

Agenda Item	<b>12b</b>
Report No	<b>RC/032/19</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Ross and Cromarty Committee

**Date:** 14 August 2019

**Report Title:** Dingwall Common Good Quarter One Monitoring Report

**Report By:** Acting Head of Policy  
Head of Corporate and Commercialism

### **Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.
  - 1.1 This report presents the Quarter One monitoring statement for Dingwall Common Good Fund for the period April – June 2019.

### **2. Implications**

- 2.1 Resource – the resource implications are noted in the report.
- 2.2 Legal – 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 governance being implied by the Finance Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.
- 2.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – There is a small community grants budget. Improvements to Dingwall Town Hall will seek to improve equality of access by providing a wheelchair accessible toilet, which will be available to all users of the Dingwall Town Hall, in addition to children and young people visiting the Newton Room.
- 2.4 Gaelic – no implications in the report.
- 2.5 Risk – no implications in this report.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Members are asked:
  - to scrutinise and note Quarter One monitoring report.
  - to consider a contribution of £15,000 towards the costs of a wheelchair accessible toilet, which will be available to all users of the Dingwall Town Hall, in addition to children and young people visiting the Newton Room.

#### 4. Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement

4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2019 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix One**.

4.2 **Income** – Income received from rental properties to date is £3,750. The income to 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 undertaken April 2019) and Jubilee Park Caravan Site which is leased to the Camping and Caravanning Club. When the income budget was set, rents totalled £28,200. Following rent review the total anticipated income from these properties for 2019/20 is £28,564. The budget and estimated outturn has been amended to reflect this.

4.3 **Expenditure** – Expenditure of £678 relating to property costs has been incurred in Quarter 1.

##### 4.3.2 **Dingwall Town Hall, Newton Room (Science Skills Academy) –**

The Science Skills Academy, a project led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and funded by the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, underwent an options appraisal that identified Dingwall Town Hall as the most suitable venue to host their Mid Ross Newton Room. This educational project is welcomed and supported by the Dingwall and Seaforth Members. A steering group, which meets regularly, has been established with representatives from various local organisations, public bodies and educational institutes. A refurbishment working group has also been set up that includes appropriate individuals from the Highland Council, High Life Highland, HIE and Graham and Sibbald who are project managing the refurbishment on behalf of the Council.

The estimated total refurbishment works for the project are in region of £134,000 (excluding VAT), which includes the refurbishment of the current building to host the Dingwall Newton Room; the installation of a new disabled toilet on the ground floor; the modification of existing ground floor toilets; and the organisation and monitoring of works fees.

Committee are asked to consider a contribution of £15,000 towards the costs of a wheelchair accessible toilet, which will be available to all users of the Dingwall Town Hall, in addition to children and young visiting the Newton Room.

Designation: Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy

Date: 2 August 2019

Authors: Diane Agnew, Ward Manager  
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Background Papers:

## Appendix One

### Dingwall Common Good – Monitoring Q1 Period to 30 June 2019

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Year End Estimate £	Variance £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Rents	3,750	28,564	28,564	0
Interest and investment income	0	700	700	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>3,750</u>	<u>29,264</u>	<u>29,264</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff Costs - CGF Officer	0	1,000	1,000	0
Property costs	678	3,000	3,000	0
Grants	0	1,000	1,000	0
Special Grants	0	5,000	5,000	0
Dingwall Town Hall – Newton Room*	0	15,000	15,000	0
Central support	0	200	200	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>678</u>	<u>25,200</u>	<u>25,200</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<u><u>3,072</u></u>	<u><u>4,064</u></u>	<u><u>4,064</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

\*subject to Committee approval