



# AGM REPORT

**Caithness & North  
Sutherland Fund**

**2023 / 2024**





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## 01. CNSF Overview

The Caithness & North Sutherland Fund was established to distribute funding from the development of the Low Level Waste Facilities at Dounreay.

The Fund distributes funding to community organisations for projects that will increase the attractiveness of Caithness and North Sutherland as a place to live, work and invest with particular emphasis on achieving environment, social, culture and infrastructure improvements.

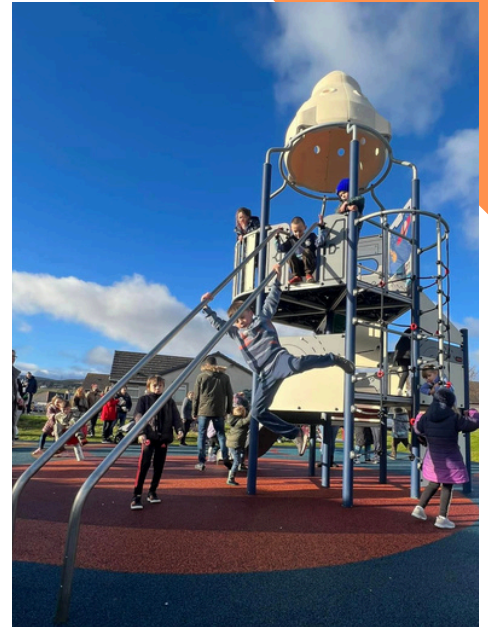
The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has provided £4m funding via NRS Dounreay; £1m at the start of construction and £3m over the ten years 2014 to 2023.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management and funding decision-making of the CNSF rests with the Board. The Board comprises of individuals appointed to represent the local community as a result of an open application process and three Highland Councillors from Caithness and North Sutherland nominated by the Highland Council.

Caithness Chamber of Commerce administers the Fund on behalf of the Board. The funding is distributed in line with the NDA's socio-economic policy and funding applications are assessed quarterly.

The Fund is still open and welcomes new applications which meet the guidelines and criteria set out in the application process.

For further details contact [enquiries@cnsf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cnsf.org.uk) or visit the website [www.cnsf.org.uk](http://www.cnsf.org.uk)



## 02. Statistics Report

### CNSF Lifetime Summary

Our funding is distributed in line with the NDA's socio-economic policy and must benefit people living in the Dounreay Travel to Work Area.

### CNSF Improvement Themes



ENVIRONMENT



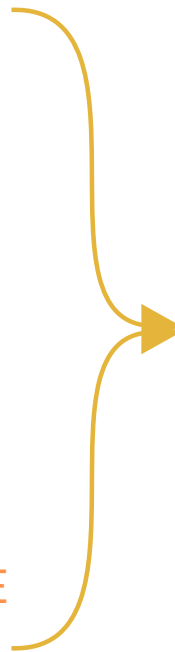
SOCIAL



CULTURE



INFRASTRUCTURE



**INCREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF CAITHNESS & NORTH SUTHERLAND AS A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST.**



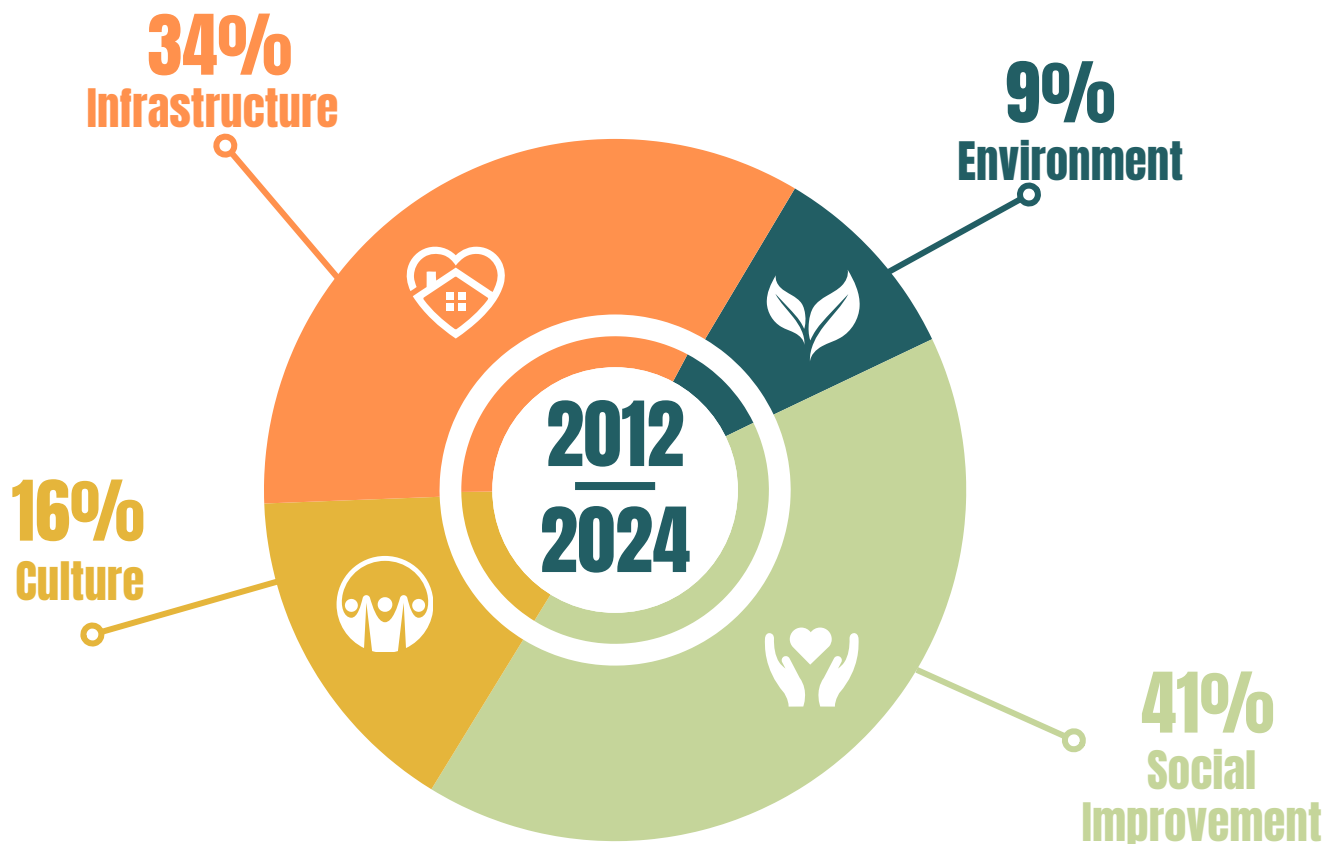
# 240

## Projects Supported

SINCE 2012, WE'VE INVESTED  
**£3.12 MILLION**  
IN CAITHNESS & NORTH SUTHERLAND



The Fund has committed a total of **£3,120,640** towards **240 community projects** with a total value estimated to be just over **£15 million**. The projects are wide ranging and deliver a major improvement impact throughout the Dounreay Travel to Work Area under one or more of our improvement themes.



*'Figure 1 Shows allocation of funding across improvement themes over the lifetime of the fund.*

# Geographic Allocation

The funding is distributed to a wide range of projects, benefitting communities throughout the Dounreay Travel to Work Area (DTWA). The map below shows the Fund's catchment area as well as a breakdown of the geographic allocation of the funding approved by the Fund's Community Benefit Package Committee.

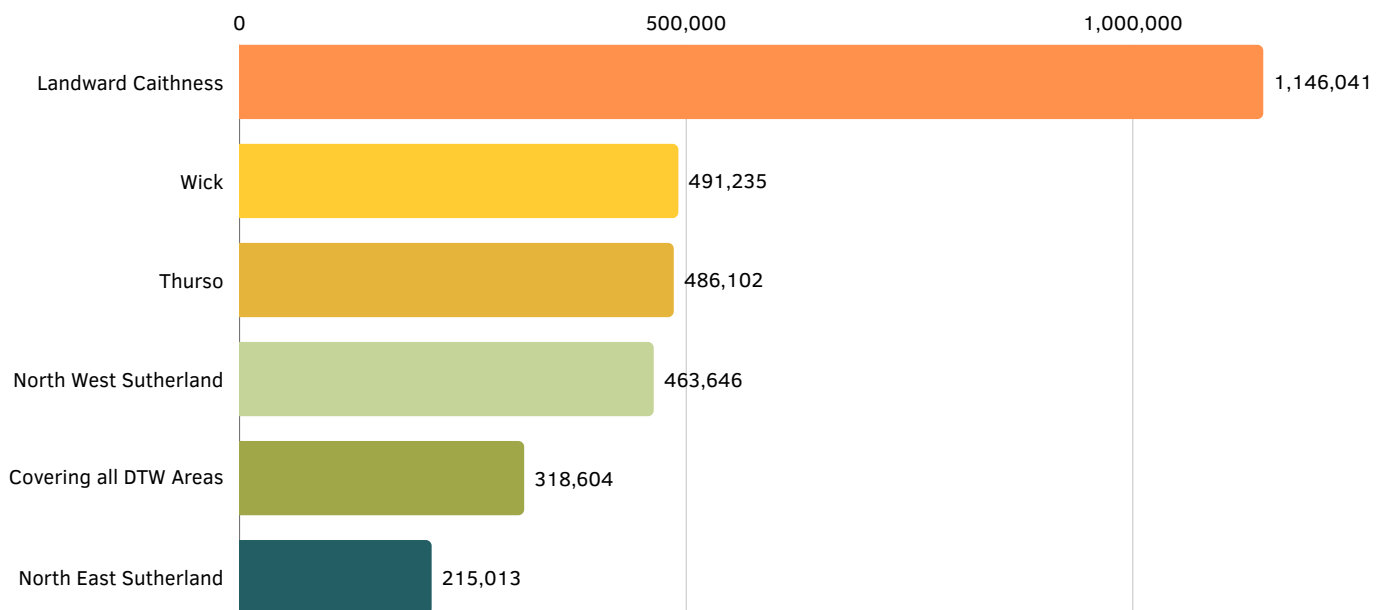
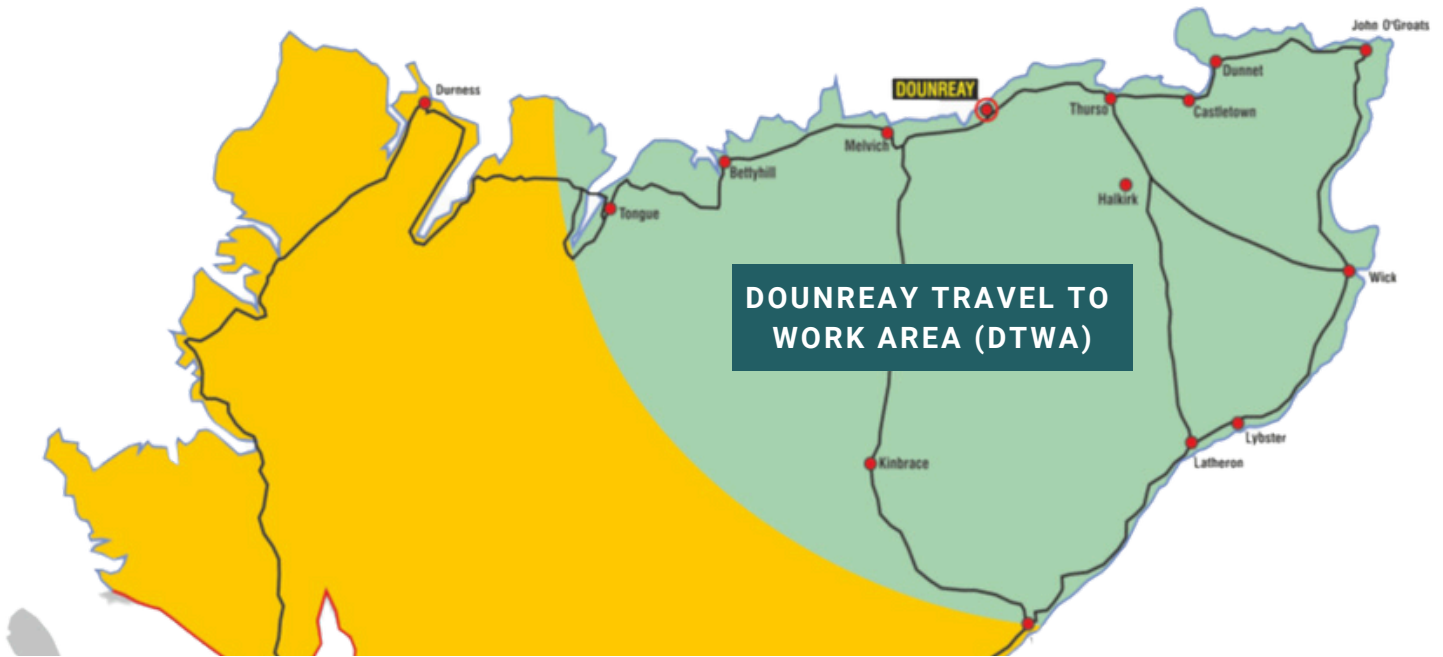


Figure 2 Shows allocation of funding over the lifetime of the fund by DTW area.



# 03. Year Funding Overview - 2023/24



**Projects Supported 2023/24**

ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE OF OVER **£1.24M**

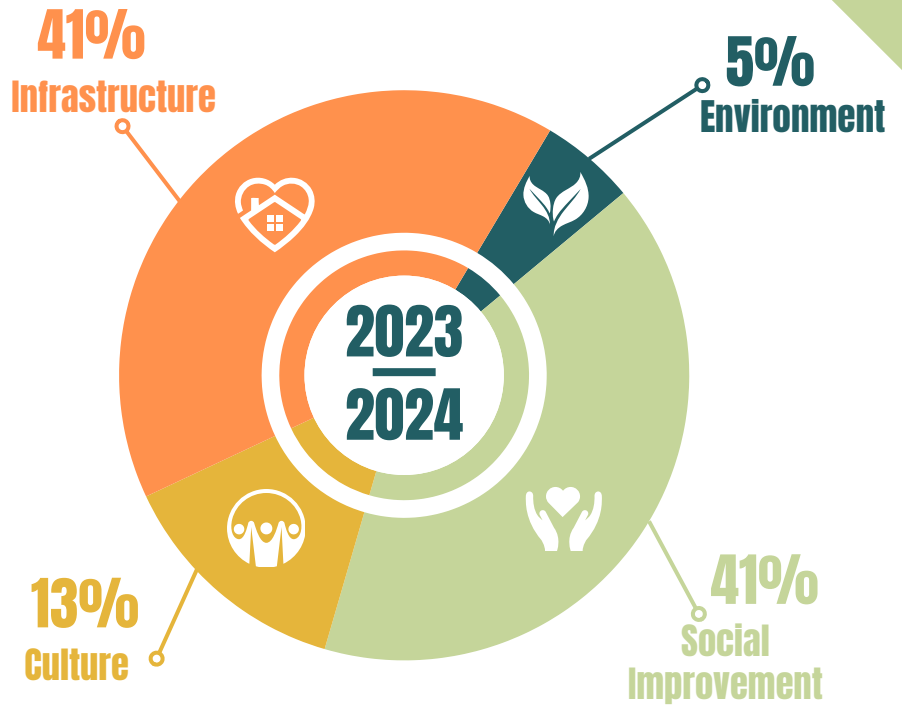


Figure 3 Shows allocation of funding across improvement themes over the 2023/24 period.

## Project Investment Value 2023/24

19 improvement projects were supported by the CNSF in the year 2023/24. CNSF awarded over £302k to the projects, which are projected to attract over £874k in leverage funding. Community groups are also contributing an in-kind value of around £65k toward these projects. This gives a total estimated project value of over £1.24m.

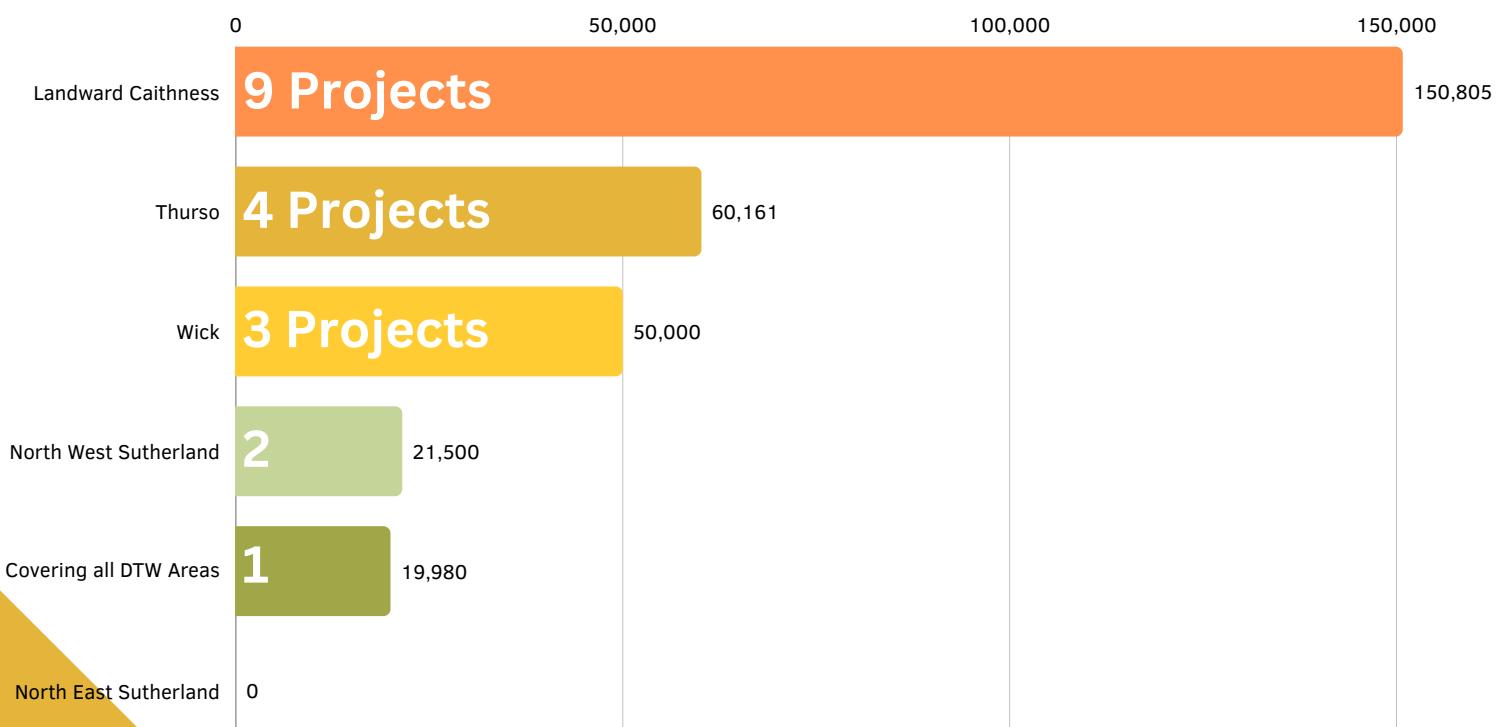


Figure 4 Shows the CNSF funding award, by area - highlighting the number of projects supported.

# 04. 3 Year Funding Overview

## Project Investment Value April 2021 to March 2024

The following infographics highlight projects supported during the last 3-years which included the period of Covid lockdowns and post-Covid recovery.

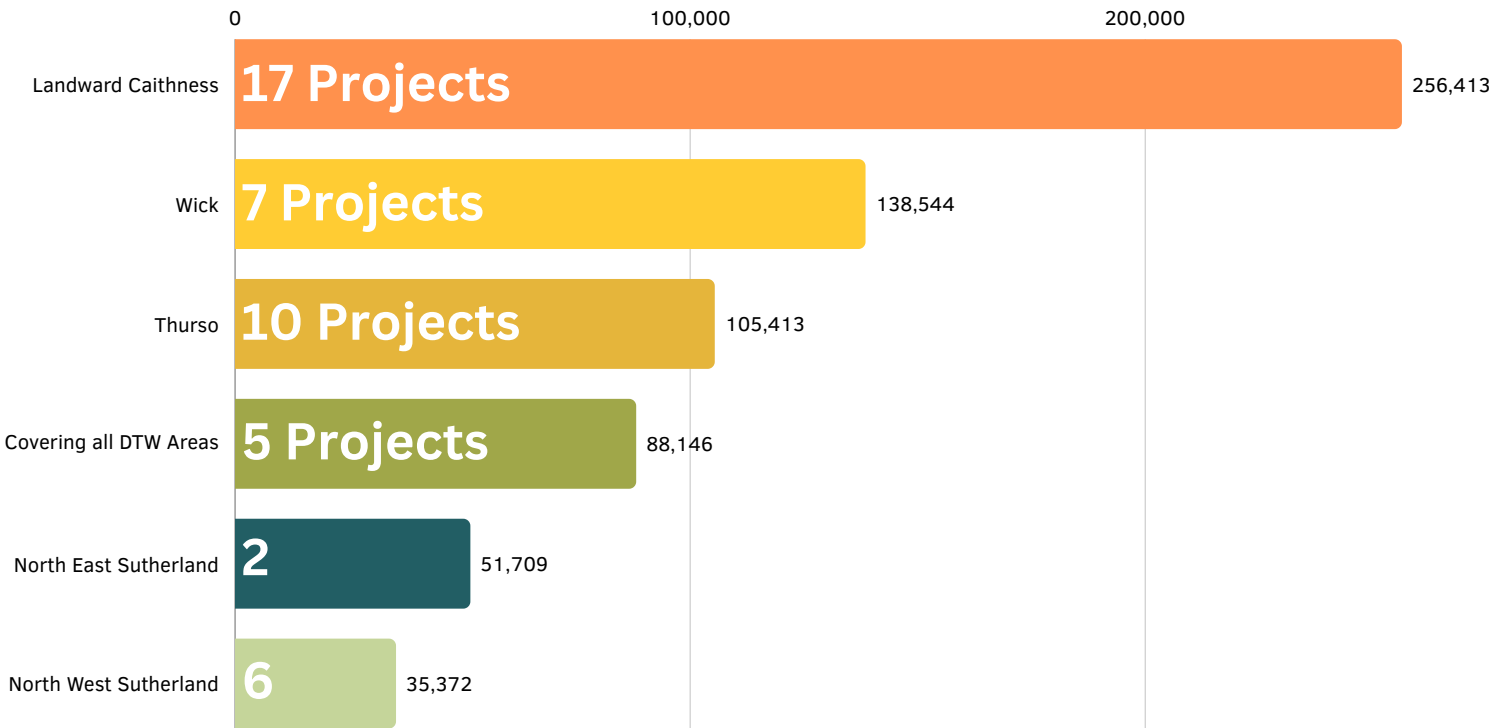


Figure 5 Shows the CNSF funding award, by area - highlighting the number of projects supported.

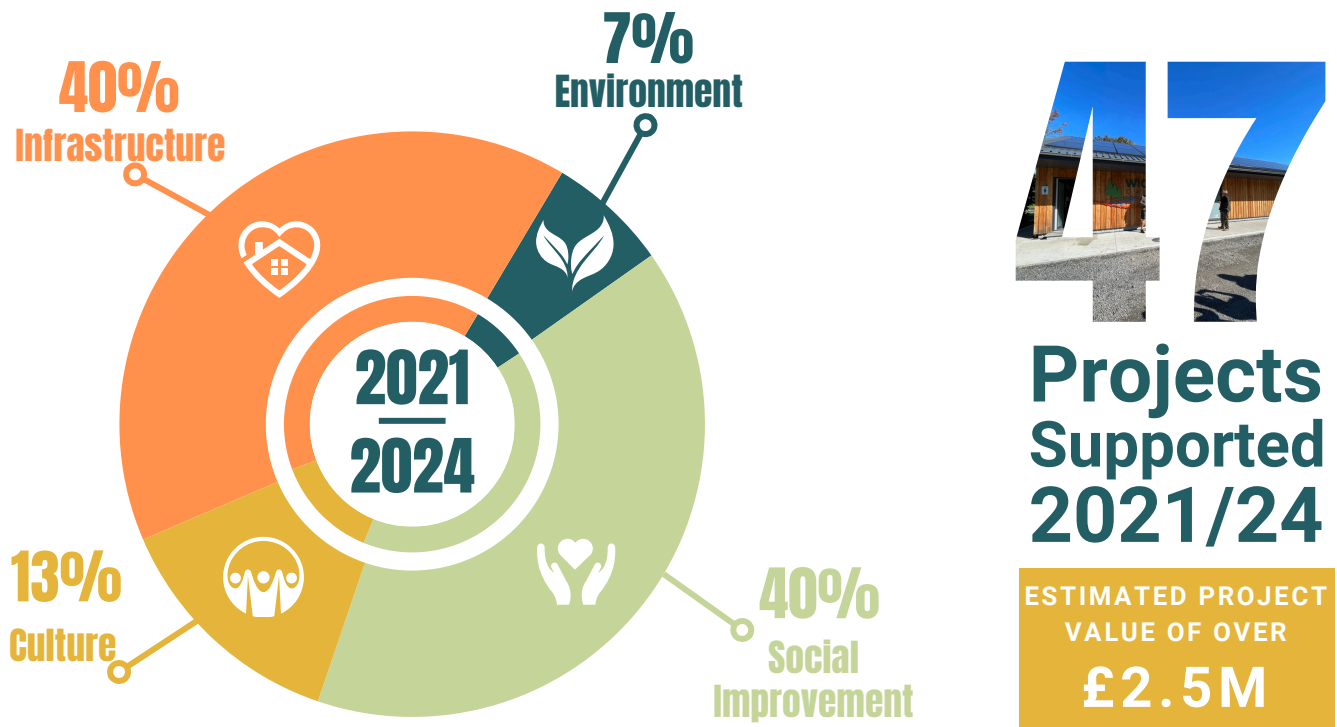


Figure 6 Shows allocation of funding across improvement themes from April 2021 - March 2024.



# 05. Reay Funding Review

## Project Investment Value 2012 to March 2024

The following infographics highlight projects supported in Reay, which is the community nearest to the Low Level Waste facilities at Dounreay.

# REAY

## 10 Projects Supported

SINCE 2012, WE'VE INVESTED  
£157,960 IN REAY



Area	Total Project Cost	Leverage Funding	In Kind Contribution	CNSF Awarded
Reay	£746,774	£535,692	£51,251	£157,960

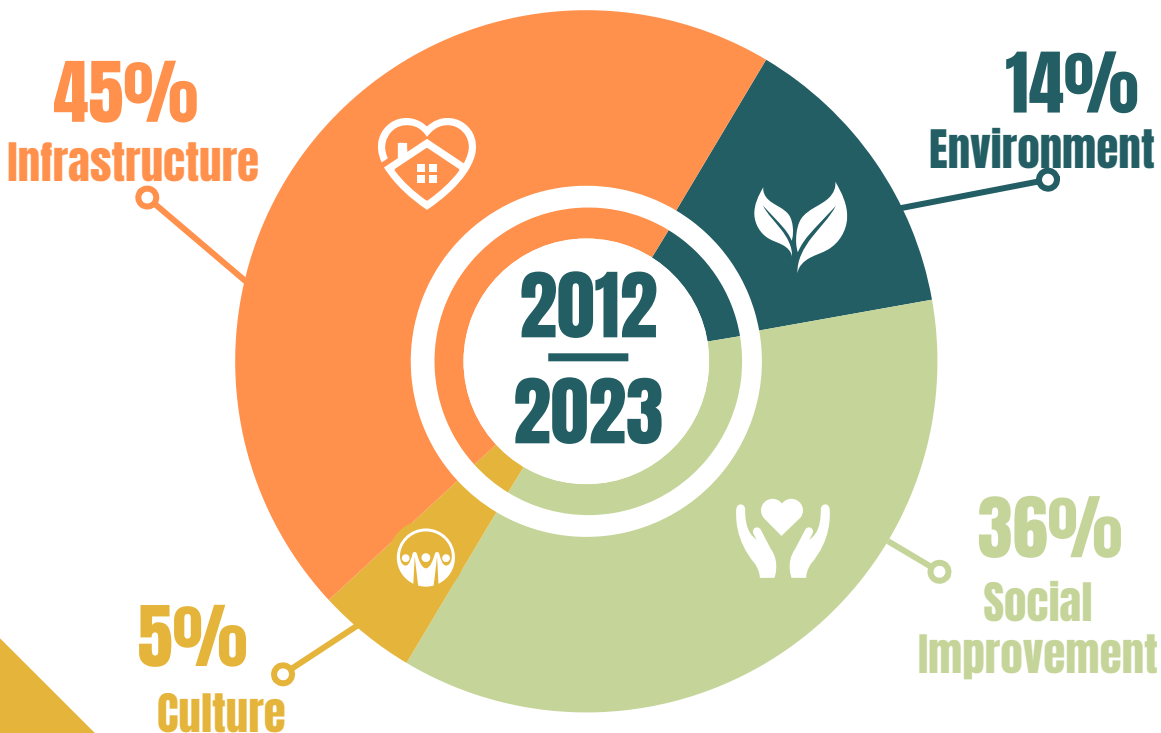


Figure 7 Shows allocation of funding to the Reay area across improvement themes since the establishment of CNSF.

## 06. Case Studies

# OUR IMPACT

## Clan Mackay Society



**Award:** £1,500



**Themes:** Cultural & Social

The Clan Mackay Society seeks to preserve the Mackay heritage for future generations, create a community to bring together those with the Mackay name and cultivate a sense of pride in belonging to Clan Mackay.

They collect and preserve records, traditions and historical material bearing on the history of the Clan and its members. They support cultural, educational, and social projects in the region of the North of Scotland referred to as "Mackay Country", and particularly the Clan Room at Strathnaver Museum.

### What we did

An award was given towards the inauguration of Lord Reay. The Lord Reay is the hereditary clan chief of Clan Mackay and the Society hosted an historically accurate inauguration as well as an afternoon of games and celebrations. An evening ceilidh was also held to mark the event of naming him as clan chief.

The event saw over 300 visitors from around the world attend the events held in Bettyhill, Strathnaver Museum and Strathy Hall. The event was filmed, and a recording produced, highlighting the area, with a special focus on Strathnaver Museum.



**£1,500 AWARDED**  
**HISTORICALLY ACCURATE**  
**INAUGURATION OF LORD REAY**



## 06. Case Studies

# OUR IMPACT

## Bower Primary School Parent Council



**Award:** £3,200



**Themes:** Environment, Social & Infrastructure

The parent council at Bower Primary School has a caring approach to their practice that considers the needs of their pupils, families, and the wider community. They have an ethos that fosters respect and collaboration and, exciting experiences that develop resilience, confidence, and success for all of their learners.

It aims to provide a hub for the community and inter-generational activity within the school. Providing social opportunities for their pupils, staff, families and the wider community by holding school and community events.

### What we did

An award was made towards the installation of a Polycrub at Bower Primary School for use both within the school, Bower Busy Bees ELC, and for the wider community. The pupils at the school have involved themselves by electing members to a Polycrub committee. They are currently learning about budgeting for the project.

Both the school, nursery and the community are getting involved in learning about growing their own produce. The Polycrub has added an excellent facility to the existing school infrastructure and adds another dimension to limited amenities in the rural community.



**£3,200 AWARDED  
POLYCRUB**



## 06. Case Studies

# OUR IMPACT

## Helmsdale & District Community Association

£ Award: £30,000

💡 Themes: Social & Infrastructure

The Helmsdale & District Community Association is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of all residents in the Helmsdale district. Their mission includes promoting health, advancing education, providing meeting spaces, and offering facilities for physical, mental, and social development. In 2021, a sub-group was formed to focus on restoring the community playpark.

### What we did

An award was made towards the refurbishment of the existing play park area at Rockview place in Helmsdale, creating an inclusive space to play and to tackle problems of isolation by creating an outdoor meeting space.

The play park group was inspired to pick a space theme in tribute to Virgin Galactic's chief pilot David Mackay, who was brought up in Helmsdale and is the first native-born Scot to visit space. By basing the Park's theme on an influential person they hope to enthuse the next generation by demonstrating that location need not inhibit aspirations or limit future success.

They had a successful opening day in November 2023 which was well attended.



**£30,000 AWARDED**  
**PLAYSPACE PLAY PARK**  
**RENOVATION**



## 06. Case Studies

# OUR IMPACT

## North Highland Harriers



**Award:** £15,511



**Themes:** Environment, Social & Infrastructure

The North Highland Harriers is a Caithness-based running club, offering inclusive opportunities for runners of all abilities to enjoy and enhance their performance. The club is active across multiple disciplines, including road running, trail running, cross-country, hill running, and ultra-distance events.

For their West Caithness training sessions, the Harriers regularly use the Thurso Boating Pond Path. This path is also part of the route for the Thurso Parkrun and the Millbank Boating Pond Junior Parkrun, supporting regular community running and training activities.

### What we did

An award was made towards upgrading the Thurso Boating Pond Path, making it safer and more accessible for walking, running, wheelchair users, prams, cyclists, and dog walkers.

The old path was narrow, in disrepair and subject to flooding. It is now a safer environment for all, with the addition of drainage to combat the frequent flooding of the old path and decrease the chance of standing water, minimising the path maintenance and degradation in the future, reduce the ice risk during winter and slippery surfaces during wet periods.

The upgraded circular route has joined the main riverside path in a safe manner thus allowing a greatly improved network of paths in the Thurso River area.

**£15,511 AWARDED  
PATH UPGRADES**



*'The upgrade of the path has meant that the boating pond paths are now accessible to us again during the winter months. There are limited places we can train in the winter, and we can now train again at the boating pond on a great surface. This has been welcomed by our runners. We are grateful to the financial support provided by CNSF to help us bring this project to fruition.'*

*Sandy Christie, Chairperson of the North Highland Harriers*







### IMAGE CREDITS

Thank you to the following people and organisations for providing images for this report:

- Alan Hendry, HN Media
- Bower Primary School Parent Council
- Caithness FM
- Clan Mackay Society
- Dunbeath Community Centre
- Helmsdale & District Community Association
- Millbank Boating Pond Junior Parkrun
- North Apex Gymnastics Club
- North Highland Harriers
- Reay Parent Council
- Thurso Parkrun
- Wick Development Trust

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