

Location: Highlands

Glenuig Community Inn

Impact: Moving towards financial sustainability



Background

The Glenuig Inn, situated in a remote coastal village, faced the risk of being sold on the open market. Recognising its potential as a community hub, a group of passionate locals stepped in to save it. Their goal was not only to preserve a beloved asset but to use it as a catalyst for local regeneration.

Need for Support

The group faced several challenges:

- Building local momentum and ensuring they conducted robust community engagement
- Understanding the complexities of running an Inn, especially in a remote location.
- Navigating the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) process

Their first SLF application was unsuccessful, which was a major setback. However, they saw it as an opportunity to create a more strategic and focused approach.

“Our advisor acted as a pathfinder for us... We would still be trying to navigate our way if it weren’t for this support”



How did Accelerate support the process?

The Accelerate programme provided:

- Expert guidance after the SLF rejection
- Support in developing a fit-for-purpose business plan
- Help with recruiting key staff
- Strategic connections to other support services.
- Provided support for launching the community share offer.

What is the economic and social impact of the support?

Thanks to strong engagement and a compelling vision, they reached their community share offer goal of £300,000 in record time. This unlocked SLF match funding, enabling the purchase of the Inn.

Since then, the Inn has become:

- A venue for hospitality, tourism, and creative industries
- A training ground for young people
- A source of income for local suppliers
- A source of inspiration for wider community initiatives

The team is now exploring a social housing project to address rural housing challenges. The aim is to create homes that will allow young people and families to stay in the community, and create further regeneration opportunities locally.