

The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday 1 August 2024 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr C Ballance	Mr D McDonald
Mr M Cameron (remote)	Ms K MacLean
Mr A Graham (Chair)	Mrs M Reid

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, Senior Community Development Manager's Office
Ms M Murray, Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services

Mr A Graham in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr D Macpherson and Mr A Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the following Declarations of Interest:-

Item 6: Mr A Graham and Mr D McDonald

and the following Transparency Statements:-

Item 6: Mr C Ballance and Ms K MacLean

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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 Sub-Committee Annual Report

There had been circulated Report No. ICGF/07/24 dated 22 July 2024 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

In introducing the report, the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, drew attention to two proposed changes to the powers delegated to the Sub-

Committee as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, namely, in clause h, the replacement of the Director of Development and Infrastructure with the Assistant Chief Executive – Place to reflect the current management structure, and the addition of a new clause as follows:-

- j. Consider full applications and to make recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee on the selection of projects for approval and the value of grants to be made in respect of funds that are subject to the governance of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

The report recommendations had been amended accordingly.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the report prior to it being presented to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 19 August 2024, including the additional recommendation to reflect the proposed changes to the powers delegated to the Sub-Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 9, the Committee **AGREED** to consider item 6 at this stage.

6. Requests for Financial Assistance 2024/25

There had been circulated Report No. ICGF/09/24 by the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South. Copies of the applications and supporting documentation had been made available via SharePoint in Booklets B-F.

The Chair highlighted that, in respect of the “Other” and “Poverty and Inequality” budget categories, the sum of the applications before the Sub-Committee exceeded the budget available. Following discussion and agreement as to the appropriate budget category for each application, it was proposed that, given there was only £1,700 remaining in the “Other” budget and the applications amounted to £28,729, all applications in the “Other” category be deferred on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Thereafter, following detailed discussion on the financial position and the merits or otherwise of the remaining applications, during which clarification was sought and provided on a number of points, the Sub-Committee determined the applications for financial assistance as follows:-

Applications up to £5,000

Applicant: Combat Stress
Project/activity: Purchase of a bespoke gazebo
Amount requested: £700.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **APPROVED** an award of £658.00.

Applicant: Youth Highland
Project/activity: Summer Activities 2024
Amount requested: £1,000.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **REFUSED** on the grounds that it was a retrospective application and there was insufficient evidence of community benefit.

Applicant: Rokzkool Academy

Project/activity: Rokzkool Hangout

Amount requested: £3,840.00

Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **REFUSED** on the grounds that the application was largely retrospective.

It was further **AGREED** that the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, liaise with the applicant regarding the points raised during discussion.

Applicant: Ness Bank Church of Scotland

Project/activity: Kitchen dishwasher replacement

Amount requested: £1,700.00

Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **APPROVED** an award of £1,598.00.

Transparency Statements: The undernoted Members declared connections to the following application but, having applied the objective test, did not consider they had an interest to declare:-

Mr C Ballance – as he knew the artist involved with the project through her design work in respect of the Hydro Ness scheme.

Ms K MacLean – as she attended Merkinch Community Council. However, she had not been party to any decisions regarding the application.

Applicant: Merkinch Community Council

Project/activity: Inverness Street Art Project

Amount requested: £5,000.00

Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **APPROVED** an award of £4,700.00.

Applicant: Highland Area (Inverness and surrounding area) of Project Linus UK

Project/activity: Project Linus

Amount requested: £1,000.00

Budget category: Other

Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Declaration of Interest: Mr A Graham declared an interest in the following application due to his long-standing association with Gaelic development.

Applicant: Feis a'Bhaile

Project/activity: Feis a'Bhaile's October Feis Week

Amount requested: £3,500.00

Budget category: Other

Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Declaration of Interest: Mr A Graham declared an interest in the following application due to his long-standing association with Gaelic development.

Applicant: Culterlann Inbhir Nis

Project/activity: Essential electrical works
Amount requested: £4,144.00
Budget category: Other
Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Applications £5,001 to £10,000

Applicant: Drummond Owners Association
Project/activity: Restoration of Drummond Pond
Amount requested: £6,090.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **APPROVED** a partial award of £2862.00.

Applicant: Merkinch Football Academy
Project/activity: Merkinch Football Academy
Amount requested: £8,000.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **APPROVED** a partial award of £3,760.00.

Applicant: Highland Well-Ness Collective
Project/activity: Pay it Forward Counselling
Amount requested: £9,100.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **REFUSED** on the grounds of insufficient justification for the provision of support.

Applicant: Cash for Kids North Scotland
Project/activity: Hands On Art
Amount requested: £9,840.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **REFUSED** on the grounds of insufficient justification for the provision of support.

Applicant: Enable Works (Leading The Way)
Project/activity: Tune In
Amount requested: £9,979.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality
Decision: **APPROVED** a partial award of £4,458.00 in respect of the capital costs and venue hire.

Applicant: Edinburgh Science Foundation
Project/activity: Generation Science 2025
Amount requested: £6,550.00
Budget category: Other
Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Applicant: Glasgow School of Art – PhD Student Susan Torrance
Project/activity: Liberating the Archive – PhD Research Project
Amount requested: £5,535.00
Budget category: Other

Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Applicant: Inverness Festival Association
Project/activity: Inverness Music Festival 2025
Amount requested: £8,000.00
Budget category: Other

Decision: **DEFERRED** on the grounds of lack of funds until such time as funding may become available within the current financial year.

Applications over £10,000

Applicant: UHI Inverness
Project/activity: Caring Conversations
Amount requested: £23,145.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of a partial award of £5,743.00 in respect of the play on the grounds that it was the only element of the project costs that required to be undertaken, to the standard suggested and on a paid basis, by an external party.

Applicant: Hilton Family Support
Project/activity: Hilton Family Support
Amount requested: £15,000.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of an award of £14,100.00.

Applicant: New Start Highland
Project/activity: Training and Reuse Village
Amount requested: £65,000.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of a partial award of £30,550.00.

Applicant: Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop
Project/activity: Cycle to Health
Amount requested: £10,300.00
Budget category: Poverty and Inequality

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of a partial award of £7,261.00.

Other Properties

Declaration of Interest: Mr D McDonald declared an interest in the following application as President of Kings Golf Club and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting while the application was being discussed.

Applicant: Apex Highland
Project/activity: Apex Highland – Torvean and Fraser Park
Amount requested: £14,581.00

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED**.

Applicant: The Oxygen Works

Project/activity: Waiving of Annual Rent
Amount requested: £6,500.00
Decision: **APPROVED**

Applicant: Inshes Community Association
Project/activity: Safety Improvements – Inshes Wheel Park
Amount requested: £2,310.00
Decision: **APPROVED**

Town Twinning

Applicant: Inverness Town Twinning Committee
Project/activity: Town Twinning
Amount requested: £600.00
Decision: **APPROVED**

The Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the further information in support of the grant approved in principle for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 April 2024, and formally **APPROVED** the grant of £5,000;
- ii. **AGREED** to determine the applications for up to and including £10,000 as detailed above, the Poverty and Inequality awards having been reduced by 6% to ensure fairness given the budget available; and
- iii. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee, at its meeting on 19 August 2024, that the applications for more than £10,000 be determined as detailed above, the Poverty and Inequality awards having been reduced by 6% to ensure fairness given the budget available.

5. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No. ICGF/08/24 dated 17 July 2024 by the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South. Copies of the applications and any supporting documentation had been made available via SharePoint in Booklet A.

Following discussion on the merits or otherwise of each application, the Sub-Committee determined the applications for civic hospitality as follows:-

Organisation: The Clan MacKenzie Society of Scotland UK
Event: Clan MacKenzie International Clan Gathering
Venue: Inverness Town House (Civic Buffet)
Cost: £5,546.00
Decision: **APPROVED**

Organisation: Inverness Foodstuff
Event: Inverness Foodstuff 10 Year Anniversary
Venue: Inverness Town House (Civic Buffet)
Cost: £4,617.30
Decision: **APPROVED**

The Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** that applicants remained responsible for their own costs and might be held liable for the whole costs of the event if it was cancelled due to their own act or omission;
- ii. **NOTED** that the cost of civic events continued to increase beyond expected levels and that decisions might need to be taken regarding the prioritisation of events to be supported; and
- iii. **AGREED** to determine the applications for civic hospitality as detailed above.

7. Internal Application – Inverness Strategy Project

The Sub-Committee was invited to consider the application from the Development Plans and Community Support Service towards a public event in the Victorian Market to showcase projects as part of the Inverness Strategy.

Following discussion, during which the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, undertook to liaise with the City Leader regarding an update/briefing for Members on the Inverness Strategy, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to award a sum of £450 from the City Promotions budget.

8. 1-5 Church Street

The Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, gave a verbal update regarding the Skills Development Scotland lease of 1-5 Church Street.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the position.

9. Homologation Requests

The following applications had been approved by the Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, in consultation with the Sub-Committee, subject to homologation at the next available Sub-Committee Meeting:-

a. Town Twinning

i. Visit to La Baule - 4th June - 10th June 2024

Following discussion on the value of the visit and the possibility of presenting a short video in that regard to the City of Inverness Area Committee, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the approval of flights to La Baule for the Provost and Cllr Reid up to a maximum of £1,500. It was **NOTED** that the actual cost to the Inverness Common Good Fund had been £858.32.

ii. St Valery en Caux

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the approval of a grant of £1,000 to the Town Twinning Committee for two members of that Committee to join the Civic Party to St. Valery en Caux in September. It was **NOTED** that the actual cost of the flights had been £862.00.

b. Youth Street Event

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the approval of a grant of £300 from the City Promotions budget towards an Inverness Youth Street Event on Friday 2 August 2024. It was **NOTED** that the event was part of an Operation Respect Youth Initiative which the Highland Council was running in conjunction with Police Scotland.

c. Town House Logo

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the approval of a grant of £950 towards the creation of the new Town House logo.

d. Red Chair Highland

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the request by Red Chair Highland to change the use of their grant.

10. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub-Committee:-

a. **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award the following civic hospitality request:-

i. UHI to host Texas State University, Haventus and invited guests from Inverness and the Green Freeport – Civic Buffet – 12 July 2024 - £1,663.25; and

b. **NOTED** the approval of the following events on the Recurring List:-

i. 2024 Poppyscotland - £2,495.00

ii. Armistice Day - £1,487.00

iii. Town Twinning – Marie Therese Gymnasium Augsburg - £1,125.00

11. Evaluation Forms

There had been circulated, and were **NOTED**, Evaluation Forms submitted by applicants on completion of their projects.

12. Town House Whisky

It having been explained that the supply of Town House whisky had been exhausted, and information having been sought, and provided, as to who received it, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the purchase of 8 cases (48 bottles) from Gordon MacPhail from the Civic Hospitality budget. This would use the existing stock of presentation boxes at a cost of £1,593.89.

13. Depute Provost Robes

Following discussion, during which information was sought, and provided, on the costs associated with maintaining civic robes and it was explained that the remodelling costs were exceptional, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the remodelling of the

Depute Provosts' robes at an estimated cost of £1,650. It was **NOTED** that the cost had come down to £1,100.

14. Civic Lighting Requests

Information having been sought, and provided, on the procedure for making and determining civic lighting requests, the Sub-Committee **NOTED** the following requests for the period 1 May to 31 August 2024:-

- Bladder Cancer Awareness Month
- Lyme Disease
- Shine a Light on Neurofibromatosis
- Dementia Awareness Week
- International Batten Disease Day
- Highland Pride 2024
- International Overdose Awareness Day

15. Free Hall Lets

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the following free hall let:-

- Marie Curie Coffee Morning – 24 August 2024 - £270

16. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 28 October 2024 at 9.30 am.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.