

**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 13 May 2019 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd
Mrs C Caddick
Miss J Campbell
Mrs H Carmichael
Mr G Cruickshank

Mr A Graham
Mr R Laird
Mrs E McAllister
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 (Item 10)
Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

Mr G Ross in the Chair

Late Applications

The City Manager drew attention to late applications received, indicated at the relevant item, and, in response to Members, explained the reasons for their late presentation, noting that in principle the Sub-Committee wished application deadlines to be adhered to. There was a process in place to deal with urgent applications outwith meetings. One late application for the Northern Meeting Park Feasibility Study involved complexities that were being investigated and this was **DEFERRED** to a future meeting, pending receipt of the necessary information.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted for Mr I Brown.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 5, Booklet B – Mr A Graham (financial)
Item 5, Booklet B – Ms J Campbell (financial)
Item 11 – Mr A Graham (non-financial)
Item 5, Booklet B – Mrs E McAllister (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of the 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. Inverness Common Good Fund Grants

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/05/19 dated 29 April 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager.

As a result of concern about the increasing number of applications, a briefing had been held and comments incorporated into a set of guidelines which would be presented to the City of Inverness and Area Committee. Included in the guidelines was a pre-application clinic which would be obligatory for applicants. It was also suggested that post application visits be undertaken to verify the use of funds for the intended purposes.

During discussion, issues considered included the following:

- the city boundary was wider than the legally defined Burgh boundary, and to change this would require an act of parliament. It was emphasised that although applicants or the events did not have to be situated within the Burgh of Inverness, the use of the CGF had to be for the benefit of the residents of the Burgh;
- the suggestion that only up to 50% of a project's costs would be covered by the CGF was welcomed, as was the suggestion to reduce all requests by 20%, given the limited funds available;
- the words 'those communities' in the fourth paragraph of the Implications section required clarification;
- a more proactive approach to seeking applications would be beneficial;
- the separation of the year's funding into quarters would be helpful and avoid overspending earlier in the year thus prejudicing applications later in the year;
- presentations by applicants should be avoided as were unfair to those who did not present and were time consuming;
- the SLA was considered a good idea, particularly the requirement to work towards future sustainability, which should be added as a criteria to paragraph 8.2, but an alternative wording should be sought as 'service' was not appropriate;
- David Haas and Hilary Tolmie were thanked for their work on the proposed guidelines;
- consideration should be given to increasing the number of Members involved in approving requests for civic hospitality outwith meetings, and to raising the £300 limit for such applications. The guidelines should include civic hospitality applications;
- following comments from this meeting being incorporated into the report, a further briefing with Members prior to presentation of this to the City of Inverness and Area Committee was suggested; and
- it was clarified that CGF monies could be carried forward to create a surplus.

The Sub-Committee, having commented as above on the report, **AGREED** to hold a further briefing prior to its presentation to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 30 May 2019.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance 2018/19

The amount sought was reduced by 50% due to the limited funding available.

Camanachd Association (£10,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,400**
Mental Wellbeing through sport and the MacTavish Cup

£3,000 was allocated to support the mental health programme, subject to receipt of the proposed mental health programme, and a further £2,400 to support the cup final, which included a reduction of 20% of the sum requested due to limited funds available.

Inverness Chamber Music Society (£4,644 sought) **APPROVED £3,715**
2019-20 concert series comprising eight chamber music concerts

The amount sought was reduced by 20% due to the limited funding available, and subject to the group being billed for the cost of the use of the Town House.

Music in Hospitals and Care (£4,800 sought) **APPROVED £3,840**
Musical Moments in Inverness Healthcare Units

The amount sought was reduced by 20% due to the limited funding available.

Fraser Park Bowling Club (£2,850 sought) **DEFERRED**
Remove and replace edging etc

Deferred pending confirmation that the council was not obligated to undertake the work.

Planefield Bowling Club (£2,850 sought) **DEFERRED**
Remove and replace edging etc

Deferred pending confirmation that the council was not obligated to undertake the work.

Inverness Street League (£4,000 sought) **APPROVED £3,200**
U-14 International Football Tournament - Manchester

The amount sought was reduced by 20% due to the limited funding available.

INBS Scouts (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**
World Scout Jamboree 2019

As only two of the five scouts attending lived within the boundary of the Burgh, only two fifths of the requested grant was approved.

Cycling Without Age Inverness (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**
Cycling Without Age project

The grant would be conditional on any equipment purchased only being used within Inverness.

Waterloo Bowling Club (£2,850 sought) **DEFERRED**

Remove and replace edging etc

Deferred pending confirmation that the council was not obligated to undertake the work.

Highland Wildcats (£9,500 sought) **APPROVED £7,600**
Gamechanger; using strengths to make positive changes in community

The amount sought was reduced by 20% due to the limited funding available.

City of Inverness Pipe Band (£10,000 sought) **APPROVED £8,000**
Community Pipe Band

The amount sought was reduced by 20% due to the limited funding available.

Bught Park Users Group (£7,500 sought) **DEFERRED**
Bught Park Feasibility Study

Deferred pending receipt of group constitution.

Late Items:

Serenity (£4,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**
Mental Health Peer Support

A further application for the remaining £2,000 would be welcomed with more information on sustainability, other funding sources and room hire expenditure.

Waterloo Bowling Club Bollards (£4,000 sought) **REFUSED**
12 manual telescopic bollards

Although it was clarified that the CGF was only being asked to fund the difference between the standard bollards that were the responsibility of the Council and the higher quality ones desired, the Sub-Committee considered this remained the responsibility of the Council.

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:-

Local Organising Cttee (MNR) (£45,000 sought) **APPROVED £17,500**
Royal National Mod Inverness 2020

A brief presentation was given by the Gaelic Development Officer and Cllr Alister Mackinnon. Issues covered included:

- a report was being prepared for the City of Inverness and Area Committee and would be circulated once finalised;
- the approximate cost of hosting the Mod was £495k, with £120k committed over a 4-year period from the Council's Gaelic resources budget; and
- the benefits of the Mod to Inverness, with reference to Economic Impact Studies.

Discussion included the following points:

- funding sources in communities without Common Good Funds;
- National funding sources included Creative Scotland and Event Scotland and would be pursued directly by Comunn na Gàidhlig;
- it was likely that additional funds would be sought for civic hospitality for the Mod, by direct application from Comunn na Gàidhlig;
- the application was being made by the Council as the host of the Mod; and
- costs, especially for competitors, increased each year.

At this point the applicants left and further discussion included the following:

- there was no issue with the principle of the application, acknowledging the importance of the event to Inverness, but the large amount being requested was of concern; and
- more information on the relationships between the various organisations involved would be helpful.

Following discussion of various options including partial funding and underwriting, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** that the recommendation to the City of Inverness and Area Committee would be to provide funding at this stage by applying the 'convention formula' and that a future application for additional funding be considered at a later date, to include if possible civic hospitality requests.

Special Needs Action Project (£17,500 sought) **DEFERRED**
Governance and Organisational Review Project

Deferred for further information.

Wasps Trust (£130,000 sought) **APPROVED £65,000**
Inverness Creative Academy – Phase 2

An application would be welcomed from the group for a further £65k in 2020/21.

Eden Court (£16,435 sought) **APPROVED £13,148**
Under Canvas

Ms H Carmichael, seconded by Mrs C Caddick, moved to approve the application minus 20% due to the limitations on funds and subject to the inclusion of young performers in the programme. Mr R Laird moved as an amendment to refuse the application due to the unfair competition on commercial establishments in the city. However, Mr Laird's amendment failed to find a seconder and fell, and Mrs Carmichael's motion was carried.

LCC Live Events Services (£40,000 sought) **APPROVED £17,000**
European Pipe Band Championships

It was suggested that the convention formula be used to allocate funding but as the economic impact was not known, £17,000 was proposed as being the normal maximum grant for similar events, to be taken from the Conference budget.

Scottish Canals (£50,000 sought) **APPROVED £50,000**
Carse Outdoor Hub

The Sub- Committee:-

- a. considered the applications listed in the attached Appendix 7 and detailed in Booklets A and B;
- b. **AGREED** to approve or decline applications for up to and including £10,000 as detailed above;
- c. **AGREED** recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 30 May 2019 for those applications for more than £10,000 as detailed above.

6. AccessAble

There had been circulated a Proposal from AccessAble to renew their online accessibility guide for Inverness.

During discussion it was pointed out that production of this guide was undertaken by most Local Authorities across Scotland as part of Council policy on Equalities and for this reason the application should be referred to the Council, noting in addition that it ought to be produced for the whole of the Highlands, not only for Inverness.

The Sub-Committee:

- a. commented on the proposal;
- b. **NOTED** that a report would be presented to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 30 May 2019; and
- c. **AGREED** to recommend refusal of the application to the City of Inverness Area Committee, as detailed above.

7. Clachnacuddin Football Club

There had been circulated an updated Service Level Agreement between Clachnacuddin Football Club and the Highland Council. The current rent paid by

the Football Club for the Grant Street Park was £7,000 a reduction of 50% on the full rent of £14,000.

During discussion concern was expressed at the level of engagement being undertaken by the Club with the community and Ward Councillors.

The Sub-Committee **DELEGATED APPROVAL** of the document to the Members of Central Ward and, should they fail to be satisfied at the planned visit by officials from the Club to the forthcoming Ward Business Meeting, a review of the rental contract would be undertaken.

8. Coach Friendly

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to approve the installation of a new bus shelter in Ardross Street at a cost of £3,482 to be paid from the City Promotions Budget.

9. Eastgate Precinct Signs

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to approve the purchase of signs for the Eastgate Precinct at a cost of £528 to be paid from the Other Properties Budget.

10. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/07/19 dated 03 May 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

In this connection there had been circulated separately a copy of the applications and any supporting documentation as Booklet C.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** the applications listed in Appendix 2 to the report and detailed in Booklet C as follows:

<u>Glenshiel Organising Committee</u> Battle of Glenshiel Tercentenary Commemoration Weekend	REFUSED £1,449.68
Refused due to insufficient connection to Inverness.	
<u>International Federation of Agricultural Journalists</u> Tour of H&I Welcome Dinner	REFUSED £1966.63
Refused due to insufficient connection to Inverness.	
<u>LCC Live Event Services</u> European Pipe Band Championships	AGREED £2,650.14
<u>Open Adventure</u> ITERA International Expedition Race 2019	AGREED £3,527.63

<u>Submariners Association</u> Mounting Commemorative Plaque	AGREED £2,359.68
<u>SNBTS</u> Inverness Donor Awards Ceremony	AGREED £2,447.63
<u>Poppy Scotland</u> 2019 Scottish Poppy Appeal	AGREED £2,325.00
<u>Milton of Leys Primary School Football Club</u> Scottish Champions	REFUSED

This late application was refused for civic hospitality as it would set a precedent for applications from schools for similar events. However, the Sub-Committee wished to acknowledge the excellent achievement and remitted the Provost in consultation with the City Manager to decide on a more appropriate means of marking this.

11. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

Mr A Graham declared a non-financial interest in relation to Inverness Caledonian Thistle 25th Anniversary Celebration 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 him from taking part in the discussion of the applications.

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to award the following Civic Hospitality requests:-

- 2019 BID City Centre Business Awards - £1,200
- Highland Hospice Service Recognition Awards - £2,650
- Inverness Caledonian Thistle 25th Anniversary Celebration - £1,969.48 (revised cost)
- Artic Dinner - £480

12. High Life Highland

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to allow High Life Highland four Free Hall Lets during 2019/20 financial year.

13. Highland and Moray Visitor Guide 2019

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to advertise in the Highland and Moray Visitor Guide 2019 at a cost of £625 to be paid from the City Promotions Budget.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 5th August 2019 at 9.30am.

15. Waterloo Bowling Club Bollards (late item)

This was considered as part of Item 5 (Booklet A)

The meeting ended at 1.10pm