utilised for the benefit of the community? Equally where the provision is a vehicle or a building – is there a plan in place to secure on going funding to ensure that the asset will be maintained for an effective life span?

**Community Impact and Benefit:** Will this benefit a whole community in a general way such as the defibrillators and casualty kits for dispersed GPs or a specific micro community such as disabled sports people. This may require careful balancing of values. Support for a very small constituency with great need and little opportunity to seek support elsewhere against a broader general community benefit.”