

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on 19 August 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mrs E McAllister
Mr T Prag
Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Ms A MacNeill, Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Chief Executive's Office
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Mr T Prag in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Items 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

There had been circulated the Minutes of Meetings of the Inverness City Arts Working Group held on 14 April, 28 April and 13 May 2016, as approved by the Special Meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016, which were **NOTED**.

5. River Connections Public Art Project Programme

Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of having a close relative who was a local artist, but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No ICArts/07/16 dated 15 August 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which highlighted the progress made since the last meeting in respect of River Connections and the next steps, noting the decision taken by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016.

The Inverness City Area Manager provided an update on progress made with the Project Programme since the decision was taken by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016 to not continue with the Tilting Pier concept for the Gathering Place. He confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Creative Scotland who had agreed to remain supportive of the Project Programme and continue to fund the project on the basis that their Management Board were supplied with a report that clarified the steps that would be taken to progress the project programme .. Support for the redesign of the Gathering Place and a continued commitment of funding from HIE was also confirmed. On this basis, the Gathering Place project would be progressed separately from the other three projects which would be able to be delivered by May 2017.

The Exhibitions Officer outlined the changes that had been made to the Gathering Place brief and the following comments were made during discussion:-

- the successful artist would be selected on the strength of previous work and their ability to carry out the community co-creation process instead of a particularly design concept, which would allow for flexibility in the design process and reduce the risk of objection;
- the process of co-creation brought together the artist, community groups and stakeholders to jointly produce a mutually valued outcome. ;
- in relation to concern with the preferred site on Ness Walk outside Eden Court and the need for there to be a consensus about the location it was important that the Brief was inclusive of all river side locations and clear that the preferred site must be complimentary to the sensitivity of the special area which was formed by Ness Walk and other riverside locations;
- Ness Walk, outside Eden Court, offered a significant amount of space in comparison to other locations;
- in relation to Section 4 Outputs of the Brief, referring to an “installation” instead of a “structure” would allow for more open-minded proposals;
- it was suggested that a member of the Focus Group be nominated to sit on the Evaluation Panel. However it was advised that this would not be appropriate, in terms of the procurement process, and that stakeholders would be invited to feedback into the future development of the project;

- the Brief should refer more to “interacting with River Ness” rather than “viewing the River Ness”; and
- the sections of the Brief on the Budget would need to be updated following the meeting.

The Project Manager gave an update on the budget position during which he explained that part of the budget had already been committed to the development of the Titling Pier concept and as such there was a reduced overall budget to complete the project. With this in mind, discussion took place on options to address the budget shortfall and the following comments were made:-

- amalgamating the Children’s Riverside Water Feature with the Gathering Place would address the budget shortfall by negating the need to carry out a second site survey and would make the project more appealing. It would also provide more opportunity for educational benefit by expanding on the co-creation process already in place with students from Inverness College. This would not be done in detriment to either project;
- the co-creation process was a new innovative part of the project programme not included in the original application for funding and therefore could be eligible for additional funding from charities such as the Robertson Trust or Esmee Fairburn Foundation should the opportunity arise in the future;
- there was concern that there was limited savings that could be made across the other projects; and
- it was important to budget for future maintenance costs.

Thereafter, the Working Group:-

- i. **NOTED** the implications of the decision of the City of Inverness Area Committee taken on 1 July 2016;
- ii. **APPROVED** the new Gathering Place brief, as contained in appendix 3 to the report, subject to the comments raised during discussion;
- iii. **APPROVED** new artist procurement for the Gathering Place project, based on process rather than outcome;
- iv. **AGREED** to instruct the Inverness City Area Manager to proceed with the option to amalgamate projects – Children’s Water Feature with Gathering Place – and seek savings across other projects to address the budget shortfall without detriment to either project;
- v. **APPROVED** the Creative Scotland report, as contained in appendix 1 to the report, subject to the inclusion of the preferred option to address the budget shortfall.

6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts/08/16 dated 15 August 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 30 June 2016 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

The Working Group **NOTED** the content of the report.

7. Press Relations and Forthcoming PR Opportunities and Risks

The Senior Corporate Communications Officer gave a review of recent media cover. Discussion took place on options for proactively engaging stakeholders during which it was suggested that more feedback of the decisions and outcomes discussed by the Inverness City Arts Working Group be highlighted to the City of Inverness Area Committee via the minutes of meetings and form a Press Release to ensure stakeholders were supportive and engaged throughout the whole process.

Further discussion took place on the opportunities for a media partner as suggested by Creative Scotland.

The Working Group **AGREED** that a discussion would take place at each future meeting to decide which part of the minutes of meeting would be drawn to Members attention and would form a Press Release.

8. Date of next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 6 October 2016 at 9.00 am.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm.