

**(xv)Mr B Boyd**

**To the Leader of the Council**

**‘Can you please provide an up-to-date status of the project known as “The Gathering Place”, in Inverness, with particular reference to spend-to-date on the project, which budget is paying for it, what the anticipated final total spend on the project will be and the date for completion?’**

The ‘Gathering Place’ now known as ‘My Ness’ is part of the River Ness Public Art Project Programme which is subject to scrutiny by the City of Inverness Area Committee through the approval of the Minutes of the Inverness City Arts Working Group, along with an Annual Report on the Project programme, the next Report being due in early 2021.

Delivery of the My Ness project, as with all Construction projects, has been adversely affected by the COVID19 Pandemic. Installation was due in Summer 2020 and final site investigative work was completed in August. Installation is now planned to commence in early Spring 2021, in order to avoid carrying out works through the winter when river levels are traditionally at the highest. The project programme is being finalised and Installation is expected to take 14 weeks.

The Budget for the River Ness Public Art Programme was reviewed at the Special meeting of the City Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
([https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4150/city\\_of\\_inverness\\_area\\_committee](https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4150/city_of_inverness_area_committee) ).

The budget was set at £300,000. The Annual report was taken to the City Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and spend to date of £108,716.

Since then there has been minimal spend amounting to £4,166 on obtaining a SEPA Licence and pre contract works. The additional works as requested by the City Committee at the Special Meeting, to enhance access were subsequently funded by Creative Scotland. The final budget was confirmed as £332,000.