

Agenda Item	14
Report No	CIA/51/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 30 November 2017

Report Title: Scottish Junior Football Association - Inverness City Football Club – Lease Extension – Bught Park, Inverness

Report By: Inverness City Area Manager

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report;

- i. updates Members on the progress made by Inverness City FC to find a new Home Ground; and
- ii. recommends Homologation of a decision taken by the Director of Development and Infrastructure and Inverness City Area Manager on 24 October 2017, to allow an extension of the current lease of a Sports Pitch at Bught Park, Inverness until 15 May 2018.

Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Homologate the decision taken by the Director of Development and Infrastructure and the Inverness City Area Manager to allow an extension of the current lease of a Sports Pitch at Bught Park, Inverness, granted to Inverness City Football Club (ICFC), until 15 May 2018.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Inverness City Committee held on 26th March 2012, it was agreed that ICFC be granted a Lease of a Sports Pitch at Bught Park Inverness, for a period of 5 years. The lease expired on 30 October 2017 and a Notice To Quit the Lease was served on ICFC.
- 3.2 In accordance with the decision taken at the Inverness City Committee discussion took place between the Inverness City Area Manager and ICFC officials to help ICFC in their quest to find a long-term location for a Home Ground.
- 3.3 On 20 October 2017, the Council was advised that a Licence to Occupy land had been concluded between the Kirkhill Community Centre and ICFC providing for ICFC to use land at Kirkhill to expire in 2030. Work required to be undertaken so the sports Pitch would only be available for the start of the 2018/19 Football Season.
- 3.4 The conclusion of a legally binding agreement giving the opportunity to for ICFC to have a sustainable future, whilst also providing a foothold for the Scottish Junior Football Association (SJFA) in Inverness, was a key objective.
- 3.5 In consequence, following consultation with Members, the Inverness City Area Manager agreed for and on behalf of the Council, to the Lease of the Sports Pitch at Bught Park, being extended to 15 May 2018.
- 3.6 The extension of the Lease will allow for ICFC to play Home Matches through the 2017/18 Football Season at an SJFA approved Ground.

4. Lease Obligations

- 4.1 It is confirmed that the Lease will continue on the same terms and conditions. Therefore ICFC will remain legally committed to re-instating the Football Pitch at Bught Park to its former state and condition. This includes removal of all fencing and temporary structures, at their expense.

5. Governance

The Lease was agreed at the City Committee and noting this it is appropriate for the Committee to Homologate the extension of Lease on the same Terms and Conditions.

6. Implications

Resource – Rent will continue to be charged and so provide the Council with additional income up until 15 May 2018.

Legal – The Lease is under the governance arrangements identified in this report will be continue to meet The Highland Council's Policies.

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) –All relevant standards in terms of providing an environment which can be enjoyed by persons of any ability will be met

There are no known Climate Change/Carbon Clever or rural implications as a result of this report.

Risk – There are no known risks.

Gaelic – All Policy requirements are adhered to

Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 10 November 2017

Author: Inverness City Area Manager

Background Papers: None