

Agenda Item	13
Report No	SCC/28/26

The Highland Council

Committee: Sutherland County

Date: 31 August 2026

Report Title: Dornoch Common Good – Quarter 4 Outturn 2025/26 and Q1 Monitoring to 31 May 2026/27

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter 4 2025/26 and Quarter 1 2025/26 (April and May) monitoring statements for the Dornoch Common Good Fund. The report outlines near final year end surplus for the Dornoch Common Good 2025/26.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **scrutinise** and **note** the Quarter 4 25/26 and Quarter 1 2025/26 (April and May) 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 near final pending completion of the audit of the Highland Council accounts. The accounts show a near final end of year surplus for 2025/26.
- 3.2 **Legal** – The applications 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 of 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 2025/26 Monitoring Statement

- 5.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of March 2026 against budget is attached at **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Income

- Rental income was marginally lower than expected due to late payments. All outstanding invoices have now been issued.
- Invitation to Pay income was less than budgeted.
- Interest and Investment income of £16,008 was higher than budgeted due to an insufficient budget provision being set, based on the previous year's income levels.

5.3 Expenditure

- Grants and Contributions - these are detailed in Appendix 1. The near final outturn shows an overspend of £16,380 against a budget of £60,000. Members will recall that a variation of the Grants and Contributions budget from £60,000 to £75,000 was agreed by Committee on 1 December 2025.
- Staff costs, comprising of the Common Good Officer costs, central support costs and professional fees were lower than budgeted.
- Miscellaneous Other Costs relate to Invitation to Pay management costs
- The £25,000 budget allocated for beach car park improvements was not spent during 2025/26 as the works were delayed. The improvements have since been completed in 2026/27, and the associated expenditure will be reflected in the 2026/27 accounts.

5.4 Variances

In 25/26, the Comon Good Fund delivered a surplus of £32,226 against a budgeted surplus of £5,535. The overspend in Grants and Contributions was offset by underspends in Misc. Property Costs, Dornoch Beach Carparks and more Interest and Investment income was received than budgeted for.

6 Quarter 1 2026/26 Monitoring Statement

- 6.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of May 2026 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 6.2 **Income**
Rental income is currently in line with budget expectations for this stage in the financial year.
- 6.3 **Expenditure**
There has been no expenditure in this reporting period.
- 6.4 Members will note that the budget includes a £280,000 ring-fenced allocation to DADCA for a new community centre, as agreed by Sutherland County Committee on 1 December 2025 and subsequently at Full Council on 11 December 2025.

7 Common Good Update

- 7.1 The Common Good Officer continues to work with a cross-service group to review and develop the Council's approach to the management and administration of Common Good Funds. This work is intended to support a consistent Highland-wide framework for the operation and management of Common Good assets and funds, including the management of income and expenditure and the application of charges where appropriate.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 6 August 2026

Author: Fiona Richardson, Community Development Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Dornoch Common Good Q4 2025/26 Monitoring Statement
Appendix 2 – Dornoch Common Good Q1 2026.27 (up to end of May) Monitoring Statement

Appendix 1

Dornoch Common Good Fund				
Period to March 26				
	Actual	Budget	Varianc	
	£	£	£	
Income				
Rents	100,635	101,235	(600)	
Invitation to pay income	2,920	3,500	(580)	
Interest and investment income	16,008	4,800	11,208	
Total Income	119,563	109,535	10,028	
Expenditure				
Staff Costs	2,324	3,000	(676)	
Grants & contributions	76,380	60,000	16,380	
Miscellaneous Property costs	7,361	15,000	(7,639)	
Miscellaneous Other costs	1,272	1,000	272	
Dornoch Beach Car Parks	0	25,000	(25,000)	
Total Expenditure	87,337	104,000	(16,663)	
Income less Expenditure Surplus (Deficit)	32,226	5,535	26,691	
Revenue reserves 2024/25	318,521			
Estimated outturn for 25/26	32,226			
Estimated revenue reserves 2025/26	350,747			
Grants and Contributions - 2025/26				
Play Park Resuracing installment 1	Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs	5199		
Flowers & Fairs Spring/Summer Floral Displa	Flowers and Fairs	1000		
VE & VJ Days Celebrations	Friend of Sutherland Vetrans	1500		
Discover Dornoch Project	Dornoch BID	4066.75		
Play Park Resuracing installment 2	Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs	4800		
Historylink TrailsTown Trail &	Dornoch Heritage SCIO	969		
Emergency Works at Earl's Cross Wood	Dornoch Trust	9000		
ESRA station - concrete works	ESRA	24688		
The Dornoch Community Transport Project	DACIC	4242		
Feasibility Study for Dornoch Sports Facilities	DACIC	6650		
Dornoch Burn NRF Headwater	Dornoch and District Communit	9200		
Dornoch Beach Toilets 1st installment	Dornoch Trust	2503		
Dornoch Beach Toilets 2nd installment	Dornoch Trust	2562.5		
TOTAL		76,380.25		

Appendix 2

Dornoch Common Good Fund					
Period to May 26					
	Actual	Budget	Estimated	Variance	
	£	£	Outturn	£	
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Rents	28,223	101,235	101,235		0
Invitation to pay income	263	3,500	3,500		0
Interest and investment income	0	12,000	12,000		0
Total Income	28,486	116,735	116,735		0
Expenditure					
Staff Costs	0	3,000	3,000		0
Miscellaneous Property costs	0	15,000	15,000		0
Grants	0	35,000	35,000		0
Dornoch Beach Car Parks	0	25,000	25,000		0
Miscellaneous Other costs	0	1,750	1,750		0
Central Support	0	850	850		0
Total Expenditure	0	80,600	80,600		0
Surplus/(deficit) before projects	28,486	36,135	36,135		-
Projects					
DADCA Community Centre	0	280,000	280,000		0
Surplus/(deficit) before projects	28,486	(243,865)	(243,865)		0
Estimated revenue reserves 2025/26	350,747				
Estimated outturn 26/27	(243,865)				
Estimated revenue reserves 2026/27	106,882				