

## **The Highland Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday, 3 March 2016 at 10.30am.

### **Present:**

Mrs H Carmichael	Mr K Gowans
Mr I Brown	Mr A Graham
Mr R Balfour	Mr J Gray
Mrs C Caddick	Mr D Kerr
Miss J Campbell	Mr R Laird
Mr A Christie	Mrs E McAllister
Mrs M Davidson	Mr K MacLeod
Dr J Davis	Mr F Parr
Mr N Donald	Mr T Prag
Mr A Duffy	Mr G Ross
Mr J Ford	Mr H Wood

### **Non-Members also present:**

Mr D Fallows

### **Officials in Attendance:**

Mr S Black, Director of Development and Infrastructure  
Mr M Macleod, Head of Planning and Building Standards, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Mr D Robertson, Head of Corporate Finance, Finance Service  
Ms Y Henderson, Operations Manager (HQ), Finance Service  
Mr S Fraser, Head of Corporate Governance, Corporate Development Service  
Mr R Pope, Roads and Community Works Manager, Community Services  
Ms T Urry, Area Community Services Manager (Inverness Area), Community Services  
Mr H Gardner, Assistant Area Community Services Manager (Inverness Area), Community Services  
Mr C Simpson, Principal Tourism and Film Officer, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Mr E Dodd, Renewable Engineer, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Ms U Lee, Urban Designer, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Mr K Masson, Policy Co-ordinator – Climate Change, Chief Executive's Office  
Mr C Stephen, Ward Manager, Chief Executive's Office  
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Development Service  
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

### **Also in attendance:**

Chief Inspector J Macdonald, Inverness Area Commander, Police Scotland  
Mr A MacDonald, Chair of Inverness Community Safety Partnership  
Mr M Raeburn, Inverness BID, Community Safety Partnership  
Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

**Mrs H Carmichael in the Chair**

## **Business**

### **1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr J Crawford, Mrs G Sinclair, Mrs J Slater and Mrs K Stephen.

### **2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 6 – Mr K Gowans and Mr F Parr (non-financial)

Item 7 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

Item 13 – Mr A Christie (non-financial) and Mr D Kerr (financial)

Item 14 – Mr K Gowans (financial)

Item 16b – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

### **3. Police – Area Performance Summary Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas mu Choileanadh Sgìreil**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/5/16 dated 11 February 2016 by the Inverness Area Commander (Highland and Islands Division, Police Scotland) which provided a local summary update on progress with reference to the local priorities within the Highland 2014-2017 Policing Plan.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- there was a need for further information on the action being taken in respect of patrols in the City Centre with dogs in relation to drug detection;
- further information was also required in regard to the specific circumstances pertaining to drug deaths and also in relation to the detection rates of drug driving;
- there was a need for a continuing and high profile emphasis on road safety issues and specifically in relation to road traffic offences where the public perception was often that these were not given a particularly high priority;
- it was essential that the 'Driving Ambition' project was also extended to Inverness High School;
- a further more detailed breakdown of the statistics in relation to vandalism, shoplifting and drug related issues would be helpful, perhaps at Ward level if possible;
- there was a need for a strategy to be formulated, alongside an educational exercise, in relation to the safety of and liaison between cyclists, motorists and pedestrians in the City Centre;

- the increase in the detection rate of the supply of drugs was welcomed in that it highlighted that the correct strategies were being employed;
- there had been a positive change in the liaison with Community Police Officers and this had been very beneficial for communities; and
- in terms of breaking the cycle of re-offending, a breakdown of the demographics would be helpful in order to enable intervention measures to be considered wherever possible.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the terms of the progress report as presented and the updates in relation to the five priorities, namely Road Safety, Drug/Alcohol Misuse, Antisocial Behaviour, Dishonesty and Public Protection.

#### 4. **Inverness Community Safety Partnership Com-pàirteachas Sàbhailteachd Coimhearsnachd Inbhir Nis**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/6/16 dated 11 February 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager and Inverness Area Commander (Highland and Islands Division, Police Scotland) which summarised the activities of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership (ICSP) since it had last reported on 2014 activity to the Committee in June 2015.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- the work in relation to investigating the challenges and issues surrounding new psychoactive substances and specifically support for the work being undertaken by partners in this newly emerging community safety challenge was welcomed;
- it was encouraging that issues arising from drug misuse were now being regarded as medical (as opposed to criminal) issues and it would be helpful to have a further report on the work being undertaken, with updated statistics, in due course;
- it was concerning that begging was becoming an issue in the City Centre. Whilst not a criminal offence, it was considered that it could on occasion be intimidating for teenage girls, the disabled and the elderly and there was therefore a need for action to be taken on this issue;
- there were also problems arising from the congregation of individuals with drug and alcohol issues in the City Centre and again action needed to be taken in this regard;
- consideration should be given to a joined-up approach by the Housing Service, the Police and other Emergency Services in order to address issues arising from individuals with chronic problems who were repeat offenders; and
- there was a need for further statistics to be provided in a future report in relation to the reasons for drug related deaths.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the Inverness Community Safety Partnership (ICSP) report for 2015; and
- ii. **AGREED** to endorse the work of the Operation Respect Daytime Group.

**5. Inverness Community Safety Partnership – Operation Respect City Centre 2015/16 Evaluation Report  
Com-pàirteachas Sàbhailteachd Coimhearsnachd Inbhir Nis – Aithisg Mheasaidh 2015/16 airson Operation Respect Meadhan a’ Bhaile**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/7/16 dated 15 February 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager and Inverness Area Commander (Highland and Islands Division, Police Scotland) which provided an update on the progress in developing Operation Respect – City Centre for the Winter Festival period for 2015-16 which gave as much detail as was currently available in relation to evaluation.

During discussion, Members thanked all those concerned for the work which had been undertaken in relation to the comprehensive evaluation and analysis which had been detailed in the report. As such, there was a need to highlight the importance of this work in terms of making Inverness a safer place in which to live, work and visit.

It was also suggested that there should be more liaison with both NHS Highland and BID in regard to possible avenues of additional investment to address issues which had been highlighted and which impacted on health, including alcohol and drug abuse.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the evaluation available to date on the effectiveness of Operation Respect- City Centre for Winter 2015/16

**6. Update on Key City Centre Initiatives  
Cunntas às Ùr mu Mheadhan a’ Bhaile**

**Declarations of Interest – Mr F Parr and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item as Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/8/16 dated 19 February 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure which updated Members on various initiatives, planned or underway, which addressed three key priorities identified in the most recent public consultation on land use and transport priorities in the City Centre, namely improvements to access and connections, creation of new visitor and cultural attractions and development of Academy Street and its surroundings, and provided details of 22 current or planned initiatives to address these priorities which had been mapped in Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition, Appendix 2 to the report presented a range of concept images for upgrading Inverness Rail Station as part of a proposed multi-million pound investment in station improvements.

Further, the report highlighted progress in updating the Inverness City Centre Development Brief.

During discussion, Members welcomed the various improvement projects in the City Centre and commended the Director and all staff involved for bringing them forward, particularly the Head of Property Partnerships who had made considerable progress with the Midmills Campus. In this regard, it was suggested that a further meeting would be useful in order to gain a wider understanding of planned and current projects and to contribute to the Inverness City Centre Development Brief.

In terms of the City Centre Development Plan, it was important to ensure that this was in line with the City Vision and particular issues were highlighted as being a review of the investment and financial position of the Inverness Common Good Fund, office rationalisation and concentration on areas of social and multiple deprivation along with Community Planning partners.

In relation to the Inverness Rail Station improvements, it was considered that it was premature to commit to a contribution from the Inverness Common Good Fund at the present time. In this respect, it was suggested that when more information was presented in order to determine an application for funding, it would perhaps be preferable to consider an investment instead of a grant. Also, in addition to identifying local funds, it was suggested that other national funds should also be considered.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** progress in addressing City Centre priorities as detailed in Sections 2 – 4 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the report which identified 22 current or planned initiatives to improve access and connections, create new visitor and cultural attractions and regenerate Academy Street and its surroundings;
- ii. **NOTED** that there might be a future submission of an application to the Inverness Common Good Fund for a contribution to third party funding for Inverness Rail Station improvements as part of a proposed partnership bid to the Scottish Stations Fund; and
- iii. **AGREED** to the preparation of a draft Inverness City Centre Development Brief by June 2016 and that a Members' Workshop be arranged in this regard.

#### **7. Scottish Golf Open Championships and Belladrum Music Festival 2016 Farpais Fhosgailte Goilf na h-Alba agus Fèis Ciùil Bhealadruim 2016**

**Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Member of Nairn Dunbar Golf Club but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/9/16 dated 15 February 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure and the Inverness City Area Manager which summarised previous involvement in and benefits from the Scottish Open Golf Championships and provided information in relation to plans for the forthcoming 2016 event.

The report also detailed recommendations on activity designed to better manage arrangements for two other significant local events in the Summer of 2016, namely the Black Isle Show and the Belladrum Music Festival.

During discussion, Members stressed the importance of this event for the area and the many benefits which had been gained in previous years. As such, there was a need to continue to optimise these benefits in the future and to highlight wherever possible the excellent and extensive coverage of the area.

In terms of the proposed funding for traffic calming measures associated with the Black Isle Show and the Belladrum Music Festival, it was suggested that consideration should also be given to other funding sources and not just the Common Good Fund as had been proposed within the report.

Thereafter, Mr K MacLeod, seconded by Mr D Kerr, **MOVED** a lesser commitment of up to a maximum of £19,000 from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards enhancing the City's welcome for the 2016 Scottish Open Golf Championships and a reduced sum of £1,000 from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards traffic modelling for the day on which the Belladrum Music Festival and the Black Isle Show overlapped.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr J Gray, seconded by Mrs E McAllister, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report – on the basis that the proposed sum for traffic modelling had now been reduced from £3,000 to £1,000.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 7 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 8 votes, with 5 abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes cast having been as follows:-

**For the Motion:-**

Mr R Balfour, Dr J Davis, Mr A Graham, Mr D Kerr, Mr K MacLeod, Mr T Prag, Mr H Wood

**For the Amendment:-**

Mrs C Caddick, Miss J Campbell, Mrs H Carmichael, Mrs M Davidson, Mr J Ford, Mr J Gray, Mr F Parr, Mrs E McAllister

**Abstentions:-**

Mr I Brown, Mr N Donald, Mr A Duffy, Mr K Gowans, Mr R Laird

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to endorse the activity detailed in the report and to recognise the positive economic impact that the previous Scottish Open Golf Championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013 had had on both the City and the Highlands;
- ii. **AGREED** to commit up to a maximum of £23,000 from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards enhancing the City's welcome for the 2016 Scottish Open Golf Championships; and
- iii. **AGREED** to commit up to £1,000 from the Inverness Common Good Fund towards traffic modelling for the day on which the Belladrum Music Festival and the Black Isle Show overlapped.

## **8. Longman Waste Site – Biogas Electricity Generator Làrach Sgudail an Longman – Gineadair Dealain Biogas**

It was confirmed that Carbon CLEVER Highlands had the target of a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025. In this respect, the Council aimed to lead on and develop excellent working relationships with a number of key stakeholders, potential partners and communities and to play a key role in planning decisions and the development of the region and in demonstrating good progress in reducing its own carbon emissions.

In this regard, there had been circulated Report No CIA/10/16 dated 12 January 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure which sought approval to install a Biogas generator on the Longman land fill site that would utilise the currently flared gas to generate electricity. The project would generate an income of £9.6k/year for the first 4 years and £20.3k/year thereafter. A lease length of 10 years was proposed in the first instance generating revenue of £160.2k over this period.

During discussion, Members suggested that there was a need for further information to be provided on exactly where the generator was to be located on the site, including details of size, access and any potential impact on other users of the site.

It was also highlighted that there was a need to ensure the best possible return for the Common Good Fund and that the Council did not prejudice any interests it might have in developing an energy from waste plant on this site.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED:-**

- i. in principle, to the installation of a gas engine on the Longman Landfill site to generate electricity from gas currently flared; and
- ii. to delegate authority to the Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Provost and Leader of Inverness and Area, to agree the Head of Terms and to act as detailed in Paragraph 4.1 of the report if the development was taken forward on site by NewEnCo Limited.

## **9. Victorian Market, Inverness – Action Plan – Market Management Inverness Common Good Fund Am Margadh Bhictòrianach, Inbhir Nis – Plana-ghìomh – Rianachd Margaidh Maoin Math Choitcheann Inbhir Nis**

It was confirmed that, at the meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee held on 28 January 2016, it had been agreed that a report should be produced for this meeting which covered setting up a Stakeholder Group (including Local Councillors, businesses, traders and neighbouring traders), a Charrette-style event, a report on options for the Common Good Fund to engage a retail property in-house manager, a timeline to conclude these activities with consultations to be completed within a six month period and a Seminar to be held in order to establish the Committee's vision for the Victorian Market.

In this regard, there had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/11/16 dated 1 February 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure and Inverness

City Area Manager which provided an update on the preparation of these issues.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the membership of the Market Stakeholder Group as proposed within the report;
- ii. **AGREED** to appoint the Provost and one City of Inverness Area Committee representative from each Political Group to join the Stakeholder Group; and
- iii. **NOTED** that the first meeting of the Market Stakeholder Group would take place in April, with update reports being presented to the City of Inverness Area Committee and a final report planned for the meeting on 1 September 2016.

#### **10. Local Committees – Webcasting Comataidhean Ionadail – Craoladh-lìn**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/12/16 dated 22 February 2016 by the Director of Finance which sought a decision as to whether City of Inverness Area Committee meetings should be webcast and, if so, the funding source/s of the additional costs which would be incurred.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- in terms of localism, transparency and accountability, it was important to continue this service as people now expected to see and hear the debate at the Committee;
- there was a need for specific costs to be identified in terms of the future webcast of Committee meetings as this was unclear from the information which had been provided within the report;
- consideration should be given as to whether it was possible to extend the current contract until the end of this term of the Council in 2017;
- the installation of a fixed system within the Chamber in the Town House should also be investigated;
- fixed webcasting facilities were already in operation within the Headquarters Chamber and it would perhaps be a short term solution for the remaining meetings of the Committee to be held at that location until a long term solution could be identified; and
- it would be preferable to defer further consideration of this issue until more detailed information could be provided on the specific costs of webcasting meetings of this Committee in future.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED TO DEFER** this item to allow a further more detailed and updated report to be brought back to the next meeting on the specific costs of webcasting future meetings of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

#### **11. Public Toilet Provision – Inverness City Solar Thaighean-beaga Poblach – Baile Inbhir Nis**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/13/16 dated 26 February 2016 by the Director of Community Services and the Inverness City Area Manager



which invited approval of the reopening of the Castle Wynd toilets for 2016 with funding of £22,900 for this provision from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- public toilet provision should be classified as a statutory Council service given that it was essential to public health and to many sectors of the public;
- public toilets were often an aid to local economies, particularly in areas relying on tourism, such as Inverness where first impressions of the City were crucial;
- as a consequence of the ongoing works to the Town House, those with mobility problems were finding difficulty in accessing the public toilets and assurances were sought that RADAR key access would be reinstated;
- the possibility of combining the cleaning of the toilets with those in the Victorian Market should be explored;
- extended opening hours should be considered where feasible;
- Inverness Common Good was being asked to finance the opening of public toilets and it was suggested that this could perhaps be replicated in other areas; and
- the continuation of public toilet facilities at Mealmarket Close was welcomed.

The Committee **APPROVED** a maximum budget of £22,900 from the Inverness Common Good Fund 2016/17 Revenue Budget to fund the operation of Castle Wynd toilets and **NOTED** liability for the maintenance of the structure would be retained by the Council.

## **12. Ness Islands Structural Maintenance – Footpaths, Bridges and Riverbanks**

### **Càradh Structarail Eileanan Nis**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/14/16 dated 18 February 2016 by the Director of Community Services and the Inverness City Area Manager which provided details of the Detailed Structural Survey undertaken in regard to the Ness Islands Footpaths, Bridges and Roads.

In this regard, the report recommended the allocation of funds to deliver the work detailed in the Engineer's report and an additional project was also proposed to improve the lighting on a footpath on the west bank of the River Ness.

During discussion, and with specific reference to Option 2 (illuminated bollards for lighting the section of footpath from the Suspension Bridge to the end of the walled area), it was suggested that this was the more feasible option in that it would not impact on the tree canopy and taking a modernising approach would be easier to maintain.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the contents and recommendations of the Summary of the Engineer's detailed inspection report;

- ii. **AGREED** Option 2 for a lighting installation on the footpath; and
- iii. **AGREED** a budget of £225,000 to complete all of the work proposed in the report.

**13. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015**  
**Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais – 1 Giblean 2015 to 31 Dùbhlachd 2015**

**Declarations of Interest – Mr A Christie declared a non-financial interest in this item as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

**Mr D Kerr declared a financial interest in this item as a Council House tenant but, in terms of the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission, remained to participate in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/15/16 dated 18 February 2016 by the Director of Community Services which provided information on how the Housing Section had performed in relation to the Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators up to 31 December 2015.

During discussion, Members expressed concern in relation to the increase in rent arrears and it was queried as to whether this was entirely due to the introduction of Universal Credit. Disappointment was also expressed in relation to temporary accommodation situations, particularly that 100% of cases were in rent arrears, and it was suggested that there was a need for further information on what could be done to improve this situation.

Information was also sought on whether the current impact of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment on rent arrears was as predicted when it had been first announced and it was queried as to what support was being provided to tenants to reduce rent arrears.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the information which had been provided on housing performance for the period 1 April to 31 December 2015 as detailed in the report.

**14. Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund 2015/16**  
**Sgeama Thabhartasan Coimhearsnachd Càrboin Ciallaich 2015/16**

**Declaration of Interest – Mr K Gowans declared a financial interest in this item as an employee of Inverness College and left the room during discussion of this item.**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/16/16 dated 11 February 2016 by the Head of Policy and Reform which set out the applications received for the Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund in Inverness for 2015-16 and detailed the background to the Fund, together with a summary of applications, the assessments and funding recommendations.

During discussion, it was clarified that, as the remaining Fund allocation for Inverness was not sufficient to fully fund the projects, further consideration would be given at future Ward Business Meetings on the use of Ward Discretionary funding to meet the shortfalls.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the funding recommendations from the Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund as shown below; and

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Applicant Organisation</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
<b>12080</b>	Blackthorn Allotments Association	14,874.60
<b>12089</b>	Abriachan Forest Trust	3,192.00
<b>12125</b>	Inverness College UHI	5,643.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,710</b>

- ii. **NOTED** that Ward Discretionary Grants for Ward 13, Ward 18 and Ward 20 might provide an additional source of funding to further support the projects.

**15. Inverness West Ward Discretionary Funding  
Maoineachadh fo Ùghdarras Uàrd Inbhir Nis an Iar**

The Committee **APPROVED** expenditure over £10k for the following Ward Project:-

- i. Traffic Calming – Dalneigh and Columba - £15,000

**16. Inverness Common Good Fund  
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis**

**(a) Financial Monitoring  
Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/17/16 dated 19 February 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which presented the expenditure monitoring position for the Inverness Common Good Fund as at 31 January 2016 and the projected year end position.

During discussion, Members queried whether the balance shown included the amounts approved earlier in the meeting and it was explained that the position shown was for the current financial year until the end of January and the amounts approved earlier would be included in the budget for 2016/17.

It was also queried whether the same level of income as in previous years could be achieved for the Victorian Market lets and it was suggested that there was a need for consideration as to how these units were marketed.

Clarification was also sought on the underspend of the Victorian Market maintenance budget and it was explained that the maintenance was mostly reactive, although plans would be put in place to ensure that the budget was spent by the end of the financial year.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the terms of the financial monitoring report as presented.

**(b) Grants and Capital Projects**  
**Pròiseactan Tabhartais agus Calpa**

**Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in the application from the Highland Skate Parks Association on the basis that he had previously met with the Association and left the room during discussion of this item.**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/18/16 dated 18 February 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the current applications for grant funding to be determined and the current status of capital projects.

In this connection, there had been circulated separately a copy of supporting documentation as Booklet A.

During discussion, Members expressed concern in relation to the request for funding from the Highland Skate Park Association towards revenue costs and it was explained that the Grants Sub-Committee had agreed to recommend approval of £30,000 towards the capital costs only.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the current status of capital projects and **AGREED** to refuse the application for funding from Everything Baby and to approve the following:-

Highland Skate Park Association - £30,000 towards capital cost

Highland Print Studio - £9,000

Inverness BID –

- a. Operation Respect Easter/Summer 2016 - £5,790
- b. Inverness Community Safety Partnership - £10,000
- c. Inverness Gull Project - £12,000
- d. City of Inverness Floral Displays 2016 - £54,800
- e. Inverness Street Festival - £7,000
- f. Coach Ambassador - £11,250

**(c) Budget Setting for 2016/17 and Capital Programme**  
**Suidheachadh Buidseat airson 2016/17 agus Prògram Calpa**

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/19/16 dated 22 February 2016 by the Director of Finance and the Inverness City Manager which invited Members to set the Revenue Budget for the Inverness Common Good Fund for the financial year 2016/17.

During discussion, thanks were conveyed to Officers for the presentation of the report.

It was also hoped that additional funding would be secured from Historic Scotland for 2016/17 for the next phase of the refurbishment of the Town House.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the Common Good Fund budget for 2016/17 as detailed within the report and appendices;
- ii. **AGREED** to maintain a general reserve of £2m and to re-allocate the remaining uncommitted sum of £1.6m to a Property Investment Fund; and
- iii. **NOTED** that Officers would continue to monitor projected cash flow for the Common Good Fund, in particular through the Capital Projects Monitoring Report, with an emphasis on the utilisation of surplus revenue, either within projects or as an opportunity for investment.

**(d) Grants Sub-Committee Membership**  
**Ballrachd Fho-chomataidh nan Tabhartasan**

The Committee **AGREED** to appoint Mr I Brown to replace Mrs G Sinclair on the Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee.

**17. Minutes**  
**Geàrr-chunntas**

The following Minutes had been circulated for noting or approval as appropriate:-

- i. City of Inverness Area Committee held on 28 January 2016 – **NOTED**;
- ii. Inverness City Arts Working Group held on 11 February 2016 – **APPROVED**; and
- iii. Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee held on 15 February 2016 – **APPROVED**.

The meeting ended at 4.20 pm.