# The Highland Council

## City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 11.00 am.

**Present:**
Mr M Cameron
Mr A Graham (Chair)
Dr M Gregson
Mrs I MacKenzie
Ms K MacLean
Mr D Macpherson
Mr D McDonald

**Non-Members also present:**
Mr I Brown
Mrs J Hendry

**In attendance:**
Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South
Mr M Greig, Community Development Manager, Inverness and South
Mr A Lapinski, Lighting and Communications Manager
Ms M Murray, Principal Committee Officer
Mrs G MacPherson, Senior Committee Officer

**Mr A Graham in the Chair**

**Business**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr C Ballance, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie and Mrs M Reid.

### 2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements

There were no Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements.

### 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 item 4 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### 4. Internal Application

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider a request by the Highland Council Street Lighting Department for assistance towards external lighting at Inverness Cathedral, noting that the lighting system was inoperative and that it was usually operational to commemorate Remembrance with the cathedral being lit red.

The Senior Community Development Manager, Inverness and South, summarised the background to the current position, explaining that the Cathedral lighting system had

been installed by the Council in the 1990s and had since been maintained by the Council, with occasional financial support from the Inverness Common Good Fund given the Cathedral was seen as a city asset and was used for civic functions. It was confirmed that the Council met the associated electricity costs. It was further explained that, on being asked, the Cathedral had agreed to contribute £500 towards the cost of repairing the lights.

Discussion took place, during which clarification was sought, and provided, on a number of matters, and the following main points were raised:-

- concern was expressed regarding the late submission of the funding application;
- Members felt that it was important for the Cathedral, as a prominent city landmark, to be illuminated in red for Remembrance, and it was confirmed that officers were seeking to make the existing lighting system operational in time. However, many of the existing light fittings were nearing the end of their operational life, with some already inoperable due to water damage. Officers were keen to explore a sustainable long-term replacement programme, although this would require the Cathedral to take the lead in progressing the project;
- in response to questions, it was explained that the full extent of the repairs was not yet known and that further investigation was necessary. It was anticipated that £1,000 of the requested £1,500 funding would be required to determine whether the existing system remained serviceable; and
- there was concern that approval of the requested funding would not guarantee that the lighting would be operational for Remembrance, and it was asked if an alternative solution, such as a temporary uplighter provided by a third party, could be explored should repairs not be completed in time. In response, assurance was provided that some form of red illumination could be provided as at least some of the existing lights remained operational. It was further confirmed that, if necessary, the possibility of supplementing the operational lights with temporary lighting, within the available budget, could be explored.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee:-

i. **NOTED** that the Council had installed the lighting system originally and had been paying the electricity and maintenance costs;
ii. **AGREED** to award a contribution of £1,000 from the City Promotions budget, subject to the additional contribution of £500 from Inverness Cathedral, to fund enabling works in respect of the external lighting system at Inverness Cathedral; and
iii. **NOTED** that officers would engage with Inverness Cathedral with a view to securing the Cathedral's commitment to lead and take ownership of a sustainable long-term lighting replacement programme, including consideration of third-party funding opportunities, and that a progress report would be submitted to a future meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

## 5. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 26 October 2026 at 9.30 am.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am.