

Agenda Item	11
Report No	SCC/34/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Sutherland County

Date: 1 December 2025

Report Title: Dornoch Common Good Q2 2025/26 Monitoring

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents the Quarter 2 25/26 monitoring statement for the Dornoch Common Good Fund. Income and expenditure are as agreed as part of the budget setting process.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Scrutinise** and **Note** the Quarter 2 25/26 monitoring statement for the Dornoch Common Good Fund; and
- ii. **Note** the proposal to vary expenditure.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – The Q2 monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget. The proposed variation of expenditure is affordable and, if agreed, would lead to an increase of £10,000 to Reserves at year end.

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 identified

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – None identified

3.5 **Gaelic** – None identified

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	Background
5.1	The 2025/26 budget was agreed at Sutherland County Committee on 17 February 2025.
6	Quarter 2 2025/26 Monitoring Statement
6.1	A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of September 2025 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached at Appendix 1 .
6.2	Income
	Income was as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental income from Dornoch Caravan Park (first of two annual payments) was received in Q1. The remainder will be invoiced in Q3. Other rents are up to date. Royal Dornoch Golf Club annual rent is expected in January 2026. Invitation to pay income (£1,725.00) is from Dornoch Beach Car Park.
6.3	Expenditure
	Expenditure was as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants and Contributions totalling £21,335.75 have been paid by the end of Q2, see table in Appendix 2 for further detail. A further £38,651.00 grants have been approved with payment pending, giving a total a commitment to date of £59,986.75 against a budget of £60,000. Legal costs of £40.00, which will be recovered.

7	Proposal to Vary Expenditure
7.1	The current budget for Grants and Contributions is £60,000. As outlined above, this funding has already been committed. Due to increasing demand and pressure on available resources, including two outstanding applications from Dornoch Area Community Interest Company for a transport project and sports centre feasibility study totalling £10,892.00, a revision to the budget is proposed to ensure continued support for priority community led projects.
7.2	The total budget currently includes £25,000 for repairs to Dornoch Beach Car Park, which given the time of year is unlikely to take place in the current financial year. It is proposed to defer these works until the 2026/27 financial year and that £15,000 of the £25,000 is reallocated to the Grants and Contributions budget increasing it to £75,000. This will enable the Common Good Fund to support the two above projects and leave £4,121.25 for any further applications from community groups in the remainder of this financial year.
7.3	If the variation is approved, Dornoch Car Park budget would become nil, Grants and Contributions budget would increase to £75,000 and estimated usable reserves would increase by £10,000.
	<p>Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place</p> <p>Date: 11 November 2025</p> <p>Author: Fiona Richardson, Community Development Manager Jennnifer Johnston, Accountant</p> <p>Background Papers: None</p> <p>Appendices: Appendix 1 – Quarter 2 2025/26 Monitoring Statement</p>

**Q2 Dornoch Common Good Fund
Period to September 2025**

	Actual £	Budget £	Estimated Outturn £	Variance £
INCOME				
Rents	30,323	101,235	101,235	0
Invitation to pay income	1,725	3,500	3,500	0
Interest and investment income	0	4,800	4,800	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>32,048</u>	<u>109,535</u>	<u>109,535</u>	<u>0</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs	0	3,000	3,000	0
Grants & contributions	21,336	60,000	60,000	0
Miscellaneous Property costs	0	15,000	15,000	0
Miscellaneous Other costs	40	1,000	1,000	0
Dornoch Beach Car Parks	0	25,000	25,000	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>21,376</u>	<u>104,000</u>	<u>104,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u>10,672</u>	<u>5,535</u>	<u>5,535</u>	<u>0</u>

**Unaudited Usable Reserves
2024/25**

Estimated outturn for 25/26

Estimated Usable Reserves 2025/26

318,520

5,535

324,055

Grants and Contributions

Organisation	Project	Amount
Dornoch and District Community Association	Flowers & Fairs Spring and Summer Floral Displays	£1,000.00
Friends of Sutherland Veterans	VE & VJ Day Celebrations	£1,500.00
Dornoch BID Ltd	Discover Dornoch Project	£4,066.75
Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs	1 st instalment of playpark surface	£4,800.00
Dornoch Heritage	Historylinks Town Trail & Donald Ross Trail	£969.00
Dornoch Trust	Emergency works at Earl's Cross Woods	£9,000.00
Total		£21,335.75