

**City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee** held in the Chamber, Town House, Inverness on Monday, 9 November 2015 at 9.15 am.

**Present:**

Mrs H Carmichael  
Mr A Christie  
Mr A Graham  
Mr R Laird

Mrs E McAllister  
Mr T Prag  
Mr G Ross  
Mrs J Slater

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Mr S Wardlaw, Ward Manager, Chief Executive's Office  
Mr S Taylor, Civic & Facilities Team Leader, Finance Service  
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, Finance Service  
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

**Mr A Christie in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs G Sinclair.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 5 – Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Mr A Graham, Mr G Ross and Mrs J Slater (all non-financial)

Item 9 – Mrs B McAllister (non-financial)

**3. Exclusion of 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 the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**4. Grants Analysis**

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the further report on grant analysis would be brought to the February 2016 meeting.

## 5. Requests for Financial Assistance 2015/16

### Declarations of Interest –

The following Members declared non-financial interests in relation to parts of this item but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion:-

**Mrs H Carmichael – having received an invitation from the Highland Indian Association to the Diwali Celebrations 2015**

**Mr A Christie – having known several members of the Highland Indian Association**

**Mr A Graham – as a family member was a volunteer for Blythswood Care Highland Foodbank**

**Mr G Ross – as a former Lance Corporal of Hilton Boys Brigade**

**Mrs J Slater – as Vice Chair of the Inverness Festivals Association**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/13/15 dated 30 October 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for financial assistance from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklets A and B.

Prior to the discussion of the applications, the Ward Manager confirmed that in relation to the refurbishment of Merkinch Community Centre not all of the proposed work would go ahead as envisaged and therefore a proportion of the sum awarded would be returned to the Common Good Fund.

In response to a question, it was explained that the grant awarded to Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC for free tickets for children to the Scottish Cup Final was paid in instalments and the actual expenditure showed the last instalment which had been paid.

### **Booklet A**

The Sub Committee determined applications for funding of up to £10,000 as follows:-

**Inverness Fairtrade Group (£1,200 sought) APPROVE £1,200**

Flying the Fairtrade Flag in Inverness – towards the cost of maintaining and broadening the programme of activity to heighten the profile of Fairtrade throughout Inverness in accordance with the Fairtrade City status and support Highland Council to renew Fairtrade Zone status.

**Inverness Festivals Association (£9,000 sought) APPROVE £9,000**

Inverness Music Festival 2016 – to cover the cost of hiring Eden Court. Members were reminded that in previous years the approach had been taken to underwrite the expenses to ensure the organisation was not at financial risk and last year £8,000 was approved with a further £1,000 underwritten. Members, whilst supportive of the project, commented that the organisation

needed to consider its future direction. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to approve the application on the same basis as last year.

Dogstar Theatre Company (£9,500 sought) **APPROVE £5,000**

Purchase of a van for International touring theatre from the Highlands and Islands. Members commented that, despite being based in Inverness and providing benefit to the local area, much of the activities took place in other Wards across the Highlands and therefore it was suggested that the organisation applied to Ward Discretionary Budgets for further funding as it was important that other areas also supported the project. In relation to concern regarding the maintenance of the van it was presumed that arrangements had been made with sponsors Macrae & Dick. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £5,000 and request recognition of sponsorship on the van.

Arts in Merkinch (£9,500 sought) **APPROVE £9,500**

Arts in Merkinch – towards the salary and related costs for the Development Manager and Studio Coordinator, venue overhead costs, maintenance of equipment and programme of tutored arts.

Highland Literary Salon (£4,160 sought) **APPROVE £1,500**

2016 Programme of Events – to meet the costs of events, principally the fees and incidental expenses of guest speakers. Members felt that it would be more appropriate to award a reduced sum on the basis that the project primarily benefited the participants and therefore should require a higher level of investment from them.

Caledonian Concepts (Scotland) Limited (£4,350 sought) **APPROVE £4,350**

Etape Loch Ness 2016 – to cover the cost of volunteer marshal training, film development for promotional purposes and production and distribution of flyers to local residents, businesses and the community. In discussion, Members highlighted that the cost for entertainment had significantly increased since the previous year and also queried the high cost for branding (scrim and tear drop flags). In recognising that the project brought many people in to the area, Members were minded to support the application.

Balloan Football Club (£3,000 sought) **APPROVE £3,000**

Trip to International Super Cup Tournament in Manchester. An update was provided by the Ward Manager confirming that Inverness Ness-Side Ward Members had agreed to provide £1,800, of the £4,000 originally sought, for new kits and that the organisation now requested £3,000 for transport.

Highland Indian Association (£2,000 sought) **APPROVE £2,000**

Diwali Celebrations 2015 & Curry Ceilidh 2016 – towards venue hire, catering, performers and equipment costs and to subsidise the entry ticket to promote attendance from disadvantaged members of diverse communities.

The Art Society of Inverness (£2,000 sought) **APPROVE £2,000**

Annual Exhibition 2016. The Ward Manager confirmed that the application was for free use of the Town Hall and the cost would be met by the Civic Hospitality

Budget. Members felt it was a good use of the building to encourage visitors particularly now during the building works.

Inverness Science Festival (£5,000 sought) **APPROVE £5,000**

2016 Inverness Science Festival – towards the costs of marketing, professional presenters, venue hire, travel and resources for a Family Day, Schools Programme and other public events.

### **Booklet B**

The Sub Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 3 December 2015) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

Blythswood Care (£20,000 sought) **APPROVE £20,000**

Highland Foodbank – to contribute to the total running costs of the Inverness Foodbank Centres and warehouse facilities. Members were reminded that the application had been approved in principle by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 2 June 2015 and having considered the details Members **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be approved.

The Boys Brigade Scotland (£10,000 sought) **APPROVE £10,000**

Faith in Young People – to support the employment of a full-time Development Officer for the first year of a three year project. An update was provided by the Ward Manager confirming that the organisation had identified funding from other sources and now sought £10,000 instead of £15,000 which meant the Sub-Committee had authority to determine the application and did not have to make a recommendation to the City of Inverness Area Committee. During discussion, some Members expressed the view that it was an important opportunity for the organisation to promote and develop opportunities for young people by increasing its membership whereas other Members were uncomfortable with providing funding that would compete with other similar organisations. Concern was also expressed in relation to how the post would be funded in year two and three and it was suggested that it be made clear to the applicant that a grant would only be awarded for year one. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to approve the application for one year.

Calman Trust (£21,308 sought) **APPROVE £21,308**

Live Learn Work – to meet the costs of training the Calman staff team to deliver a qualification to young people on the ground, to assess feedback from staff and young people, and finalise the qualification. It was suggested that the application be deferred until the outcomes were realised of the next District Partnership meeting, which would bring together organisations with a similar purpose in Hilton. While minded to support the principle of the application, Members expressed concern that clarity was required in relation to the use of the large amount of money being sought for a short duration and the sustainability of the programme. Members also sought clarification on whether the Calman Trust would receive government funding for each young person that the programme was delivered to. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED**

**TO RECOMMEND** that the application be approved subject to further information being provided to the City of Inverness Area Committee.

## **6. Operation Respect**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/14/15 dated 26 October 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager. The City of Inverness Area Committee had previously endorsed the planned activities of Operation Respect – City Centre.

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** funding of £8,015 for Operation Respect 2015/16.

## **7. Inverness Botanic Gardens**

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the report by High Life Highland on the progress to date at Inverness Botanic Gardens where visitor numbers significantly increased following the recent developments which were part-funded by the Inverness Common Good Fund.

## **8. Requests for Extension to Grant Period**

**Declaration of Interest –**

**Mr A Christie declared a non-financial interest in relation to this item as he knew people involved with Highland Multicultural Friends**

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the request from Highland Multicultural Friends to extend the grant period of their award to 31 March 2016.

## **9. Civic Hospitality Requests**

**Declaration of Interest –**

**Mrs E McAllister declared a non-financial interest in relation to part of this item on the grounds that a family member's work related to shinty but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interest did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/15/15 dated 29 October 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. In this connection, a copy of the applications and supporting documentation had also been circulated as Booklet C.

The Sub-Committee determined applications for civic hospitality as follows:-

Business Improvement District (BID) Inverness 2015 Best Bar None Awards **AGREED**

Request for contribution of £500 towards hospitality for

evening function at the Mercure Motel on 7 December 2015. It was confirmed that it would not be possible to hold the event at the Town House on the date requested due to the ongoing building works.

John Muir Trust AGM & Members' Gathering 2016  
Request for canopy drinks civic reception at the Town House on 3 June 2016.

**AGREED**

Celebration of the Centenary of the Inauguration of the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) and Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)  
Request for civic reception at the Town House on 4 November 2016.

**AGREED**

The Highland Council Lovat Shinty Club's success in Camanachd Cup 2015  
Request for civic reception at the Town House on 27 November 2015.

**AGREED**

Highland Week of International Curling 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Request for civic reception at Kingsmills Hotel, due to the large number of guests attending, in early March 2016.

**AGREED**

## **10. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests**

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decisions to award Civic Hospitality as follows:-

- Highland Third Sector Interface – 6 October 2015 – Civic Reception - £817.50
- Inverness Highland Games Hall of Fame – 16 October 2015 – Civic Reception - £1,351.60
- Edith Cavell Memorial Service – 12 October 2015 – Civic Reception Waterside Hotel - £765

## **11. Cancelled Events**

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the following events were cancelled and did not take place:-

- Scottish Cities Convention Dinner – a contribution up to a maximum of £500 was agreed
- Town Twinning Visit – 11 September 2015

## **12. Highland Third Sector Event – Celebrating the Work of Reshaping Care For Older People**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/16/15 dated 27 October 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which explains that the Sub-Committee had given

approval for a Civic Reception to be held on Tuesday 6 October 2015 however due to miscommunications the event did not go ahead.

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** the proposals, as detailed in Paragraph 2, for a reorganised event at a cost of approximately £300.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Following discussion, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** that arrangements would be made for future meetings to take place on a Monday in February, May, August and November 2016.

The meeting ended at 10.03 am