

## The Highland Council

### Resources Committee – 26 November 2014

Agenda Item	10
Report No	RES/64 /14

#### Capital Discretionary Fund - Halkirk Sports Facility

#### Report by Director of Finance

##### Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's agreement to set aside the current allocated sum of £200,000 held for this project.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 At the last meeting of Resources Committee on 27 August 2014, the Committee agreed to introduce new conditions to the award of any grant from the Capital Discretionary Fund. In effect this introduced a 3 year time limit on the drawing down of Funds.
- 1.2 In August the Committee was alerted to the fact that one commitment, an award to £200,000 to support a sports facility at Halkirk, had breached this 3 year period. Officers undertook to review the situation and report back to this meeting.

### 2. Discussion

- 2.1 Given the passage of time it has proved very difficult to obtain specific details about this project. Information from Care & Learning, High Life Highland, and the Ward Manager would suggest that the origins of this project came from a donation to improve facilities for the local football team.
- 2.2 Following that, proposals were developed to build a sports facility. The Council however understands that funding applications to various grant bodies have been unsuccessful.
- 2.3 The latest contact with the Group was some time ago, through High Life Highland. At that stage it was felt that there was little immediate prospect of the Project being developed.

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 Given the lack of detailed information about the project, and no recent contact with the local group, it would appear that there is no likelihood of this project progressing in the near future.

3.2 It would therefore seem inappropriate to continue to reserve Council funds for this project when the funding could potentially be used to support other projects.

3.3 It is therefore proposed that this project is deleted from the list of commitments against the Capital Discretionary Fund. This decision would not prevent the Council reviewing the situation should a future revised project emerge.

#### **4. Implications**

##### **4.1 Financial Implications**

4.1.1 If the Committee agrees to the above proposal then the uncommitted balance on the Capital Discretionary Budget will be £944,000.

4.2 There are no specific legal, equalities, climate change/Carbon Clever, risk, Gaelic or rural implications to highlight.

#### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to withdraw the offer of £200,000 funding towards the Halkirk Sports facility.

Designation: Director of Finance

Date: 5 November 2015

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Background Papers: None