

Agenda Item	9d
Report No	CIA/59/19

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 21 November 2019

Report Title: Inverness City Arts – Annual Report

Report By: Acting Head of Policy

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This is the Annual Report of the Inverness City Arts Working Group (ICArts). Update reports have been provided to committee on funding and Project progress through ICArts Working Group Minutes. This report provides a summary of progress.
- 1.2 Recommendations were agreed at a Special Meeting of the Inverness City Area Committee on 20 August 2019. Committee agreed to support the current arrangements and re-affirm the previously agreed commitment to the project. This was subject to the following conditions:
- that there should be no further commitment of public funds
 - that the project programme should be completed within the following 12-18 month period.
 - that the current plans did not provide full accessibility and that this will be actioned as a priority to determine how to provide this.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Scrutinise and note the report;
 - ii. Note the adjustments required for the Inverness River Art Project Programme to meet the recommendations agreed at the Special Committee in August 2019.
 - iii. Note that officers will explore further options with partners to fund the required changes to the programme.
 - iv. Note and thank Creative Scotland and other Partners, for their continuing support for the Project Programme.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

The total funding available for the River Arts Programme is £0.758.6m. The funding partners are:

- Creative Scotland
- City of Inverness Common Good Fund
- Highland Council 'Approaching Inverness' Fund
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise

The Project Programme was scrutinised at a Special Meeting of the Committee held on 20 August 2019 at which the Committee agreed to proceed with the Project Programme subject to additional work being undertaken to improve access to the Gathering Place (My Ness). The additional work has increased costs as outlined in section 6.1.

3.2 Legal

There are no known legal implications as a result of the content of this report.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)

The delivery of projects under the governance arrangements identified in this report will be required to meet The Highland Council's Policies. They will also actively enhance access to public art where practicable, for the widest possible sectors of the community.

The investment made by the Partners is enhancing the Flood Alleviation Scheme which will enable the River to be even more of an attraction for visitors and locals and so promote the development of the Riverside as recreational space for residents and visitors.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever

The flood alleviation works that the Inverness River Arts Project programme is associated with demonstrates the Council's commitment to adapting to climate change and adverse weather events. The design of My Ness specifically has had safety measures built into the design to take account of potential flooding events.

As part of the planning permission for My Ness, a formal response was sought from the Flood Risk Management Team and from SEPA. These resulted in proposed conditions for the development which were included as part of the planning permission, and no objections from the Flood Risk Management Team were received.

3.5 Risk

The delivery of the Project Programme has been delayed due to the revision of the Gathering Place Project (My Ness). All funders remain committed to the Project Programme and are being kept apprised of progress. Noting the reduced budget allocation, as a result of cancellation of the previous design in June 2016 by the City Area Committee, the budget for the Gathering Place (My Ness) has been adjusted.

It is important to be clear that the vast majority of the money for the projects comes from Third Party funding and therefore cannot be used for any purposes other than the art project.

Every effort continues to be made to complete the Project Programme in 2020 as requested at the special meeting of the Committee held on 20 August 2019. Non-completion of the main project would carry financial and reputational risk.

3.6 **Gaelic**

All policies relating to the use of the Gaelic language will be adhered to.

4. **Background**

4.1 The City of Inverness Area Committee agreed to set up the ICArts Working Group on 3 December 2012. CIAC also agreed a governance framework which would allow the CIAC to scrutinise the operation of the ICArts Working Group and relevant projects. The Working Group would be comprised of one member from each political group and the City Leader. The working group includes a representative from the main funder, Creative Scotland.

4.2 The following remit for the working group was agreed:

- to agree a draft Action Plan (which would be subject to the approval of the CIAC) and review it on annual basis;
- to apply the decisions of the CIAC in respect of the application of funds from the City of Inverness Common Good Fund given for the purpose of promoting or developing projects involving Public Art for the City Area;
- to provide a framework for project content and community and/or artist engagement to the ICA Programme Delivery Manager, in line with the objectives of the Council's Programme and planning policies;
- to identify opportunities for youth training and employment and provide educational outcomes for local people linking in with the Curriculum for Excellence and the Council's Employability Action Plan;
- to scrutinise all aspects of project delivery with the power to request reports on project progress and on revenue budget spend relevant to the governance of the CIAC;
- to provide a governance link to the CIAC – through reports by the Inverness City Manager – on the progress of projects as appropriate.
- to agree options (other than through City Arts Partnership Forum Sessions) for public engagement to enable effective community involvement in projects; and
- to agree the membership and meeting schedule of ICA Partnership Forum Sessions.

The governance structure for the programme is set out at appendix 1

5. Financial Overview

5.1 The total funding available for the ICArts programme is £0.758m. This is package of funding from Inverness Common Good, Creative Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Council's Development and Infrastructure Service.

Table 2

Funding Body	Purpose of Funding	Total Funding
Creative Scotland	For project development and also for the Gathering Place – to create a space for the community and visitors to enjoy the environment of the river.	£0.305m
City of Inverness Common Good Fund – Agreed CIAC 8 October 2013	For a programme of activity including a trail, viewing station, seating projects, schools project & sculptural destination. Committee agreement noted meaningful community engagement.	£0.250m (+ £0.031m from existing art programme)
Highland Council – Cities Gateway Fund – Agreed Planning & Development Committee Aug 13	For the Gathering Place and final Trail project	£0.066m
Highland Council – additional allocation Development and Infrastructure Capital Programme	For the Gathering Place and final Trail project	£0.040m
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	For the Gathering Place and Trail project. Key deliverables include an art infrastructure project, permanent works, community engagement events	£0.066m
Total Funding		£0.758m

5.2 As reported to the Special CIAC meeting in August, total spend to date on the ICArts programme has been £526,406. This includes spend of £209,173 on completed projects and £317,233 on uncompleted projects. Funding of the expenditure has been drawn down from the following sources to date:

- Creative Scotland £135,146
- ICGF £280,750
- Highland Council D&I £6,150
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise £10,374

The balance of £93,986 between expenditure and income has not yet been claimed from funders. For cashflow purposes this has been funded from Highland Council's general fund.

The budget update can be found at appendix 2.

6. Project Updates

6.1 My Ness

6.1.1 My Ness is the centrepiece of River Ness Public Art Project Programme. The purpose of My Ness is to create a structure to bring people together to a special place sited to provide a focal point and an overview of the River Ness. The design is based on the form of an amphitheatre and the circular form is picked up on the opposite bank thereby framing the river. The site is Long Isle Pool, near the Fishermen's Car Park.

6.1.2 A planning application was submitted on the 20th December 2018 and was granted under delegated powers on 19th February 2019 after being advertised in January 2019. A tendering process for contractors to carry out the work has been completed. This contract is between the artists Sans Facon and the contractor. Negotiations between the artists and building contractors are now complete. This has resulted in a number of proposed changes to the design and build to ensure that the structure is affordable. As reported to Committee in August, these changes have no impact on the existing planning permission. The proposed changes include:

- the thickness of the stone has been reduced from 40mm to 25mm
- the number of piles has been reduced from three to two
- the cantilever has been reduced in length by 1 metre
- the down stream end of the structure on the fisherman's hut side of the river has been reduced in length by 1 metre
- the small bench on the opposite bank has been reduced in length by 1 metre

6.1.3 As noted at the Special Meeting in August, a final design had yet to be agreed as further amendments were required including exploring whether it was possible to widen the end of the cantilever to make this fully accessible for wheelchair users. This was confirmed as an action of the meeting of the Special Meeting.

6.1.4 Since the August meeting work has taken place with the artists and contractors to consider how to improve access to My Ness. The design has been revised to allow a turning circle of 1500mm and a footpath to the piece. Informal consultation with several people from the disbanded Inverness Access Panel has taken place.

6.1.5 The additional cost of the improved access is £32, 810. This impacts upon the overall budget for the programme:

Table 3 highlights the revised costs against the original budget. This notes that as a result of the change in design requested, additional funds are now required of £32,644.

Table 3

Original Costs		Revised Costs	
My Ness tender:	£195,179	My Ness Tender:	£195,179
Artist Fee:	£13,200	Artist Fee:	£13,200
		Enhanced Access:	£32,810
Total Costs:	£208,379	Total costs:	£241,189
Contingency:	£19,517	Contingency:	£22,798
Total Costs:	£227,896	Total Costs:	£263,987
Remaining Budget:	£231,343	Remaining Budget:	£231,343
		Additional Costs Required:	£32,644
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £9846 funding • £22,798 contingency 	

6.1.6 An update was provided to the IC Arts working group on 6 November and the following points are highlighted:

- It was agreed that the remaining individual projects of The Trail and Children's Water Feature could no longer progress in the current budget framework
- It was agreed to reallocate the £5,000 for paths as part of the Children's Water Feature towards the additional costs required.
- The majority of the remaining funding required, £22,798, is to provide a contingency fund.
- Creative Scotland are supportive of the changes to the Project programme

The Working Group agreed for officers to explore with partners how to meet the additional costs required and identify contingency costs or a way in which to underwrite the works.

6.2 River Connections

River Connections, is complete. The final part of the artwork, which comprises new seating in the alcoves in Bank Street, was installed in early 2017. They complement the poetry by Ken Cockburn, composed for the plaques on the river wall, and have been created by artist Mary Bourne from Caithness slate, supported by drystone dyking. The pattern of shapes represents the small lochans and tributaries which run into the River Ness.

6.3 Rest Spaces

Artists - Dress For The Weather. The first Rest Space was a small viewing platform entitled 'Explore' which was intended to project over the river. The original site intended for this piece was on Bank Street opposite the Mercure Hotel. However, as noted in the August 2019 report, since the original design was developed in 2014 new guidance for local government on water safety has come into force: Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy 2018-2026 and the Council is currently developing a water safety policy for the Highland Council area based upon this guidance. Taking the new guidance into

account, it was an officer recommendation that installation of the piece in the proposed location did not progress.

A number of alternative sites have been explored situated within the new West Link Phase 2 development. The Working Group have considered three potential locations and have identified a preferred site, located adjacent to the pond on the old golf course site. This would retain the connect with water. This is subject to confirmation of agreement from the artist and subject to community engagement, which will be taken forward through the West Link Community Liaison Group. A risk assessment is being finalised based on the preferred site. Following this work, it is intended that the piece would be installed as part of the West Link Phase 2 development.

6.4 The Trail

The Trail, also by 'Dress for the Weather' is a project to map the river to create a trail from the Ness Islands to the river mouth, including local stories, natural history, heritage and other practical knowledge accessed through a traditional paper map or digitally by mobile phone.

Given the financial constraints on the overall programme, it is not proposed to progress with the Trail as originally intended. Opportunities are currently being explored how to integrate the principles of the Trail project into other related activity and also consider how best to utilise online/social media and alternative mediums such as the HighlandAR Legends concept.

6.5 Children's Water Feature

Artists 'Bespoke Atelier' and 'Erz' have worked with art students from the University of the Highlands and Islands and school pupils to create a Children's Water Feature. The approved site for the interactive feature was to be on the Ness Islands.

Given the financial constraints on the overall programme, it is not proposed to progress with the Children's Water Feature. Discussions have taken place with Creative Scotland and it is proposed to incorporate the education aspects of this project in the development of My Ness.

6.6 The Sculptural Destination

Artist Annie Cattrell has designed an iconic landmark entitled 'Seer' based on the geology of the river and the mythology of the Brahan Seer. Two 'seeing stones,' modelled from the rock formations on each site of the Great Glen fault and cast in bronze-infused resin will be sited at Friar's Shott. People will be able to stand between them to view the Castle and the city. Smaller test pieces of the sculpture were exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in May 2018. The artwork was installed in November 2018 at Friars Shott.

7. Next Steps

7.1 As noted at 6.1, officers will continue to work with Partners to identify further sources of funding to complete the development of My Ness to include enhanced access. Key actions include:

- Awarding the contract
- Contractor to carryout final discussions with SEPA
- Final exploration of environmental issues
- Proposed installation commencing March April 2020

7.2 As noted at section 6.3, a preferred site for the relocation of the Rest Spaces piece has been identified. Key actions to support the development of this work include:

- Engagement with West Link Community Engagement Group
- Finalising risk assessment

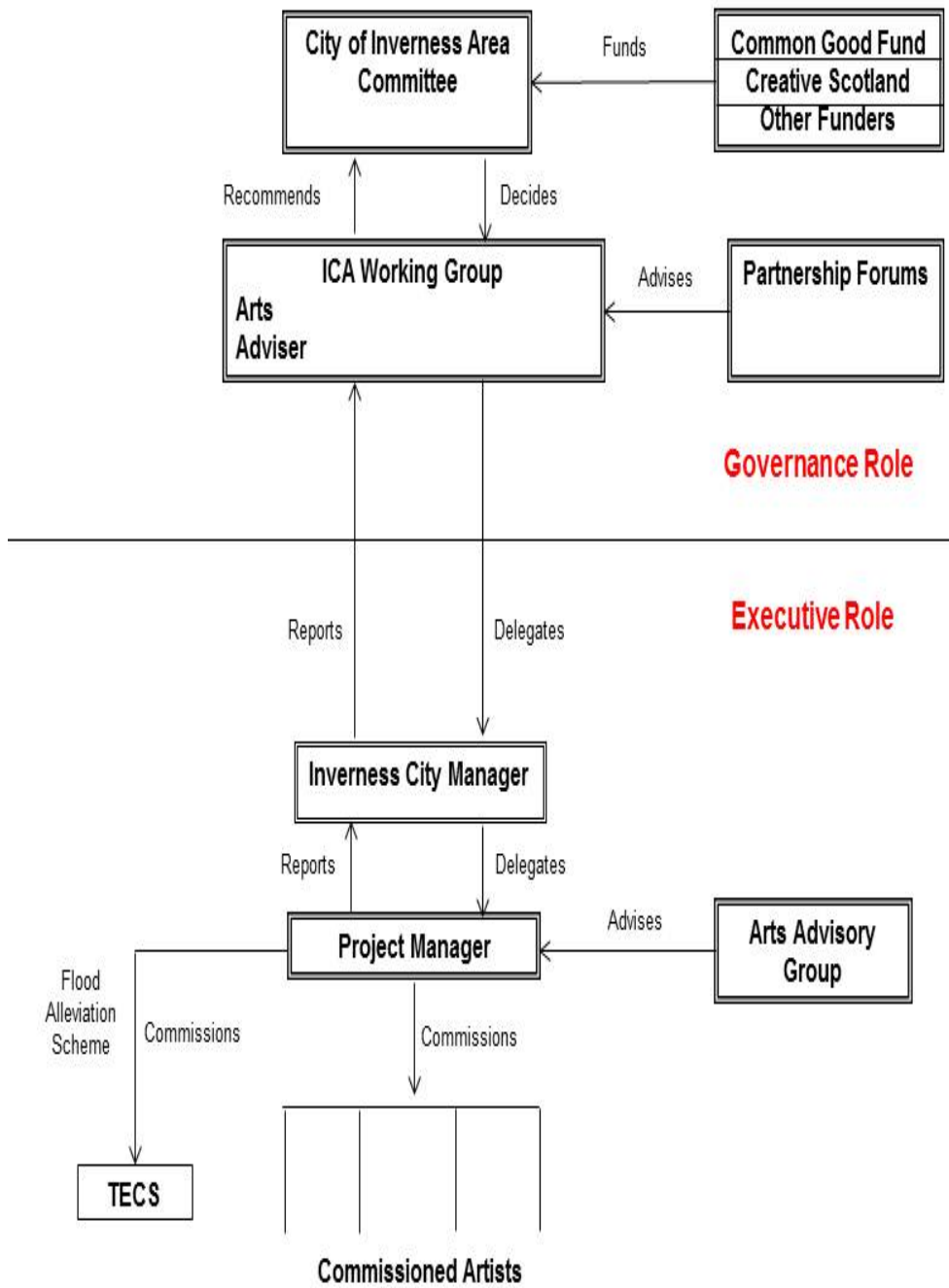
7.3 An update on progress will be presented to a future meeting of the Inverness City Area Committee.

Designation: Acting Head of Policy

Date: 11 November 2019

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Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Overall Project Budgets			
Project	Agreed Budget	Spends to Date	Remaining Budget
River Connections	£60,000.00	£59,895.32	104.68
Rest Spaces	£40,000.00	£40,645.89	-645.89
The Trail	£25,000.00	£3,500.00	21,500.00
Gathering Place	£300,000.00	£108,715.83	191,284.17
Sculptural Destination	£60,000.00	£60,149.40	-149.40
Childrens Feature	£40,000.00	£12,902.00	27,098.00
Management Fee's	£120,900.00	£146,472.05	-25,181.00
Development Cost	£85,000.00	£84,128.26	£872.00
Client Contingency	£21,850.00	£5,388.73	16,461.27
Workers Memorial	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	0.00
Total	£757,750.00	£526,797.48	231,343.83
Please Note - Development Cost is Stage 1 Costs			