

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Mr C Aitken	Ms E Knox
Mr C Ballance	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mr I Brown	Mr A MacKintosh
Mr M Cameron	Mr R MacKintosh
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Ms K MacLean
Mr A Christie	Mr D Macpherson
Mr D Fraser	Mrs B McAllister
Mr K Gowans	Mrs M Reid
Mr A Graham	Mrs T Robertson
Mr D Gregg	Mr A Sinclair

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Economy and Infrastructure
Ms F Hepburn, Project Officer - Community Regeneration, Economy and Infrastructure
Mrs L Dunn, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Performance and Governance
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

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

Mr I Brown in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr B Boyd, Mrs H Crawford and Mrs J Hendry.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following Transparency Statement:-

Item 3: Mr A Christie

3. Community Regeneration Fund (CRF)– Assessment of Applications Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as he had a connection to several of the individuals involved in Item 3 of the agenda. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/12/23 dated 14 March 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- in relation to the Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF), the Mum's on Wheels project be awarded the full amount requested of £7,610 and the Crown Connects project be awarded the remaining amount of £4,251.67. By agreeing this proposal, applicants would remain able to hold an event to promote social inclusion in the whole community;
- confirmation was sought and provided that the HCCF was available for wards connected to the coastal area;
- clarification was sought and provided that the HCCF had been publicised and the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee, the minutes of which had been submitted to the City of Inverness and Area Committee on 13 February 2023, had reviewed the Expressions of Interest received to determine whether applicants should be invited to submit a full application to the City of Inverness and Area Committee for determination;
- a proposal that as Whin Park was a long term investment project for the City, which might well require to be delivered in phases, over three to four years, a reduced grant should be awarded to the Whin Park Project. This would then enable the Committee to award the other applicants the grants they had applied for in full;
- the above would include the Committee agreeing to encourage the Whin Park Project to reapply for funding to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee set for 5 June 2023 for Members consideration, should another round of appropriate funding be made available to the Committee for dissemination;
- confirmation was sought and provided that the Whin Park Project would not suffer any detriment as a result of the proposal to lower the level of award and the Ward Members were content with the proposal; and
- confirmation was sought and provided that consideration would be given to part of the Place Based Investment Funding for 2023/24 being allocated to each ward.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** all applications presented for funding and **AGREED**:

i. that CRF - HCCF funding be awarded as follows:-

- a. Velocity Cafe and Bicycle Workshop: Mums on Wheels Inverness - £7,610
- b. Crown Connects SCIO: Crown Connects with Ukraine – £4,251.67;

ii. CRF - Place Based Investment Programme funding be awarded as follows:

- a. Dalneigh Play Park: Dalneigh Play Park Project - £55,228.06
- b. South Kessock Residents Association: South Kessock Play Park - £55,000
- c. The Ledge: The Bouldering Centre of Excellence - £100,000
- d. The Elsie Normington Foundation: The Haven Centre Project - £80,669.30
- e. Inverness YMCA: Wheelchair Lift - £17,000
- f. Lovat Shinty Club: Create a new Community Area - £146,261.21
- g. Community Action Raigmore Estate: Purchase of shack - £20,000
- h. Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust: Improved pathways project - £20,000
- i. Highland Council: Whin Park Refurbishment – £68,162*

- iii. the Whin Park Project be encouraged to reapply for funding to the next scheduled meeting of the City of Inverness Committee on 5 June 2023 for Members consideration should another round of appropriate funding be made available to the Committee for dissemination; and
- iv. that consideration be given to part of the Place Based Investment Funding for 2023/24 being allocated to each ward.

The meeting ended at 2.15pm.

** Addendum – subsequent to this meeting, it was clarified that the balance of the Fund remaining was £68,161.43 and consequently this was the sum awarded to the Whin Park Refurbishment project.*