

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS
Scottish Charity Number SC025079

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year ended 31 March 2019

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018/19**

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HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity Name: Highland Council Charitable Trusts

Charity Number: SC025079

Principal Office: The Highland Council
Finance Service
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Current Trustees:

Gordon Adam	James Gray	Hugh Morrison
Blair Allan	Pippa Hadley	Linda Munro
Roderick Balfour	Tom Heggie	Pauline Munro
Jennifer Barclay	Allan Henderson	Margaret Paterson
Andrew Baxter	Andrew Jarvie	Ian Ramon
Bill Boyd	Emma Knox	Matthew Reiss
Raymond Bremner	Richard Laird	Alasdair Rhind
Ian Brown	Bill Lobban	Denis Rixon
John Bruce	Derek Louden	Patricia Robertson
Caroline Caddick	Liz MacDonald	Fiona Robertson
Isabelle Campbell	Ronald MacDonald	Karl Rosie
Janet Campbell	Alexander MacInnes	Graham Ross
Helen Carmichael	Deirdre MacKay	Peter Saggars
Alasdair Christie	Donald MacKay	Glynis Sinclair
Ian Cockburn	William MacKay	Andrew Sinclair
Muriel Cockburn	Graham Mackenzie	Nicola Sinclair
George Cruickshank	Isabelle MacKenzie	Maxine Smith
Kirsteen Currie	Struan Mackie	Callum Smith
Margaret Davidson	Alistair Mackinnon	Ben Thompson
Michael Finlayson	Angela MacLean	Carolyn Wilson
John Finlayson	Calum MacLeod	
Craig Fraser	Derek MacLeod	
Laurie Fraser	Duncan MacPherson	
Richard Gale	Ron MacWilliam	
John Gordon	Elizabeth McAllister	
Ken Gowans	James McGillivray	
Alexander Graham	Niall McLean	

Other Trustees who served during the year: Catriona Stephen
(Resigned 30/09/2018)

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Honorary Treasurer: Liz Denovan
Executive Chief Officer for Resources and Finance
The Highland Council

Independent Auditor: Grant Thornton UK LLP
Level 8
110 Queen Street
Glasgow
G1 3BX

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity combines a number of educational trusts for various areas within Highland and the funds are distributed during the year as agreed with the local councillors in consultation with the relevant schools.

The charity combines the following educational trusts as at 31/3/19:

- Inverness-Shire Educational Trust
- Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust
- Caithness Educational Trust
- Sutherland Educational Trust
- Duncraig College Fund
- Forbes Meteorological Trust
- A M Mackay's Bequest
- Duncraig Endowment

The charity also incorporates the following trust for the poor of the parish of Wick:

- John Kirk's Mortification Trust

The following four Trusts are also schemes under the Education (Scotland) Acts, 1939 to 1956 for the future government and management of certain educational endowments in these former counties -

- Caithness Educational Trust Scheme 1973
- Inverness-Shire Educational Trust Scheme 1960
- Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust Scheme 1961
- County of Sutherland Educational Trust 1960

Governing Documents

This is a charitable unincorporated trust. The objectives are described in the "Objectives and Activities" section on page 6.

As this Charity was formed as a holding charity for 9 individual funds there is no overall governance document.

In terms of the Trustees' governance of the fund, they have determined that this is in terms of the Corporate Governance of Highland Council, namely the code as comprises:-

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- Financial Regulations
- Code of Corporate Governance
- Procedural Standing Orders Scheme of Administration, and
- Scheme of Delegation

When considering any action in connection with the Charity the Trustees have to act in the interest of the Charitable Trust.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Trust Documents

Due to the age of some of the individual Trusts, the Trustees do not hold all Trust Deeds. In the absence of governance documentation the Trustees rely on custom and practice to inform any decisions in respect of the Trusts' expenditure and use of assets.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees of the charity are the elected councillors of The Highland Council. Trustees are appointed through their election to The Highland Council.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees (as the elected members of the council) shall meet as often as expedient for the convenient despatch of the business of the Trust. A Trustee may at any time summon a meeting of the Trustees by notice served upon all Trustees, to take place at a reasonably convenient time and date. The Trustees delegate the day to day administration of the charity to the officers of the Council. The Council has established a range of committees with delegated powers to allow it to discharge its business effectively. This includes the management of charities. The Council has an approved constitution that governs the conduct of business by the Council and covers standing orders for meetings, a scheme of administration and delegation, financial and security regulations, contract standing orders and an ethical framework.

Related Parties

Trustees hold this position because they are elected members of The Highland Council. The Highland Council provides administration services to the Trust.

Risk Management

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources of The Highland Council, through the Corporate Audit and Performance Manager, has taken the steps required by trustees to consider the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to its operation and finance, and to be satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate the exposure to the major risks.

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Management of Funds and Investment Policy

The Trustees rely upon the expertise of The Highland Council to manage the investments to ensure the maximum return at least risk to the charity. In this way, the income stream for the future benefit of the charity is protected.

The funds of the charity are made up of stock market investments in various companies, with the balance of the funds deposited in The Highland Council Loans Fund.

For the balance of the funds the charity receives interest at the average market rate for the Council's borrowing.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose:

The charitable purpose of this charity is to hold funds for each Trust, Endowment or Bequest comprising the Charity.

The purposes of the trusts are:

- a) To advance the education of children the trustees may:
 - award prizes, bursaries and maintenance allowances;
 - assist with the cost of school trips, pupil exchanges and work experience;
 - assist with the cost of musical, sporting or other equipment within the designated area.
- b) For the poor of the parish of Wick.

In respect of those funds which have land and property, the Trustees recognise their obligations to ensure that these assets are maintained.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In the year to 31 March 2019 the trustees continued to consider all applications for grant funding received in the year, and awarded a total of 28 grant payments which amounted to £15,250.78 (2017/18 £9,289), all of which were made in the form of grants or donations for educational purposes. These grants are analysed in note 6. All payments made were in line with the aims of the Trust.

Achievements and Future Plans

During the year, the Trust continued to apply the income generated from its investments to meet its charitable objectives. The Trust will review and consider its investment activities and future grant levels in light of reducing revenue from investment income. A programme of modernisation has begun with a number of the constituent schemes being updated to reflect the current operating environment.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Income during 2018/19 comprised income from interest and investments of £41,700 (2017/18 £34,110).

The expenditure of the Trusts included grants of £15,251 (2017/18 £9,289), an annual administration charge to the Highland Council of £5,917 (2017/18 £6,178), compensation payments to a former employee of Duncraig College of £1,915 (2017/18 £1,860) and minor costs relating to the 2018 sale of Rhind House of £311.

The Trusts held investments with market value £2,326,213 (2017/18 £2,317,890), and deposits with Highland Council of £1,246,682 (2017/18 £1,228,377).

Reserves Policy

The unrestricted free reserves at the end of the financial period were £236,365 (2017/18 £234,335). This includes cash and bank balances only repayable on demand. The Trust deeds state that the "capital" is held as permanent endowments, with only the annual income available for disbursement in the year via the unrestricted reserve. The unrestricted reserves are available for the objectives of the trusts. Where annual income exceeds disbursements in a year, revenue surpluses can be added to unrestricted reserves up to the following limits:

Inverness-Shire Educational Trust Scheme	£500
Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust Scheme	£5,000*
County of Sutherland Educational Trust	£400

*Increase from £1,000 following decision at Ross & Cromarty Committee on 30/01/2019

Any further surpluses are capitalised and transferred to permanent endowment funds.

Plans for the Future

The Trust will continue to utilise the income received each year in line with the charitable purpose of each fund. The trust will continue to seek to modernise each scheme in order to ensure maximum benefit to beneficiaries.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which are properly presented in accordance with charities legislation. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of disclosure of information to the auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditor is aware of the information.

Declaration

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf.

Trustee
25 September 2019

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Highland Council Charitable Trusts and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We certify that we have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of Highland Council Charitable Trusts for the year ended 31 March 2019 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Receipts and Payments, the Statement of Balances and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and a receipts and payments basis.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- properly present the receipts and payments of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019 and its statement of balances at that date; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulations 9(1),(2) and (3) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which properly present the receipts and payments of the charity, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these

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financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other information in the statement of accounts

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission or required by applicable law to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read all the other information in the statement of accounts and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on matter prescribed by the Accounts Commission

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

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Joanne Brown (for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP)
110 Queen Street
Glasgow
G1 3BX
September 2019

Grant Thornton UK LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS
Statement of Receipts and Payments

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Permanent Endowment £	Total Funds 2018/19 £	Total Funds 2017/18
RECEIPTS					
Investment Income	5	41,700	-	41,700	34,110
Rent received		-	-	-	18,493
		41,700	-	41,700	52,603
RECEIPTS FROM ASSET AND INVESTMENT SALES					
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-	-	90,000
Total Receipts		41,700	-	41,700	142,603
PAYMENTS					
Grants and donations	6	15,251	-	15,251	9,289
Governance costs	8	5,917	-	5,917	6,066
Other expenditure	9	2,227	-	2,227	5,116
Total Payments		23,395	-	23,395	20,471
Surplus for the period		18,305	-	18,305	122,132
Transfers between funds		(16,275)	16,275	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,030	16,275	18,305	122,132

The notes on pages 14-17 form an integral part of these accounts.

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Statement of Balances

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Permanent Endowment	Total Funds 31/3/19	Total Funds 31/3/18
		£	£	£	£
Cash and bank balances					
Opening Balances		234,335	994,041	1,228,376	1,106,244
Surplus for period		18,305	-	18,305	122,132
Transfers	11	(16,275)	16,275	-	-
Closing Balances		<u>236,365</u>	<u>1,010,316</u>	<u>1,246,681</u>	<u>1,228,376</u>
Investments at Cost				858,668	858,668
Total Funds				<u>2,105,349</u>	<u>2,087,044</u>
Market Value of Investments	10			<u>2,326,213</u>	<u>2,317,890</u>

The notes on pages 14-17 form an integral part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on and approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf.

Trustee _____

Liz Denovan CPFA
Treasurer

25 September 2019

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Notes to the Accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Fund Accounting

- (a) Unrestricted funds are unspent funds from previous years, and may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- (b) The permanent endowment funds comprise donated investments, which are held in perpetuity to provide investment income to fund the charitable activities of the Trust.

3. Taxation

The charity is not liable to income or capital gains tax on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

4. Trustee Remuneration, Expense and Related Party Transactions

- (a) No remuneration or expenses were paid to charity trustees or person connected to the trustee during the period.
- (b) There were no other transactions between the charity and any trustee or any connected person during the period.
- (c) All incoming and outgoing transactions are made via the council's bank accounts.

5. Investment Income Received

Investment income received consisted of - dividend income of £32,231 (2017/18 £24,796); and Interest on Revenue balances £9,469 (2017/18 £9,314).

6. Grants

	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Total Grants Paid	15,251	9,289

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Notes to the Accounts

6.1 Total Value of Grants

	Grants paid to Institutions		Grants paid to Individuals	
	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£	£	£
Educational Grants	7,270	1,500	2,400	4,670
Educational Travel Grant	3,730	925	-	-
Educational Allowances	-	-	1,021	2,059
School Prizes	830	135	-	-
Total	11,830	2,560	3,421	6,729

6.2 Grants made to institutions

Names of Institutions	Grant Purpose	Total Amount of Grant Paid	
		2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Educational Grants/Bursaries	7,940	1,500
Culbokie Primary School	Educational Travel	200	-
Culloden Academy	Educational Travel	1,500	-
Dingwall Academy	Educational Travel	-	200
Fortrose Academy	Educational Travel	330	-
Golspie High School	School Prizes	160	125
Golspie High School	Grant	-	400
Invergordon Academy	Educational Travel	-	200
Inverness High School	Educational Travel	1,500	-
Mulbuie Primary	Educational Travel	-	125
Plockton High School	Educational Travel	200	-
Rogart Primary	School Prizes	-	10
		11,830	2,560

6.3 Number of Grants Made

Of the 28 grants paid during the year these are further analysed as follows:

- 21 were paid to individuals as educational grants
- 7 were paid to the institutions listed above.

7. Cash and Bank Balances

During the year the trusts' balances were held by The Highland Council, which manages the administration of the funds on behalf of the Trustees. The Council also acts as the banker for the charity and, as detailed above, all transactions incoming and outgoing are made via the Council's accounts. The balances are repayable on demand. Interest is payable on the balances.

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Notes to the Accounts

8. Governance Costs

Governance costs consist of the fee for the external audit of the charity of £1,000, (2017/18 £1,000) and administration fees paid to Highland Council to cover provision of accounting and legal services of £5,917 (2017/18 £5,178).

9. Other Resources Expended

Spend of £2,227 relates to compensation payments made to a former employee of Duncraig College of £1,915 (2017/18 £1,860) plus residual costs associated with the sale of Rhind House of £311.70 (2017/18 £3,256).

10. Investments

The Trusts held the following investments:

At 31/3/19	Investments	
	Cost	Market Value
	£	£
Inverness Educational Trust	28,323	494,424
Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust	36,996	1,038,440
	65,319	1,532,864
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349
	<u>858,668</u>	<u>2,326,213</u>

At 31/3/18	Investments	
	Cost	Market Value
	£	£
Inverness Educational Trust	28,323	524,033
Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust	36,996	1,000,508
	65,319	1,524,541
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349
	<u>858,668</u>	<u>2,317,890</u>

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Notes to the Accounts

11. Analysis of Charitable Trusts

Endowment Funds	Permanent Endowment Fund Balance	
	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£	£
Inverness-Shire Educational Trust	305,504	296,930
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349
Forbes Meteorological Trust	200	200
Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust	560,129	552,980
Sutherland Educational Trust	106,339	105,786
Caithness Educational Trust	93,020	93,020
A M MacKay's Bequest	100	100
John Kirk's Mortification	10,344	10,344
Total Funds	1,868,985	1,852,709

Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Fund Balance	
	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£	£
Inverness-shire Educational Trust	500	500
Duncraig Endowment	4,949	3,741
Duncraig College	300	305
Forbes Meteorological Trust	117	118
Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust	5,000	1,000
Sutherland Educational Trust	400	300
Caithness Educational Trust	224,716	228,064
A M Mackay's Bequest	47	47
John Kirk's Mortification	336	260
Total Funds	236,365	234,335