

**The Highland Council**

**Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee  
5 August 2015**

Agenda Item	<b>12e</b>
Report No	<b>SRC/041/15</b>

**Tain Common Good –Quarter 1 Monitoring Report**

**Report by the Head of Policy and Reform**

**Summary**

This report invites Members to consider the Tain Common Good Fund Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement.

**1. Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement**

1.1 Appendix 1 of this report contains the Quarter 1 monitoring statement in respect of the Tain Common Good Fund (TCGF) showing spend and income against budget up to 30 June 2015.

**2. Expenditure**

2.1 Property Costs – There is little expenditure incurred as yet. This is because the CCTV charge has not yet been made and there has been no spend as yet on tree management. All expenditure incurred is within the budget set.

2.2 Mussel boat expenditure – As members are aware from the report to Area Committee in April 2015 income for the mussel fishery has been reduced in recent years and spend is being closely monitored in relation to income. Whilst maintenance and repair work is required it has not yet been undertaken and the availability of other sources of funding for this work is being investigated.

2.3 Alexandra Bridge – The refurbishment contract for the Alexandra Bridge is now well under way with work expected to be complete by the end of August. The work started in early May and the spend to the end of June includes the first contract payment.

**3. Income**

3.1 The property income received so far is on course with budget expectations. In relation to the Alexandra Bridge income received is made up of: £49,448 which is the first tranche of Historic Scotland Grant; £5,000 contribution from the Royal Burgh of Tain Community Council and; £50,000 contribution from the Capital Discretionary Budget as agreed at the Resources Committee in November 2014. Further tranches of the Historic Scotland Grant will be drawn down according to timetable laid out within the grant offer documents.

3.2 Mussels - Despite some positive signs earlier in the year no sales have yet taken place. There is therefore no income to offset the basic costs of the operation which are incurred whether or not activity takes place, such as pier dues and water sampling, hence the current deficit of just over £3,000. At present a nil outturn is still anticipated by year end but if no sales are made a deficit would be incurred. A verbal update will be provided at the Committee on the position in relation to potential sales.

#### **4. Implications**

4.1 As members will be aware the Alexandra Bridge refurbishment is dependent on a finance package which includes draw down of Common Good reserves as included in the budget. However this work will refurbish one of the Common Good's important assets and protect its long term future – this will therefore have a one off impact on reserves but will not create ongoing reductions once the refurbishment is complete.

4.2 As noted in the report there is a deficit to date in relation to the mussel fishery operation. The budget was set based on an assumed breakeven position at year end but this will not be achieved if there are not sufficient future sales. Given sale patterns over recent years this is a significant risk and it will be important to closely monitor sales over the coming months and to consider the future operation of the mussel fishery in the light of sales trends. Updated information will be brought to Members in future monitoring reports.

4.3 There are resource implications relating to the Alexandra Bridge and to the Mussel Fishery as noted in the report. There are no Equalities, Climate Change/Carbon Clever, Legal, Financial, Gaelic, Risk or Rural Implications.

#### **Recommendation**

The Committee is invited to consider the position of the Tain Common Good Fund as shown in the Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement against budget.

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

Date: 21 July 2015  
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Appendix One

**Tain Common Good - Quarterly  
Monitoring (Q1)  
Period to 30 June 2015**

	<b>Actual to date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Estimated Outturn</b>	<b>Estimated Variance</b>
<b>Income</b>	£	£	£	£
Rents	1,475	6,805	6,805	-
Other income	27	350	350	-
Interest and investment income	-	2,175	2,175	-
Mussel Surplus	(3,155)	-	-	-
Alexandra Bridge	<u>104,448</u>	<u>153,895</u>	<u>153,895</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>	102,795	163,225	163,225	-
<b>Transfer from Reserves</b>	-	112,105	112,105	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>102,795</u>	<u>275,330</u>	<u>275,330</u>	-
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Property costs	-	17,000	17,000	-
Legal fees	65	-	-	-
Rent, Rates and Insurance	83	-		
Central Support Charges		1,000	1,000	-
Alexandra Bridge Repair works	33,673	266,000	266,000	-
Mussel Boat Equipment		<u>32,500</u>	<u>32,500</u>	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>33,821</u>	<u>316,500</u>	<u>316,500</u>	-
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<u>68,974</u>	<u>(41,170)</u>	<u>(41,170)</u>	<u>-</u>