

## The Highland Council

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the **Education, Children and Adult Services Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Friday, 18 November 2016 at 9.30 am.

### Present:

#### Highland Council:

Ms C Caddick	Mrs D Mackay
Mrs I Campbell (Vice Chair)	Mr W Mackay (video conferencing)
Miss J Campbell (Substitute)	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr A Christie	Mrs B McAllister
Dr I Cockburn (Substitute)	Mr D Millar (Chair)
Mrs M Davidson	Mrs M Paterson
Mr M Finlayson	Mr M Rattray
Mr H Fraser	Mr G Ross
Mr S Fuller	Ms J Slater
Mr K Gowans	Ms K Stephen
Mr A Graham	

#### Religious Representatives:

Ms M McCulloch

#### Youth Convener:

Mr C Maclennan

#### Non-Members also present:

Mr R Balfour	Mr D Kerr
Mr A Baxter	Mr R Laird
Mr G Coghill	Mrs L MacDonald
Mr B Fernie	Ms L Munro
Mr J Gray	Mr M Reiss
Mr M Green	Mr J Stone

#### In attendance:

Mr B Alexander, Director of Care and Learning  
Ms I Murray, Commissioning Officer, Care and Learning Service  
Mr M Mitchell, Finance Manager, Finance Service  
Ms M Wylie, Third Sector Interface  
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Development Service  
Miss J Greene, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

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

**Mr D Millar in the Chair**

## **Business**

The Committee **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order 20 to allow Agenda item 3 to be re-considered.

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

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr B Gormley, Mr K Gowans, Mr A MacLean, Mrs F Robertson and Mr G Smith.

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

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

Item 3 – Mr A Baxter, Mrs I Campbell, Dr I Cockburn, Mr M Green, Mrs B McAllister, Mrs L MacDonald, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs M Paterson, Mr G Ross (all non-financial) and Mr K Gowans (financial and non-financial)

### **3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Culture and Leisure Funding Maoineachadh Spòrs agus Cultair an 3mh Raoin**

**The following Members declared non-financial interests in this item 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:-**

**Mr A Baxter – Parent of two pupils at Lochaber Music School**

**Mrs I Campbell - Board Member of Strathpeffer Pavilion**

**Dr I Cockburn – Board Member of Ullapool Museum and Member of Wester Ross Sports Council**

**Mr K Gowans – Director of High Life Highland**

**Mr M Green – Director of Nairn Community Centre and High Life Highland**

**Mrs B McAllister – Member of Highland Disability Sport and Inverness Area Sports Council**

**Mrs L MacDonald - Director of Nairn Community Centre**

**Mr G MacKenzie – Board Member of Puffin Pool**

**Mrs M Paterson – Member of Puffin Pool**

**Mr G Ross – Member of Highland Disability Sport**

**Mr K Gowans also declared a financial interest on the basis that his wife was an employee 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 his interests did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No ECAS/73/16 dated 9 November 2016 by the Director of Care and Learning providing an overview of the decision-making involved in determining the allocation of funding for 3<sup>rd</sup> sector Culture and Leisure based on the agreed Council priorities.

The Chair drew attention to the Council's focus around health and wellbeing and services for children and confirmed that the Sub Group, in considering the allocation of funding to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector Culture and Leisure groups, had taken this into consideration. Furthermore, there had been unanimous support to protect facilities in rural areas. As a consequence, there had been limited amounts available to disperse to the remainder of the organisations. The Sub Group had therefore sought to maximise funding by ring-fencing money for Adult Learning, Village Halls and, in regard to sport development, for Sport Councils.

In regard to the recommended allocations for funding, it was explained that discussions were taking place with Youth Highland concerning their allocation and it was hoped that some backroom support could be provided to them to help mitigate the impact. The offer of this assistance had still to be considered by the Youth Highland Board so the Committee were therefore asked to defer determination until these negotiations had been completed.

In addition, and whilst funding for 2017/18 for the Aviemore Highland Resort was in place, their contract to provide swimming pool facilities in the Badenoch and Strathspey area was due to finish at the end of 2016/17 and therefore, at this stage, their funding allocation for 2018/19 needed to be removed.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- the discussions with Youth Highland were welcomed and it was hoped that the Chair would be able to advise on how these were progressing at the Council meeting on 15 December 2016, bearing in mind that these discussions could potentially affect the remainder of the budget available for 2017/18 and 2018/19;
- the decision to reduce 3<sup>rd</sup> sector funding had been taken in December 2014 and, in recognising the uncertainty this had caused for organisations, it was suggested that a short life Working Group should be established to examine how the Council could support the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector on a more equitable and fair footing in the future. In welcoming this proposal, there was consensus that support for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector cut across all Services and a corporate approach needed to be considered;
- assurances were sought that High Life Highland was simply being used as a conduit to allocate grants to Sports Councils. In this regard, and while the proposal was to ring-fence money for sports development, it was suggested that Sports Councils themselves were best placed to decide how funding should be spent;
- an update was sought as to the discussions which had taken place with Nairn Community Centre and in this regard it was confirmed that Officers had met with them to discuss a possible business plan. In this respect, assurances were given that the Centre's funding would continue until November 2017;
- following on from the above, it was also highlighted that Nairn Sports Club would not receive any funding and it was felt that Nairn was therefore losing out on funding completely;
- it was suggested that in future a process similar to that currently followed by the Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee should be used and that it would perhaps be better to devolve the allocation of grants to Ward level where local knowledge could be taken into consideration. This would also provide an opportunity to drive forward local arrangements and encourage community empowerment;

- assurances were sought that the Council would assist those organisations detrimentally affected in finding alternative sources of funding;
- there was a need to recognise that the Council was facing further cuts in the region of £40-70m over the next 2-3 years and, whilst any decision reached on 3<sup>rd</sup> sector funding for 2018/19 would give a degree of certainty to these organisations, this might be subject to further amendment; and
- there was general appreciation that Members had now been given the opportunity to re-examine this issue and to reflect on it in more detail. As such, it had to be acknowledged that the process had initially lacked clarity and some of the decisions taken might have been better addressed at Strategic Committee level given the subsequent impact. It was also essential in future the criteria was clearly set out with a scoring system in place from the outset.

Thereafter, the Chair, seconded by Mr G Ross, **MOVED** the recommendation within the report that High Life Highland should allocate money to Sports Councils for sport development.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr A Christie, seconded by Mr A Graham, moved that the money proposed to be allocated to High Life Highland for sports development should instead be re-allocated to Sports Councils.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 11 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 11 votes, with no abstentions, the votes having been cast as follows:-

**For the Motion:**

Mrs I Campbell, Miss J Campbell, Mrs M Davidson, Mr M Finlayson, Mr H Fraser, Mrs M McCulloch, Mr C Maclennan, Mr W MacKay, Mr D Millar, Mr M Paterson and Mr G Ross.

**For the Amendment:**

Mr A Christie, Mrs C Caddick, Dr I Cockburn, Mr S Fuller, Mr K Gowans, Mr A Graham, Mrs B McAllister, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr M Rattray, Mrs J Slater and Ms K Stephen.

There being an equality of votes, the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the **MOTION** which was therefore carried.

***Decision***

The Committee **AGREED**:-

Notice of  
Amendment

- i. the funding allocations for 3<sup>rd</sup> sector culture and leisure services as detailed in the report, subject to the funding for Youth Highland being deferred and the funding for Aviemore Highland Resort for 2018/19 being removed; and
- \* ii. the establishment of a short life Working Group in consultation with Group Leaders to review the process for the funding of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations in the future.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am.