HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS Scottish Charity Number SC025079

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year ended 31 March 2022

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HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/22

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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 (appointed following local government election on 5 May 2022):

Colin Aitken Sarah Atkin Michael Baird Andrew Baldrey Chris Ballance Chris Birt Bill Bovd **Raymond Bremner** Ian Brown John Bruce Michael Cameron Isabelle Campbell Alasdair Christie Muriel Cockburn Tamala Collier Helen Crawford Sarah Fanet John Finlayson David Fraser Laurie Fraser Richard Gale Ken Gowans John Grafton Alexander Graham Michael Green

David Gregg Ron Gunn Jackie Hendry Marianne Hutchison Andrew Jarvie Barbara Jarvie Lyndsey Johnston Russell Jones Sean Kennedy Emma Knox Liz Kraft Bill Lobban Patrick Logue Derek Louden Morven-May MacCallum Angus MacDonald William MacKay Graham MacKenzie Isabelle MacKenzie Struan Mackie Andrew MacKintosh Ryan MacKintosh Angela MacLean Kate MacLean Thomas MacLennan

Duncan Macpherson Elizabeth McAllister Jan McEwan James McGillivray Drew Millar Hugh Morrison Calum Munro Pauline Munro Leslie-Anne Niven Molly Nolan Paul Oldham Margaret Paterson Sarah Rawlings Morven Reid Matthew Reiss Alasdair Rhind Patricia Robertson Karl Rosie Liz Saggers Andrew Sinclair **Glynis Campbell-Sinclair** Maxine Smith **Ruraidh Stewart** Kate Willis

Trustees as at 31 March 2022:

JZZ:	
David Fraser	Derek MacLeod
Laurie Fraser	Duncan MacPherson
Richard Gale	Ron MacWilliam
John Gordon	Elizabeth McAllister
Ken Gowans	James McGillivray
Alexander Graham	Niall McLean
James Gray	Hugh Morrison
Pippa Hadley	Calum Munro
Tom Heggie	Linda Munro
Allan Henderson	Pauline Munro
Andrew Jarvie	Margaret Paterson
Emma Knox	Matthew Reiss
Bill Lobban	Alasdair Rhind
Derek Louden	Denis Rixson
Liz MacDonald	Fiona Robertson
Alexander MacInnes	Patricia Robertson
Deirdre MacKay	Emma Roddick
•	Karl Rosie
William MacKay	Peter Saggers
Graham Mackenzie	Andrew Sinclair
Isabelle MacKenzie	Callum Smith
Struan Mackie	Maxine Smith
Alister Mackinnon	Jill Tilt
Angela MacLean	(appointed 13/08/21)
Calum MacLeod	Carolyn Wilson
	, ,
Tom Heggie	Deceased 23/02/22
Ian Ramon	Deceased 16/09/21
Graham Ross	Resigned 20/05/21
Nicola Sinclair	Resigned 28/06/21
Ben Thompson	Resigned 12/11/21
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Edward Foster	
Head of Corporate Finance	
_	
Grant Thornton UK LLP	
Level 8	
110 Queen Street	
Glasgow	
G1 3BX	
	David Fraser Laurie Fraser Richard Gale John Gordon Ken Gowans Alexander Graham James Gray Pippa Hadley Tom Heggie Allan Henderson Andrew Jarvie Emma Knox Bill Lobban Derek Louden Liz MacDonald Alexander MacInnes Deirdre MacKay Donald MacKay William MacKay Graham Mackenzie Isabelle MacKenzie Isabelle MacKenzie Struan Mackie Alister Mackinnon Angela MacLean Calum MacLeod Tom Heggie Ian Ramon Graham Ross Nicola Sinclair Ben Thompson Edward Foster Head of Corporate Finance The Highland Council Grant Thornton UK LLP Level 8 110 Queen Street Glasgow

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Highland Council Charitable Trusts (the "Charity"/the "Trust") 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 31/3/22:

- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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 5.

As this charity was formed as a holding charity for nine 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 The Highland Council (the "Council"), namely the code as comprises:

- 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 Trusts.

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 Council. Trustees are appointed through their election to the 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 Council. The Council provides administration services to the Trust.

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In the year to 31 March 2022 the trustees continued to consider all applications for grant funding received in the year, and awarded a total of 75 grant payments which amounted to $\pm 51,604$ (2020/21 $\pm 30,700$), all of which were made in the form of grants or donations for educational or welfare 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Income during 2021/22 comprised income from interest and investments of £15,647 (2020/21 £23,365).

The expenditure of the Trusts included grants of £51,604 (2020/21 £30,700), an annual administration charge to the Council of £4,108 (2020/21 £4,700), audit fees of £1,000 (2020/21 £1,000) and compensation payments to a former employee of Duncraig College of £2,005 (2020/21 £1,995).

The Trusts held investments with a market value of $\pounds 2,765,962$ (2020/21 $\pounds 2,877,264$), and deposits with the Council of $\pounds 1,473,935$ (2020/21 $\pounds 1,517,005$).

Management of Funds and Investment Policy

The Trustees rely upon the expertise of the 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.

Risk Management

The Head of Corporate Finance 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.

Reserves Policy

The unrestricted free reserves at the end of the financial period were £117,557 (2020/21 £165,095). 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

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.

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; and
- 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.

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Raymond Bremner Trustee 22/12/2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Reporting 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 2022 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 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 charities for the year ended 31 March 2022 and their 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 <u>Code of Audit Practice</u> 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 charities 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 Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give properly present the receipts and payments of the charities, and for such internal control as the trustees determines 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 financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the charities are complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the charities;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charities' controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

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

Reporting on other requirements

Other information

The trustees are responsible for other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

Our responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

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 the Trustees' Annual Report to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Trustees' Annual Report

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 Charity 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.

Joanne Brown

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

Date: 22/12/2022

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

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 March 2022

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

		Unrestricted Funds	Permanent Endowment	Total Funds 2021/22	Total Funds 2020/21
	Note	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Investment income	5	15,647	-	15,647	23,365
Total Receipts		15,647	-	15,647	23,365
PAYMENTS					
Grants and donations	6	51,604	-	51,604	30,701
Governance costs	8	5,108	-	5,108	5,700
Other expenditure	9	2,005	-	2,005	1,995
Total Expenditure		58,717	-	58,717	38,396
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period		(43,070)	-	(43,070)	(15,031)
Transfers between funds		(4,468)	4,468	-	-
Net movement in funds		(47,538)	4,468	(43,070)	(15,031)

The notes on pages 13 – 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CHARITABLE TRUSTS Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2022

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

		Unrestricted		Total Funds Total Funds	
	Note	Funds	Funds Endowment	2021-22	2020-21
		£	£	£	£
Cash and bank balances					
Opening Balances		492,597	1,024,408	1,517,005	1,532,036
Surplus for period		(43,070)	-	(43,070)	(15,031)
Transfers		(4,468)	4,468	-	-
Closing balances		445,059	1,028,876	1,473,935	1,517,005
Investments at Cost				858,668	858,668
Total Funds				2,332,603	2,375,673
Market Value of Investments	10			2,765,962	2,877,264

The notes on pages 13 – 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 21 December 2022 and approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf.

Jonnald X Dennig **Raymond Bremner** 22/12/2022

Trustee

Edward Foster CPFA Treasurer

22/12/2022

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 trustees 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 consists of dividend income of £12,133 (2020/21 £11,304) and Interest on Revenue balances £3,514 (2020/21 £12,061).

6. Grants

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Total Grants Paid	51,604	30,700

6.1. Total Value of Grants

	Grants paid to Institutions		Grants p Indivic	
	2021/22 2020/21		2021/22	2020/21
	£	£	£	£
Educational Grants	-	87	16,599	5,828
Educational Allowances	-	-	33,425	24,114
School Prizes	1,580	673	-	-
Total	1,580 759		50,024	29,942

6.2. Grants made to Institutions

Names of Institutions	Grant Purpose	Total Amount of Grant Paid	
		2021/22	2020/21
		£	£
Lybster Primary School	Educational Grants	-	87
Ben Wyvis Primary School	School Prizes	280	-
Castletown Primary School	School Prizes	37	-
Craighill Primary School	School Prizes	12	-
Dingwall Academy	School Prizes	340	-
Golspie High School	School Prizes	75	100
Halkirk Primary School	School Prizes	155	154
Knockbreck Primary School	School Prizes	13	-
Lybster Primary School	School Prizes	-	110
Pulteneytown Academy	School Prizes	67	67
Tain Royal Academy	School Prizes	310	-
Tarbat Old Primary School	School Prizes	50	-
Wick High School	School Prizes	241	241
		1,580	759

6.3. Number of Grants Made

Of the 75 grants paid during the year these are further analysed as follows:

- 51 were paid to individuals as educational and welfare grants
- 24 were paid to the institutions listed above.

7. Cash and Bank Balances

During the year, the trusts' balances were held by the 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.

8. Governance Costs

Governance costs consist of the fee for the external audit of the Charity of £1,000 (2020/21 \pounds 1,000) and administration fees paid to the Council to cover provision of accounting and legal services of £4,108 (2020/21 \pounds 4,700).

9. Other Resources Expended

Spend of £2,005 relates to compensation payments made to a former employee of Duncraig College (2020/21 £1,995).

10. Investments

The Trusts held the following investments:

At 31/3/22	Investments		
	Cost Market Value		
	£	£	
Inverness Educational Trust	28,323	628,387	
Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust	36,996	1,344,226	
	65,319	1,972,613	
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349	
	858,668	2,765,962	

At 31/3/21	Investments		
	Cost Market Value		
	£	£	
Inverness Educational Trust	28,323	628,304	
Ross & Cromarty Educational Trust	36,996	1,455,611	
	65,319	2,083,915	
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349	
	858,668	2,877,264	

11. Analysis of Charitable Trusts

Endowment Funds	Permanent Endowment Fund Balance		
	31-Mar-22 £	31-Mar-21 £	
Inverness-Shire Educational Trust	421,357	417,063	
Duncraig Endowment	793,349	793,349	
Forbes Meteorological Trust	200	200	
Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust	788,870	788,870	
Sutherland Educational Trust	107,806	107,632	
Caithness Educational Trust	93,020	93,020	
A M MacKay's Bequest	100	100	
John Kirk's Mortification	10,344	10,344	
Total Funds	2,215,046	2,210,578	

Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Fund Balance	
	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21
	£	£
Inverness-shire Educational Trust	500	500
Duncraig Endowment	219	6,861
Duncraig College	293	305
Forbes Meteorological Trust	111	115
Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust	2,369	5,000
Sutherland Educational Trust	400	400
Caithness Educational Trust	113,336	151,593
A M Mackay's Bequest	45	47
John Kirk's Mortification	284	274
Total Funds	117,557	165,095