

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on 19 October 2016 at 9.00am.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mrs E McAllister
Mr T Prag
Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Ms C Jarmy, Clerical Assistant, Business Support

Mr T Prag in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

Minutes of Meeting of the Inverness City Arts Working Group held on 19 August 2016 were circulated and **NOTED**.

5. River Connections Public Art Project Programme

There had been circulated Report No ICArts/09/16 dated 12 October 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which highlighted the progress made since the last meeting in respect of the Gathering Place project and the next steps, noting the decision taken by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016.

It was noted that the Funding Partnership with HIE and Creative Scotland is secure and partners remain confident that this group will ensure a high quality and ambitious series of projects.

Prof Ken Neil has regretfully had to withdraw from the panel due to work commitments, and all agreed that the Exhibitions Officer should ask Prof Will MacLean to join in his place. The remaining panel members Prof Jim Mooney and Mark Lomax have agreed to remain. The Principal Project Manager will replace The Head of Infrastructure as technical officer but his involvement will be restricted to giving technical advice. The Inverness City Area Manager and the Exhibitions Officer will also remain as advisors to the panel. It was suggested that the Youth Convener join the Evaluation Panel.

The Artist selection process is underway with tenders being returned and the Evaluation panel being arranged for late November / early December depending upon availability. Artists will be selected based on the co-creation process rather than the final concept. It was noted that a list of Stakeholders will be required to form a Focus Group.

It was agreed that merging The Gathering Place and the Children's Water Feature would not be appropriate as each requires its own integrity. It may still be possible to cut costs by co-ordinating the schedule of works. However, quality of work must be assured.

The remaining projects had been put on hold pending confirmation of funding but it was agreed they should now go ahead, noting Creative Scotland's agreement.

There is concern that budget constraints may mean a reduced number of rest spaces. Detailed work is underway to ensure that the planned Rest Spaces compliment the work recently undertaken through the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Timescale and finalised title for 'The Seer' project to be confirmed by Exhibitions Officer and reported back to Working Group.

Thereafter the Working Group:-

- i. **NOTED** the re-tendering process for the Gathering Place;
- ii. **AGREED** to proceed with the other projects within the programme;
- iii. **AGREED** not to merge the Gathering Place and the Childrens Water Feature;
- iv. **AGREED** to expand the Evaluation panel to include the Youth Convener and replace Prof Ken Neil with Prof Will MacLean;
- v. **AGREED** to replace the Head of Infrastructure with the Principal Project Manager on the Evaluation Panel.

6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts/10/16 dated 12 October 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 30 September 2016 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

The Principal Project Manager advised that a full financial report will be included within future minutes and will show breakdown of costs in relation to each project.

The Working Group **NOTED** the content of the report.

7. Press Relations and Forthcoming PR Opportunities and Risks

It was agreed that a Press Partnership strategy would be beneficial. The Inverness City Area Manager will contact The Corporate Communications Manager for guidance on whether developing this type of relationship with the press would be appropriate.

The Working Group **AGREED** a Press Partnership Strategy to be developed.

8. Date of next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 7 December 2016 at 9.00 am.

The meeting ended at 10.45am.