

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 2 December 2014

Agenda Item	7
Report No	CIA/58/14

**Inverness City Arts – River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme, Public Art Project**

**Report by Inverness City Manager**

### **Summary**

This report confirms that the full funding package is in place along with the next steps in applying the funding towards project delivery.

## **1. Background**

1.1 Creative Scotland have confirmed that our Stage 2 funding application has been successful, with the full sum of £0.305.6m being awarded to the River Connections public art project programme.

1.2 The funding partners are:

Creative Scotland	£0.305.6m
City of Inverness Common Good Fund	£0.250m (+£30.75k revenue funding 2013/14)
Highland Council – ‘Approaching Inverness’	£0.105m
HIE	£0.65m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.756m</b>

1.3 The original budget target was £740,900. This has now been exceeded with the additional allocation from the Council (Planning Gain) of £0.40m.

1.4 Highlands and Islands Enterprise have also been informed of the Creative Scotland confirmation. This was a pre-condition of their award and means that their allocation has now been released to the Council as a direct contribution to the cost of the Gathering Place.

## **2. Project Progress**

2.1 Apart from the Gathering Place, all artists have been appointed to agreed projects. There is scope to develop a Childrens Feature as part of the Project Programme

2.2 In summary, the projects and artists are as follows:

- River Connections – Mary Bourne
- Rest Spaces – Dressed For The Weather
- The Trail – Dressed For The Weather

- Sculptural Destination – Annie Catteral
- The Gathering Place – to be appointed
- Schools project/Childrens Feature – subject to ICArts Working Group approval

2.3 River Connections was fully funded through the Common Good Fund and the development funds made available by Creative Scotland as part of the Grant (£0.46m). It is proceeding on schedule.

2.4 The Trail and Rest Spaces can now be progressed with Dressed For The Weather. The Project Manager (Curatorial) will be agreeing a project plan with the artists that will include integration not only with the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme but with other artists, especially Mary Bourne. Synergy is expected across all the projects but in particular between the Trail, Rest Spaces and River Connections.

### **3. Community Engagement and Education**

3.1 Mary Bourne is to hold an Open Day as soon as possible so that the public can come along to the River to view Mary at work. The public may also be able to informally engage with her on other days when she is working in situ but she may not be able to devote as much time or arrange demonstrations on these days.

3.2 Education – The Project Manager (Curatorial) is liaising with the Highlife Highland, Creative Links Leader, the River Ness Flood Alleviation Team and contractors to develop opportunities for schools to engage with the projects.

3.3 The Project Plans for the remaining artists will also be set up to provide for project design and aspects of delivery which allow for meaningful Community Engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders holders.

3.4 As projects are developed, the ICArts Working Group will be updated on the how this important aspect of the Project Programme is being developed and delivered. Local Ward Members are also being kept appraised. In addition, Project Progress will continue to be reported to the Council via the City of Inverness Area Committee, with our funding partners being kept informed of progress through officer liaison.

3.5 Once the artists have developed their broad concepts these will be informed by projects through a series of public consultations towards finalising the concepts. This will also include ample opportunities for Members to contribute through the consultation process, with as much prior notice being given as possible.

### **4. Equalities and Climate Change and Rural implications**

4.1 The delivery of projects under the governance arrangements identified in this report will be required to meet The Highland Council's Policies. They will also

actively enhance access to public art where practicable, for the widest possible sectors of the community.

- 4.2 There are no known climate change or rural implications as a result of this report.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no known legal implications as a result of this report. The ICArts Working Group has delegated power to approve expenditure for the River Connections Project Programme from the City of Inverness Area Committee.

## **6. Resource Implications**

- 6.1 The City of Inverness Common Good Fund has allocated funds within its revenue budget for 2014/15 to meet its commitment to this project and the project programme is now fully funded.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the approval of the Creative Scotland Stage 2 application to their Large Capital Projects Fund and that the contracts for the delivery of the River Connections Project programme are being let as appropriate.

Designation: Inverness City Manager  
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Date: 16 November 2014

Background Papers: