

The Highland Council

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee –
22 April 2015

Agenda Item	8a
Report No	SRC/019/15

Cromarty Common Good - Budget Setting 2015/16

Joint Report by the Head of Policy and Reform and the Director of Finance

Summary

This report outlines details of anticipated income and expenditure and invites Members to approve a budget for Cromarty Common Good Fund (CCGF) for the financial year 2015/16.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Monitoring reports are regularly provided to Area Committee to enable regular monitoring of activity in the fund against budget. An Annual Report is also provided giving the audited accounts for the previous financial year and a proposed budget for Members to consider and approve.
- 1.2 The audited accounts for 2014/15 are not yet available. In future years the intention is to present the audited accounts and at the same time set a budget for the following financial year. However the 2015/16 budget has not yet been set and clearly it is important to have this in place as early as possible. Therefore this report presents a proposed budget in **Appendix One** for 2015/16 for the Committee to consider.

2. Anticipated Revenue for 2015/16

- 2.1 **Rental Income** – The only rental income is that from Victoria Hall, Cromarty and East Church Hall, Cromarty which are leased to the Highland Council and rented by Highlife Highland. The rent due for 2015/16 is £4,400.
- 2.2 **Interest and Revenue Balances** – Assuming that the current low interest rates continue, it is anticipated that interest receivable on projected surplus balances will be approximately £100 in 2015/16.

3. Anticipated Expenditure

The main revenue budget headings can be summarised as follows:

3.1 Property Costs

Property costs have tended to be low as properties are leased to the Highland Council and rented to Highlife Highland. A sum of £333 is budgeted for rental costs for Townlands Park Play Area Cromarty.

3.2 In addition it is suggested that a revenue property budget of £5,000 be set for 2015/16 for essential works such as tree works at East Hall. Capital projects for development or protection of assets would require separate consideration and an appropriate funding package which would be brought to Committee for consideration.

3.3 **Administration and Insurance costs**

These are minimal and a roll forward budget of £100 is proposed to cover additional support costs in relation to quarterly monitoring information being provided by Finance.

3.4 **Grants to the Community**

It is proposed that a budget of £1,000 be made available for small grants to community groups.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Equalities Policy.** Any future major project for protection or refurbishment would seek to improve equality of access.

4.2 **Climate Change** – Any future project for protection or refurbishment would seek to increase energy efficiency where possible. There are no other climate change implications in the report.

4.3 **Legal and Financial Implications** – 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 implied by the Finance Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations. The proposed budget will result in a deficit of £1,993. This will reduce the balance on revenue reserves which stood at £16,736 on 31 March 2014.

4.4 There are no Carbon Clever, Rural Risk or Gaelic implications in the report.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to approve the Cromarty Common Good Fund budget for 2015/16 detailed within the report and shown in Appendix One.

Designation: Carron McDiarmid, Head of Policy and Reform and Derek Yule, Director of Finance

Date: 11 April 2015

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Appendix I

Cromarty Common Good Fund Proposed Budget 2015/16

	Proposed Budget 15/16
Income	
Rents	4,400
Interest and investment income	100
Total income	<u>4,500</u>
Expenditure	
Property costs	5,333
Grants	1,000
Administration charges	100
Total expenditure	<u>6,433</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u><u>(1,933)</u></u>