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| Agenda item | 8b |
| Report no | RC/021/17 |

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Ross and Cromarty Committee

Date: 15 August 2017

Report Title: Dingwall Common Good –
Quarter 1 Monitoring Report

Report By: Joint Report by Michelle Morris, Depute Chief Executive
and Director of Corporate Development, and Derek Yule,
Director of Finance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report invites Members to note the position of the Dingwall Common Good Fund as shown in the Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement and consider increased budget relating to improvements at Pefferside Park.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the position of the Dingwall Common Good Fund, as shown in the Quarter 1 monitoring statement against budget, and
 - ii. Approve further funding requests to be drawn from useable reserves for Pefferside Park, Dingwall - Paths and drainage works of £25,000; and a contribution of £4,000 toward the costs of the park play equipment.

3. **Monitoring Statement to 30 June 2017**

- 3.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2017 against budget is attached as Appendix One.

4. **Expenditure**

- 4.1 Minimal expenditure of £215, relating to miscellaneous property costs, has been incurred in Quarter 1.

- 4.2 Members are asked to consider requests for increased budget in current financial year relating to Pefferside Park:

- 4.2.1 **Paths and Drainage Works** - Members will recall a budget of £25,000 was set aside in 2016/17 for the Pefferside Park works, and that due to contractor delays the work did not take place. However, this work is now planned to go ahead in the current financial year, and Members are therefore asked to approve a budget for these works of £25,000. The Council's framework will be used to invite quotes.

- 4.2.2 **Play Equipment** - a project led by Highland Council's Community Services to undertake Phase II, play equipment installation at Pefferside Park's Senior Play Area at an estimated cost of £58,000 has been presented to Dingwall and Seaforth Members. Members very much welcomed the plans and have agreed a £4,000 contribution from the Ward Discretionary Budget along with £4,000 from Dingwall Common Good Fund subject to Ross and Cromarty Committee approval. Phase I improvements to the junior play park have been exceptionally well received with feedback being excellent.

5. **Income**

- 5.1 The income for 2017/18 is due from expected interest of £600, and rental income of £28,200 - £15,000 from the Jubilee Park Caravan Site, (£3,125 received to date) and £13,200 from Highlife Highland for rental of Dingwall Town Hall. The income expected at the year-end is £2,500 more than planned due to the rent review of Jubilee Park Caravan Park.

6 **Implications**

- 6.1 **Usable Reserves** stood at £184,044 as at 31 March 2016 rising to £200,172 as at 31 March 2017 (this figure is unaudited). If the further funding detailed in this report is approved the useable reserves would reduce from £200,172 to £171,172.

- 6.2 **Resource** – Members will note a surplus of £15,600 is anticipated at the end of 2017/18. This is £2,500 greater than planned due to increased income from the Jubilee Park rent review. Expenditure is being kept to a minimum in order to build reserves for future envisaged capital projects and for protection of Common Good assets. Any future Capital Projects will be brought to Committee for consideration.

6.3 **Legal** - none

6.4 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** – None. Any future major project for the protection or refurbishment of Common Good assets would seek to improve equality of access.

6.5 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** – None. Any future project for protection or refurbishment would seek to increase energy efficiency where possible.

6.6 **Risk** – None.

6.7 **Gaelic** - None

Designations: Michelle Morris, Director of Corporate Services and Depute Chief Executive and Derek Yule, Director of Finance

Date: 2 August 2017

Authors: Diane Agnew, Ward Manager
Victoria MacDonald, Accountant

APPENDIX 1

| Dingwall Common Good Quarterly Monitoring | Actual to date | Budget | Year End Estimate | Variance |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Rents | 3,125 | 25,700 | 28,200 | 2,500 |
| Interest and Investment Income | - | 600 | 600 | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3,125 | 26,300 | 28,800 | 2,500 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Property Costs | 215 | 2,000 | 2,000 | - |
| Grants | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | - |
| Special Grants | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | - |
| Central Support | - | 200 | 200 | - |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 215 | 13,200 | 13,200 | - |
| Income less Expenditure | 2,910 | 13,100 | 15,600 | 2,500 |