

**The Highland Council  
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday 28 January 2019 at 9.30 am.

**Present:**

Mr B Boyd  
Mrs C Caddick

Mrs H Carmichael  
Mr G Ross

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office  
Mr S Taylor, Civic and Facilities Team Leader, Corporate Resources Service  
Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive's Service

**Mr G Ross in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Miss J Campbell, Mr A Graham, Mrs E McAllister and Mr A Jarvie.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

Item 4, Booklet A – Mr G Ross (non-financial)  
Item 4, Booklet A - Mrs C Caddick (non-financial)

**3. Exclusion of Public**

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2018/19**

**Declaration of Interests –**

**The following declared a non-financial interest, and took no part in the discussion on the application:-**

- **Mrs H Carmichael – Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust**

**The following declared a non-financial interest but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interest did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion of the application:-**

- **Mr G Ross – Central Primary School**
- **Mr B Boyd – Highland Senior Citizens Network**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/11/19 dated 22 October 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for financial assistance from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated in Booklets A and B.

The Chairman stated that an unprecedented amount of applications had been received for grant funding totalling over £100,000. There was only approximately £50,000 available, judicious pruning of the applications would be required. The rise in applications was likely to be due in part to the reduction in the Ward Discretionary budget.

Four large applications would be deferred as they amounted to over £400,000, and they would be deferred to the next meeting as they were particularly large applications that required further examination. There was also a need to establish progress on the Town House Works Contact before making recommendations to Committee on the availability of funds.

It was confirmed that the balance of funds available for allocation from the Grants budget for 2018/19 was £52,718.

Hilary Tolmie was commended for her work in collating all the information.

The Sub Committee **NOTED** the following:-

- i. the grant awarded to Inverness Leisure Limited, following a decision of the Working Group, had been withdrawn, and as this was from a previous year the money would not go back into this year's budget;
- ii. the Calman Trust award for Live Learn Work had not taken further payments from their grant award and it would be treated as withdrawn if they didn't reply to correspondence within 28 days;
- iii. Inverness Cathedral's award for toilet provision had not progressed and they would also be given 28 days' notice prior to making the application withdrawn;
- iv. LEAP Sport Scotland had been in touch and their award was progressing;
- v. the Environmental Research Institute Conference – North Highland College UHI conference had been paid pro-rata according to attendance which was lower than expected so the balance of the award would be retained and not paid out and the application would be treated as withdrawn; and
- vi. the Scottish Draughts Association had not been in touch and their application would be treated as withdrawn within 28 days should they not reply to correspondence.

## **Booklet A**

The Sub-Committee determined applications for funding of up to £10,000 as follows:-

Inverness High School (£8,350 sought) **APPROVED £6,000**  
S1 outdoor transition project

As Inverness High School also had PEF (Pupil Equity Funding) it was decided to reduce their award to allow them to make use of the PEF funding.

The ARCHIE Foundation (£10,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,500**  
Oor Wullie's Big Bucket Trail – Inverness – From the City Promotions Budget

This was a charitable organisation and would therefore be a donation towards the promotion of the event.

Highland Senior Citizens Network (£2,400 sought) **APPROVED £1,200**  
Annual Conference in Inverness on 24 April 2019

This was a Highland-wide organisation and Members decided 50% would be awarded to allow Highland Senior Citizens to contribute as well.

Chamber Music Tours Scotland (CMTS) (£2,882 sought) **APPROVED £2,882**  
Inverness Piano Recitals (formally "the Masters")

Inverness College UHI (£8,750 sought) **APPROVED £3,000**  
Active Botanic Garden – Feasibility Study

This was considered too high a percentage and it was agreed to approve £3,000 to allow other partners to contribute.

Central Primary School (£2,835 sought) **REFUSED**  
P7 Residential Trip to Loch Eil

This application would be passed to the Ward Discretionary Budget as a more appropriate fit for this application.

Own Your Streets Inverness (£9,224 sought) **REFUSED**  
Own Your Streets Inverness: Festival of Walking and Cycling

Whilst recognising the merits of this project, concern was expressed at the extent of funding requested for staff costs and there appeared to have been no attempt to contact Richard Gerring or Sustrans for collaboration which may help to reduce staff costs. As a result, Members refused this application.

The Mahler Players (£4,000 sought) **REFUSED**  
The Wagner Project Part 1: World-Class Opera in the Highlands

This was not seen as money to develop the project to produce community benefit on a sustainable basis and the application was therefore refused.

Clachnacuddin Youth Football Team U13/14/15s (£3,000) **APPROVED** £3,000  
Manchester Cup 2019

Clachnacuddin Youth Football Team U17s (£4,000 sought) **APPROVED** £4,000  
Costa Dorada Cup Spain 2019

Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust (£9,800 sought) **APPROVED** £9,300  
Northern Meeting Solo Piping Competitions

Inverness Branch of RBLs Pipes and Drums (£5,000 sought)  
**APPROVED** £4,000

Trip to France – September 2019

Creativity in Care Community Interest Company (£3,420)  
**APPROVED** £1,000

Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival

Whilst recognising the merits of this project, the costs were considered excessive, Members were of the view to fund £1,000 towards exhibition and volunteer costs only.

Inverness Angling Club (IAC) (£9,500 sought) **APPROVED** £9,500  
Financial support for the continuing management of the ICG Town Fishings

Members were of the view that this should be set up as an SLA (service level agreement) whereby it would be paid from the Common Good Fund but not from the Grants. This would then be reviewed five yearly.

Inverness Cathedral (£2,000 sought) **APPROVED** £2,000  
Assistance with provision of toilet facilities for the 2019 tourist season

Inverness Festival Association (£8,250 sought) **APPROVED** £7,000  
Inverness Music Festival 2019

Whilst recognising the merits of this project, Members were of the view that some of the costs could be cut back and therefore paid £7,000 towards costs.

The Highland Council **REFUSED**  
Highland AR Legends – Landmark leaflet distribution across Highland and Edinburgh

The Common Good Fund had supported this to date and would be happy to see a three year marketing plan before this was considered again with a focus on digital marketing. Members were also of the view that web advertising would be more advantageous.

### **Booklet B**

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to make the following recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee in respect of the following applications for funding of over £10,000 as follows:-

Loch Ness Knit Fest 2019

This was a successful event promoted by Planet Scotland and Members were in support with funding of £7,500 from the 2019/20 Grants Budget and £7,500 from the 2019/20 Conference Support Budget. The Provost showed Members a photograph of the Town House model that had been knitted by people from the Loch Ness Knit Fest and the photograph of the model would be enlarged and shown to the Inverness City Committee.

**5. Inverness BID Limited**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/02/19 dated 17 January 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider applications from Inverness BID, totalling £36,325 , for the following projects:-

- Coach Ambassador 2019
- Operation Respect Task Team Easter & Summer 2019
- Inverness Gull Project 2019
- Inverness Community Safety Partnership 2018

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to recommend that the Area Committee approve the applications for funding.

**6. Civic Hospitality Requests**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/03/19 dated 17 January 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklet C.

The Sub-Committee determined applications for civic hospitality as follows:-

<u>Inverness Caledonian Thistle</u> 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	<b>AGREED</b> £1,068.48
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<u>My House of Memories</u> Launch of Highland material for app supporting those living with dementia	<b>AGREED</b> £2,167.50
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<u>Goustevin Scotland</u> Grand Chapter of Inductions Conference	<b>AGREED</b> £2,030.74
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Goustevin Scotland to bring their own wine and the event to be a wine reception

<u>United Kingdom Airport Consultative Committees (UKACCs)</u> Annual Conference	<b>AGREED</b> £1,751.33
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<u>Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils in the Highlands and Islands</u> Conference	<b>AGREED</b> £967.20
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<u>St John Scotland</u> St John Scotland Annual Festival	<b>AGREED</b> £2,817.35
<u>Police Scotland</u> Police Long Service and Good Conduct Awards	<b>AGREED</b> £2,180.00
<u>Highland Golf Links</u> Highland Golf links Pro Am	<b>AGREED</b> £4,359.68

Members asked that in future, reports show how many people were likely at each event and also:

1. **AGREED** that a review of the level of catering for each event should be undertaken with different levels agreed in consultation with the Provost and Depute Provost prior to each event;
2. **NOTED** that work continues to produce a tiered system of catering provision; and
3. **AGREED** that as the total for the granted free hall lets for 2018-19 was now reaching £5000.00 the option of removing free hall lets should be discussed. As the Council could no longer provide a free service, it was agreed that events would have to be charged for the hire of the town hall and staff time with the exception of unique events that were to be scrutinised by the City Manager, Civic Office in consultation with the Provost and Depute Provost.

## 7. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to homologate the award of £500 to the Best Bar None Awards.

## 8. Recurring Annual Events

There had been circulated Report No GSC/04/19 dated 17 January 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited the Sub-Committee to consider approval in principle for recurring annual events and to decide which option from paragraph 2.4 they would like to determine them.

The Working Group:

- i. **AGREED** the recurring annual events in principle and delegated authority to the City Area Manager in consultation with the ICGF Chairman and the Provost to approve the necessary expenditure in 2019/20; and
- ii. **AGREED** that Councillors would be notified of people in their Ward who were receiving awards.

## 9. HighlandAR Legends

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to advertise in the Welcome to Scotland Guide at a cost of £1,000.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Monday 13 May 2019.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.