

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

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday 6 November 2017 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd	Mr G Cruickshank
Mr I Brown	Mr A Jarvie
Mrs C Caddick	Mr R Laird
Miss J Campbell	Mrs E McAllister
Mrs H Carmichael	Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive's Office

Mr G Ross in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

There was an apology for absence intimated on behalf of Mr A Graham.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 4 – Miss J Campbell (non-financial)
Item 5 – Miss J Campbell (non-financial)
Item 8 – Mrs H Carmichael (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of Public

The Sub-Committee **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. Requests for Financial Assistance 2017/18

Declaration of Interest – Miss J Campbell declared a non-financial interest in the application from Inverness Women's Aid as a former Board Member but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interests did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

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There had been circulated Report No GSC/10/17 dated 27 October 2017 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 discussion of the applications, the Inverness City Area Manager provided an update on the funds committed during which it was confirmed that the sum awarded to the Calman Trust had not been claimed so would be written-off; Inverness High School had not yet claimed their award because the project had only recently taken place; Inverness Foodstuffs was based at Ness Bank Church and run by a Board of Trustees; the award to the MS Therapy Centre for rent relief was not continuous and would require the organisation to re-apply each year; and two separate applications were required for the Operation Respect Easter/Summer and Operation Respect Winter because they were both independent projects with different operational arrangements and duration.

Booklet A

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

Inverness Festivals Association (£9,750 sought) **APPROVED £9,750**
Inverness Music Festival 2018

There was some concern expressed at the high cost to hire Eden Court but it was understood that other locations did not have disability access.

Inverness Camera Club on behalf of the Highland Challenge Clubs (£300 sought) **APPROVED £300**

The Highland Challenge (Photographic competition of camera clubs in the Highlands)

It was queried why an organisation with a high level of personal funds were seeking a grant. In response, it was explained that some organisations ask for a minimal amount of funding so that they can benefit from the recognition of being supported by the Inverness Common Good Fund.

Inverness Science Festival (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**
2018 Science Festival

It was queried whether the Council also provided support. In response, it was confirmed that Colin Simpson, Principal Tourism and Film Officer, had been in contact with the organisers and that links had been made with schools. Furthermore, it was queried which schools would be included and what method was used to choose the school. In response, it was assumed that schools were chosen on a rotational basis but confirmation would be sought from the applicant and provided to Members.

Inverness Women's Aid (£9,110 sought) **APPROVED £9,110**
Renovation of Refuge Accommodation

Members were advised that similar applications had been supported in the past from charities making improvements to their premises. In discussion, information was sought on the details of other funding to cover the remaining project costs and it was queried why the financial statement provided with the application was for the year ended 31 March 2016 and not 31 March 2017

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which it was explained was likely because the most recent final accounts could not be presented until they had been audited and reported to the AGM. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to approve the application with delegated power being granted to the Inverness City Area Manager to approve the application subject to the points raised by Members being verified and reported back to the Sub-Committee satisfactorily.

Inverness & District Diabetes UK Scotland Group
(£1,040 sought)

APPROVED £570

Information Stand and advertising during Diabetes week in June and World Diabetes day in November

Members were advised that the applicant had previously received regular support for advertising in a supplement of the Inverness Courier and, following a review of governance, was now being presented to Members to determine. Whilst there was support for the work of the group, Members expressed unease at providing funding for advertising purposes. However, there was recognition of the positive impact print media had on raising awareness of the symptoms of diabetes at an early stage. It was therefore **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £570 to cover the cost of one advert for one year.

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 30 November 2017) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

The Shirlie Project (£34,200 sought)

APPROVED £34,200

Securing The Shirlie Project's Presence in Inverness 2017-20

During discussion of the application, a number of queries were raised in relation to: the organisations sustainability following year one; facts and figures which provided evidence of the outcomes of the project; and information on other benefactors. Thereafter, it was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to approve the application for funding for one year on the basis that further information be provided on the outcomes of the project to date and also a revised business plan to provide assurance of sustainability in future.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (Scotland's National Academy)

(£15,000 sought)

APPROVED £4,700

RSE@Inverness

In discussion, the view was expressed that not all the proposed activities and events would take place in, or provide benefit to, the Inverness area only and therefore it was **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £4,700 towards the proposed school talks.

Blythswood Care (£20,000 sought)

APPROVED £20,000

Highland Foodbank 2018 – Inverness

Members expressed concern regarding the organisations financial situation which was due to be reviewed. Concern was also expressed in relation to the funding requested for staffing costs out with the Inverness area. In response, it was explained that the grant awards were only paid after the expenditure had been incurred and that the funding for staffing costs was a contribution towards the overall management and infrastructure.

5. Inverness BID

Declaration of Interest – Miss J Campbell declared a non-financial interest as a Member of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that her interests did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

There is circulated Report No GSC/11/17 dated 27 October 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider applications from Inverness BID.

Prior to consideration of the applications, the Inverness City Area Manager advised Members that the overall sum applied for had slightly increased since the previous year which was due to the extra costs relating to the proposal to extend the floral displays. He also explained that Inverness BID undertook a good job in financial terms and also to manage the contracts which the Council or HLH did not have the resources to do. It was also confirmed that all the applications were for the following year so were subject to the approval of the budget for 2018/19.

The Working Group considered the applications for funding as follows:-

The City of Inverness Annual Floral Displays 2018 **APPROVED £57,800**
Members sought and received confirmation that HLH carried out the watering of the floral displays.

Operation Respect Task Team Easter/Summer 2018 **APPROVED £6,025**
Whilst expressing general support for the application, the effectiveness of the role of the BID Task Force Team in relation to Police Scotland’s new improved approach to security in the City Centre was queried. Members also sought and received confirmation in relation to staffing costs that two officers were on patrol at any given time.

Inverness Community Safety Partnership 2018 **APPROVED £9,000**

Inverness Gull Project 2018 **APPROVED £12,000**
Members expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of the project and the displacement of gulls to other areas of Inverness. In this regard, the Inverness City Area Manager would liaise with Alan Yates, Environmental Health Manager, and SNH to provide reassurance to Members on these issues. Furthermore, it was highlighted that there was a need to consider how to reduce the problems caused by the number of gulls in future.

Coach Ambassador 2018 **APPROVED £9,750**

Inverness Street Festival 2018 **APPROVED £7,000**
It was suggested to support the application on the basis that Inverness BID gave consideration to reviewing the programme content with a view to ensuring progressive development.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 30 November 2017) to approve in principle the applications for funding from Inverness BID as detailed above.

6. Operation Respect

There had been circulated Report No GSC/12/17 dated 27 October 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which advised that the City of Inverness Area Committee had previously endorsed the planned activities of Operation Respect – City Centre and sought approval of a contribution to the funding for activities from the Inverness Common Good Fund for the project for Winter 2017/18.

During discussion, the following comments were made:-

- the extension of police patrols during the operation to include other streets was welcomed and the project was good value in the city centre;
- confirmation was sought and received that the reference to “Kingsmills” in paragraph 4.3 of the report should be corrected to “Midmills”;
- information was sought on the impact of the role of Street Pastors due to extra police patrols;
- the Street Pastors had invited Members to join them on a night time patrol, the date of which would be shared with Members; and
- it was queried whether Merkinch could also be included in the patrol areas.

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** funding of £9,017 for Operation Respect 2017/18.

7. Promotion of the Inverness Common Good Fund and an Annual Showcase Event for Grant Recipients

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that reports would be brought to the next meeting on 29 January 2018 regarding the promotion of the Inverness Common Good Fund and an Annual Showcase event for grant recipients.

8. Civic Hospitality Requests

Declaration of Interest – Mrs H Carmichael declared a non-financial interest in the Beaully Shinty Club but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that her interests did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/13/17 dated 25 October 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklet C.

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

Beaully Shinty Club
Beaully Shinty Club 125th Anniversary

REFUSED

In discussion, queries were raised regarding the criteria used to determine applications for civic hospitality specifically relating to the boundaries of the former Burgh of Inverness and the area of benefit. Having considered the application, the Sub-Committee refused the application on the grounds that it did not provide sufficient benefit to residents of the former burgh of Inverness.

Highland Council

Celebrations related to the opening of the West Link

AGREED

£1,000

9. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award the following Civic Hospitality request:-

- i. 4th Battallion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (The Highlanders 4 SCOTS) – £5,000

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 29 January 2018 at 9.30 am.

The Sub Committee also **NOTED** the following dates of meetings for 2018: Monday 14 May; Monday 6 August and Monday 29 October.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am.