### The Highland Council

### **Education, Children and Adult Services Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Duncraig Trust Scheme Sub-Committee** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 31 August 2016 at 11.00 am.

### Present:

Mrs I Campbell (Teleconferencing) Mr D Millar

Dr I Cockburn Mrs F Robertson (Teleconferencing)
Mr R Greene Dr A Sinclair (Teleconferencing)

#### Officials in attendance:

Ms F Palin, Head of Adult Services, Care and Learning Service Miss J Maclennan, Principal Administrator, Corporate Development Service

### **Business**

# **Preliminaries - Appointment of Chair**

Members were reminded that, in terms of the Council's protocol for video/tele conferencing, Dr A Sinclair was not able to Chair the meeting remotely. Accordingly, the Sub Committee **AGREED** unanimously appointed Mr D Millar to Chair the meeting.

# 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr B Fernie and Mr A Mackinnon.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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 Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

## 4. Applications for Financial Assistance

There had been circulated Report No DTS/01/16 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided information about applications for assistance under the Duncraig Educational Trust Scheme. Background information had also been circulated to Members.

A copy of the annual Income and Expenditure accounts for the Trust had been appended to the report for information. The revenue balance of funds in the Trust at present was £5,151.31 with support charges amounting to £1848.68 leaving a sum of £3,302.63 to be awarded. Finance officers had advised that low interest rates –

0.37% - had resulted in only a small amount to allocate in 2016. Accordingly, with a view to trying to assist as many applicants as possible, 4 applicants had been offered assistance to apply to other Trust Funds. Should no award be made from these other Trusts it was confirmed that the Sub Committee could revisit these applications.

Turning to the determination of awards, Members were reminded that there were two categories, namely Arts, Language, Heritage, Science and Environment; and Sport. In total, 19 applications had been received. Each application had been assessed by officers with advice, where appropriate, from professional specialist staff within the Council and High Life Highland. Based on these assessments, 12 applications had been recommended for approval and 3 for refusal. The total value of the applications recommended for approval was £3,200.

Having sought clarification regarding some of the supporting information, Members commented on the high quality of applications. Concern was expressed however at the detrimental impact low interests rates had had on the grants which could be dispersed. It was acknowledged that this had been explored in the past but Members were of the view a concerted effort needed to be made to generate more income. Given the amounts now available it was recognised that a more efficient way of awarding grants would be to delegate this function to an officer with the outcome being reported to Members, perhaps to the Ross and Cromarty Committee.

Thereafter, having considered the applications for assistance, the Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the financial position of the Trust;
- ii. AGREED to award grants as follows:-

Application

# Arts, Language, Heritage, Science and Environment

Award

Total Awards	£3,200
DETS/S/16/11	£300
DETS/S/16/10	£300
DETS/S/16/09	£300
DETS/S/16/08	£300
DETS/S/16/07	£300
DETS/S/16/06	£300
DETS/S/16/04	£300
DETS/S/16/01	£300
<u>Application</u>	<u>Award</u>
Sport	
DETS/A/16/07 DETS/A/16/08	£200 £200
DETS/A/16/01 DETS/A/16/04 DETS/A/16/07	£200 £200 £200
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The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.