

Briefing Note of Members on the River Connections Public Art Project Programme held in the Chamber, Town House, Inverness on Thursday, 1 March 2018 at 11.30 am.

Present:

Mrs I MacKenzie

Mr G Ross

In Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications & Resilience Manager

Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager

Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator

Also in attendance:

Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland

Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair

Business

Preliminaries

Members were advised that, as there were only 2 Members present, the scheduled meeting of the Inverness City Arts Working Group was inquorate and could not therefore take place but that an update would be provided as to the current status of projects.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie and Mrs B McAllister.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members noted the following declaration of interest:-

Item 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of the Public

Members **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 items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12 December 2017, which Members noted for information.

In relation to the paving studs aspect of the River Connections, Mr Kelman undertook to pursue their installation.

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 Paragraph 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 01/18 dated 21 February 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager which provided an update on the progress of the projects.

Specific updates were provided at the meeting as follows:-

The New Gathering Place (My Ness)

As requested the Artist had submitted a revised Brief to the Evaluation Panel, the details of which were provided. The Evaluation Panel commended the new Outline Proposal which had many merits, but were of the view it needed some reworking to make it more innovative.

Discussion took place around aspects of the proposal, particularly in regard to its location, materials used, how it could be incorporated into other events and the importance of liaising with the community.

Rest Spaces

The meeting was informed that the Artist was sourcing a new fabricator. Although this would not incur any additional costs, there would be a slight delay to the delivery of the project. The Artist had originally requested Rest Spaces be located next to the steps at the Ness Bridge but this was not feasible and, instead, would be located close by all as previously agreed.

Sculptural Destination

The delivery of the Sculptural Destination project was on track.

The Trail

Discussion took place as to the mapping of The Trail, particularly in regards to digitally technology and tying in with other sign posting initiatives in the city, including the AR Trail. Additional funding would be required if this was to be added and would necessitate an application for a grant from the Inverness Common Good. However, there was potential to generate income, perhaps through advertising and the sale of merchandise.

Summary

The Project Programme would be circulated to Members detailing progress and anticipated completion dates.

6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 02/18 dated 21 February 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 January 2018, including details of actual expenditure to date.

While project spend was within budget, Members were informed that the budget position was tight. However, progress had been made in making claims to Creative Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

A verbal update was provided at the meeting by the Communications and Resilience Manager on recent media coverage in relation to the projects within the public art project programme. In addition there was tabled a revised Communication Plan detailing the work which had already been completed, links to relevant press releases and proposals to launch the remaining elements of the Programme.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for Tuesday, 10 April 2018 in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness. However, should it be necessary, an additional meeting could be called to avoid any unnecessary delays with any aspect of the projects.

The Briefing ended at 12.55 pm.