

Agenda item	13b
Report no	RC/010/19

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Ross and Cromarty

Date: 30 January 2019

Report Title: Dingwall Common Good Fund –
Quarter 3 monitoring report 2018/19 and Budget 2019/20

Report By: Derek Yule, Depute Chief Executive and Director of
Corporate Resources
Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter 3 monitoring statement for the Dingwall Common Good Fund and puts forward a proposed budget for 2019/20.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report asks Members to scrutinise and note the Quarter 3 monitoring statement for the Dingwall Common Good Fund and to consider and approve the proposed 2019/20 budget for the Fund.

3. **Quarter 3 Monitoring Statement**

- 3.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of December 2018 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 **Income** received from rental properties to date is £28,200. Interest for the year will be credited in Quarter 4.
- 3.3 **Expenditure** to date relates to property costs, grants and donations and the Common Good Fund's proportion of the cost of the Common Good Fund Officer post. Since last reported to Committee it has been confirmed that the Pefferside Park path improvement works will commence in the current financial year, the budget set for this is £25,000.
- 3.4 The estimated year-end position is a deficit of £2,139 against a budgeted deficit of £2,300. This overspend is in relation to additional property costs, partly offset by a reduction in the Grants and Special Grants budget lines.

4. **Proposed Budget for 2019/20**

- 4.1 A proposed budget for 2019/20 is set out in **Appendix 2** of the report for the Committee to consider.
- 4.2 **Rental Income** - The income to the Dingwall Common Good Fund is derived from Dingwall Town Hall which is leased to The Highland Council and rented to High Life Highland (rent review due in April 2019) and Jubilee Park Caravan Site which is leased to the Camping and Caravanning Club. Pending rent reviews, it is proposed for the budget to remain at £28,200.
- 4.3 **Interest on Revenue Balances** – Assuming that the current low interest rates continue, it is anticipated that interest receivable on projected surplus balances will remain at approximately £700 in 2019/20.

5. **Anticipated Expenditure**

5.1 **Property Costs**

Property Costs – This relates to insurance and property costs which have tended to be low as the properties are leased on a full repairing and insuring basis. It is suggested that a revenue property budget of £3,000 be set for 2019/20 to cover urgent repairs/works.

- 5.2 **Central Support** – Expenditure in this regard relates to support from Corporate Resources and a proportion of the costs of the Common Good Fund Officer post. It is proposed that a sum of £1,200 is budgeted to cover these costs.

5.3 **Grants and Contributions**

In order to protect reserves and the likely future requirement for protection or development of Common Good assets it is proposed that a budget of £1,000 be made available for small grants to community groups and a budget of £5,000 for special Common Good projects.

5.4 **Projects**

Capital projects for development or protection of assets would require separate consideration and an appropriate funding package which would be brought to future Committee for consideration.

6. **Implications**

6.1 There are no equalities, Carbon Clever/Climate Change, Rural, Risk or Gaelic implications in the report.

6.2 **Legal and Financial Implications** – the application of funds will fall within the competency guidelines set out both in statute and in common law in relation to Common Good Funds. Additionally, through the governance being implied by the Corporate Resources Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.

The proposed 2019/20 budget will result in a surplus of £18,700. Total available reserves as at 31 March 2018 were £220,058 and estimated position at 31 March 2019 is £217,919.

6.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** - It is proposed that a budget be available to allow small grants to be made to community groups. Any future major project for the protection or improvement of assets would seek to improve equality of access.

Designation: Derek Yule, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources
Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy

Date: 18 January 2019
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Appendix 1

Dingwall Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring Period to 03 January 2019

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Year End Estimate £	Variance £
INCOME				
Rents	28,200	28,200	28,200	0
Interest and investment income	0	700	700	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>28,200</u>	<u>28,900</u>	<u>28,900</u>	<u>0</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs - CGF Officer	181	1,000	1,000	0
Property costs	4,339	2,000	4,339	2,339
Grants	316	1,000	500	(500)
Special Grants	0	27,000	25,000	(2,000)
Central support	0	200	200	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>4,836</u>	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,039</u>	<u>111</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u><u>23,364</u></u>	<u><u>(2,300)</u></u>	<u><u>(2,139)</u></u>	<u><u>111</u></u>

Appendix 2

DINGWALL COMMON GOOD FUND PROPOSED BUDGET 2019/20

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
INCOME		
Rents	28,200	28,800
Interest and investment income	700	700
TOTAL INCOME	<u>28,900</u>	<u>28,900</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Property costs	3,000	4,339
Community Grants	1,000	500
Special CG Projects	5,000	25,000
Central Support/CGFO	1,200	1,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>10,200</u>	<u>31,039</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	<u><u>18,700</u></u>	<u><u>(2,139)</u></u>