

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 3 March 2016

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| Agenda Item | 11 |
| Report No | CIA/ 13/16 |

Public Toilet Provision Inverness

Report by Director of Community Services and Inverness City Area Manager

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the reopening of Castle Wynd toilets for 2016 with funding of £22,900 for this provision from the Inverness Common good Fund.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 25 February 2016 Highland Council approved its Budget for 2016/17, this included a budget reduction for public toilets.
- 1.2 Within the City of Inverness there are three Highland Council owned public toilets. Two, Meal Market and Whin Park are open 12 months of the year. The third Castle Wynd, was approved for closure and disposal by the August 2011 TECS committee effective as from 1st April 2012.
- 1.4 Since 2011 CIAC have agreed to the reopening on reduced hours between April and September funded by the Common Good fund. Reported usage has remained constant at 200 persons per day.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 3rd March 2015 CIAC approved funding for the reopening of Castle Wynd toilets from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

2. Public toilet provision in 2016/17

- 2.1 For the summer of 2016 Community Services have confirmed there are no changes proposed to the present provision at Mealmarket and Whin Park. This will allow for an assessment of future options with Ward Members to be developed with recommendations to be reported to CIAC and Community Services committee later in the year.

3. Re-opening of Castle Wynd Toilets for 2016

- 3.1 The arrangement for re-opening the toilets would be from April 2016 to September 2016, opening hours are 10am to 4pm seven days per week.

| 3.2 | Cost Breakdown | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | VPS contractor | £15,000 | £15,000 | |
| | Happy Tours | | | £9,998 |
| | Consumables | | | £1,050 |
| | Electricity | £2,500 (est) | £2,500 (est) | £2,415 |
| | Water | £1,300 (est) | £1,300 (est) | £1,260 |
| | Rates | £4,100 (est) | | |
| | Total Costs | £22,900 | £18,800 | £14,723 |

3.3 For 2016 Non Domestic Rates have to be included in the overall costs of the facility if the site is re-opened.

3.4 The average daily usage of the Castle Wynd toilets between April and September 2015 was 200, the same as 2014. Usage was attributed mostly to tourists (70%) using the facilities, augmented by local general public and Coach passengers disembarking at Castle Street coach drop-off points

3.5 Feedback from staff at the key tourist attractions Inverness Castle; Town House; and Inverness Museum and Art Gallery suggest an increase in visitors due to the toilets being open for the last four summer seasons

3.6 Monitoring of the toilets for 2015 again showed no complaints. Regular checks were undertaken to make sure they were kept clean and tidy.

4. Implications

4.1 There are no resource, equalities, Legal; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; Risk and Gaelic and Rural implications

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to agree:

To approve a maximum budget of £22,900 from the Inverness Common Good Funds' 2016/17 Revenue budget to fund the operation of Castle Wynd toilets, noting liability for the maintenance of the structure will be retained by the Council.

Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 26 February 2016

Author: David Haas

Background Papers: