

The Highland Council

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| Agenda Item | 11c |
| Report No | BIER/25/25 |

Committee: Black Isle and Easter Ross

Date: 11 August 2025

Report Title: Invergordon Common Good Fund - Q4 2024/24 and Q1 2025/26 Monitoring

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter 4 2024/25 (near final) and Quarter 1 2025/26 monitoring statements for the Invergordon Common Good Fund. The report outlines an estimated end of year surplus for the Invergordon Common Good for 2024/25, primarily as a result of higher than budgeted Interest and Investment Income offset by higher than budgeted for Common Good Office costs.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **scrutinise** and **note** the Quarter 4 2024/25 and Quarter 1 2025/26 monitoring statements for the Invergordon Common Good Fund.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - The Q4 monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget. Members are asked to note that these figures are near final, pending completion of the audit of the Highland Council accounts. An end of year surplus for 2024/25 is estimated, primarily as a result of higher than budgeted Interest and Investment Income offset by higher than budgeted for Common Good Office costs.
- 3.2 **Legal** - The application of funds will fall within the competency guidelines set out both in statute and in common law in relation to Common Good Funds. Additionally, through the governance being applied by the Finance Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.
- 3.3 **Risk** – No implications.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - No implications.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - No implications.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is a monitoring report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Quarter 4 2024/25 Monitoring Statement

- 5.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of March 2025 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached within **Appendix 1**. Members are asked to note that these are near final figures, pending the completion of the audit of the Highland Council accounts.

5.2 Income

- Rental income for the year comprises the rent for Invergordon Town Hall which is fully paid and up to date.
- The income for interest is higher than the budget reflecting the high interest rates which applied during the period.

5.3 Expenditure

- The overspend on staff costs represents the time spent by the Common Good Officer working on the sale of the Bouchardon Bust.
- Otherwise, expenditure in 2024/25 has been limited and includes insurance costs, and central support costs.

5.4 Variances

Members will note that the fund has delivered a surplus at year-end. This is largely due to the higher than budgeted Interest and Investment Income, offset by higher than budgeted for Common Good Office costs. The estimated Usable Reserves as of 31 March 2025 are £85,278.

6 Quarter 1 2025/26 Monitoring Statement

- 6.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2025 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 2**.

6.2 Income

- There was no income in Quarter 1.
- The rent for the Town Hall will be invoiced in due course.

6.3 Expenditure

- There was no expenditure in Q1.

7 **Common Good Update**

7.1 Bouchardon Bust

Members will recall that on 7 November 2024, the Sheriff Court approved the application to sell the Bust of Sir John Gordon, which is part of the Invergordon Common Good Fund. Following this, an application for a UK export licence was submitted on 12 March 2025. Arts Council England has since informed Sotheby's, who are acting on behalf of the Council, that an objection has been raised regarding the export of the Bouchardon bust. As a result, the application was considered at a hearing of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, held in July. The Committee is assessing whether the bust meets any of the three Waverley Criteria and whether the export licence should be deferred. The Council is currently awaiting the outcome of this review, and Members will be updated in due course.

7.2 Common Good Working Group

The Common Good Officer continues to work with a cross-service group to develop a new Highland Council Common Good Policy to inform and guide the management of all Highland Common Good Funds, including the management of reserves. The policy, being Highland wide will require approval at Full Council or at strategic committee. Members will be updated in due course.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 22 July 2025

Author: Phil Tomalin, Senior Community Development Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Quarter 4 2024/25 Monitoring Statement
Appendix 2 - Quarter 1 2025/26 Monitoring Statement

Appendix 1

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Invergordon Common Good | | | | |
| Period to March 25 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Actual | Budget | Variance | |
| | £ | £ | £ | |
| Income | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Rents | 3,500 | 3,500 | | 0 |
| Interest and investment income | 4,483 | 1,400 | | 3,083 |
| Total Income | 7,983 | 4,900 | | 3,083 |
| | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Staff Costs | 5,098 | 1,700 | | 3,398 |
| Property costs | 271 | 2,000 | | (1,729) |
| Administration charges | 476 | 100 | | 376 |
| Total Expenditure | 5,845 | 3,800 | | 2,045 |
| | | | | |
| Income less Expenditure | 2,138 | 1,100 | | 1,038 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Usable Reserves 2023/24 | | 83,140 | | |
| Surplus (Deficit) outturn for 24/25 | | 2,138 | | |
| Estimated Usable Reserves 2024/25 | | 85,278 | | |

Appendix 2

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|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Invergordon Common Good | | | | | |
| Period to June 25 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Actual | Budget | Estimated Outturn | Variance | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Income | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rents | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | |
| Interest and investment income | 0 | 4,800 | 4,800 | - | |
| Total Income | 0 | 7,300 | 7,300 | - | |
| | | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Staff Costs | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | |
| Property costs | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | - | |
| Administration charges | 0 | 500 | 500 | - | |
| Total Expenditure | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | |
| | | | | | |
| Income less Expenditure | 0 | 2,300 | 2,300 | - | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Unaudited Usable Reserves 2024/25 | | 85,279 | | | |
| Estimated outturn for 25/26 | | 2,300 | | | |
| Estimated Usable Reserves 2025/26 | | 87,579 | | | |