

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	12
Report No	SCC/25/25

Committee: Sutherland County Committee

Date: 1 September 2025

Report Title: Dornoch Common Good Q4 2024/25 and Q1 2025/26 Monitoring

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter 4 24/25 and Quarter 1 25/26 monitoring statements for the Dornoch Common Good Fund. The report outlines an estimated end of year surplus for the Dornoch Common Good for 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. scrutinise and note the Quarter 4 24/25 and Quarter 1 25/26 monitoring statements for the Dornoch Common Good Fund

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - The Q4 monitoring statement highlights income and expenditure against the budget. Members are asked to note that these figures are final but pending completion of the audit of the Highland Council accounts. An end of year surplus for 2024/25 is estimated.
- 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** - None
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - None
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - None

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 at Appendix 1. Members are asked to note that these are final figures, but pending the completion of the audit of the Highland Council accounts.
- 5.2 Income
- Rent – The additional rent against the budget comprised backdated rent following rent reviews.
 - Invitation to Pay income was less than budgeted.
 - Interest and investment income of £14,149 was in excess of the budget due to high interest rates during the year.
- 5.3 Expenditure
- Grants and contributions – These are listed in Appendix 1. As reported to Sutherland County Committee on 17 February 2025 there was an overspend of £5,428, however that is affordable given underspend against other budget lines.
 - Staff costs, comprising the Common Good Officer costs, central support costs and professional fees relating to Dornoch Burn, were marginally overspent.
 - Miscellaneous costs, comprising Invitation-to-Pay management costs, insurance, legal fees and a final payment for renovation of Dornoch Public Conveniences, was underspent.
 - There were no costs incurred on Dornoch Beach Car Park repairs, but these are expected in 2025/26.
 - No costs were incurred on the Dornoch Burn project following the decision not to proceed with any works, as reported to Sutherland County Committee on 12 November 2024
- 5.4 Variances
- Members will note that the fund has delivered a surplus of £82,890 increasing usable reserves to £318,520 at year-end. This is due to additional income and underspends against several budget lines.

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
- Rental income appears to be on track to reach budgeted income at year end. The RDGC rent is due later in the year.
- 6.3 Expenditure
- Grants made in the year to date totalling £6,567 are detailed in Appendix 2.
 - Otherwise, there was minimal expenditure in Q1.

7 Common Good Update

7.1 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 will also address the particular challenges faced by newly identified Common Good Funds such as Wick and Thurso Common Good Fund which have no or limited income and minimal reserves. The policy, being Highland wide will require approval at full Council or strategic committee. Members will be updated in due course.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 25 July 2025

Author: Phil Tomalin, Senior Community Development Manager
Jennifer Johnston, Accountant

Background Papers: None

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

Appendix 1

Dornoch Common Good Fund Period to March 25

	Actual 2024/25 £	Budget 2024/25 £	Variance £
INCOME			
Rents	105,022	100,757	4,265
Invitation to pay income	3,270	4,500	(1,230)
Interest and investment income	14,149	4,800	9,349
TOTAL INCOME	122,440	110,057	12,383
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	3,115	3,000	115
Grants & contributions	30,428	25,000	5,428
Miscellaneous Property costs	6,007	15,000	(8,993)
Dornoch Beach Car Parks	0	25,000	(25,000)
Contribution to works at Dornoch Burn	0	10,000	(10,000)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39,550	78,000	(38,450)
Income less Expenditure	82,890	32,057	50,833

Usable Reserves 2023/24	235,630
Surplus (Deficit) outturn for 24/25	82,890
Estimated Usable Reserves 2024/25	318,520

Grants and Contributions 2024/25 to 31 March 2025

Org.	Project	£
Dornoch Trust	Operation of Dornoch Beach Toilets	2,488.00
Dornoch Cathedral	Cathedral Tower project	5,201.12
Dornoch Cricket Club	Cricket wicket and practice nets	4,500.00
Dornoch Bowling Club	Bowling green recovery	1,190.00
Dornoch Trust	Essential woodland maintenance	3,150.00
Dornoch BID	Website development	7,074.00
DADCA	Dornoch Hogmanay Street Party 2024	3,575.00
Dornoch Heritage Society	Historylinks Heritage Hub - Phase 5	3,250.00
Total		30,428.12

Appendix 2

Dornoch Common Good Fund Period to June 25

	Actual £	Budget £	Estimated Outturn £	Variance £
INCOME				
Rents	29,648	101,235	101,235	0
Invitation to pay income	18	3,500	3,500	0
Interest and investment income	0	4,800	4,800	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>29,666</u>	<u>109,535</u>	<u>109,535</u>	<u>0</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs	0	3,000	3,000	0
Grants & contributions	6,567	60,000	60,000	0
Miscellaneous Property costs	0	15,000	15,000	0
Miscellaneous Other costs	0	1,000	1,000	0
Dornoch Beach Car Parks	0	25,000	25,000	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>6,567</u>	<u>104,000</u>	<u>104,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u>23,099</u>	<u>5,535</u>	<u>5,535</u>	<u>0</u>

Unaudited Usable Reserves 2024/25	318,520
Estimated outturn for 25/26	<u>5,535</u>
Estimated Usable Reserves 2025/26	<u>324,055</u>

Grants and Contributions 2025/26 to 30 June 2025

Org.	Project	£
DADCA	Flowers & Fairs Spring/Summer Floral Display	1,000.00
Friends of Sutherland Veterans	VE & VJ Days Celebrations	1,500.00
Dornoch BID	Discover Dornoch Project	4,066.75
Total		6,567.00