

**City of Inverness Area Committee  
Inverness City Arts Working Group**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in First Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 2.00pm.

**Present:**

Mrs H Carmichael  
Mr I Brown  
Mrs I Mackenzie  
Mr G Ross

**In Attendance:**

Mrs A Clark, Acting Head of Policy  
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager  
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator

**Also in attendance:**

Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland

**Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Item 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

**3. Exclusion of the Public**

The group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items in respect of any issues relating to the circumstances of third parties on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 Part 1 of schedule 7A of the Act.

**4. Actions from Previous Minutes**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** the minutes of the Working Group held on 17 September 2019.

Arising from the Minutes, the City Area Manager advised that:-

- The timeline in respect of the Fisherman's Hut had not yet been set and an update on this had been provided in the Project Update report (Item 5). It was further confirmed that no funding from the Project Programme had been allocated towards the Fisherman's Hut;

- Work was ongoing in regard to the incorporation of the educational element from the Children's Water Feature into My Ness; and
- That updates in regard to My Ness and Rest Spaces would be provided as per the next agenda item.

The Committee **NOTED** the update.

## 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 Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 09/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 30 October 2019. At this meeting of the ICArts Working Group Members were updated on the progress made on the Project Programme since the last Working Group meeting as follows:-

### My Ness

It was explained that at the Special Meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) on 20 August 2019 it had been agreed that the My Ness project had to be extended to enable full access arrangements for wheelchair users. Following discussion with the contractors, the additional cost of this would be £32,810. As a result, there would be a budget shortfall of £9,846, plus an additional sum required for contingency. It was proposed that to mitigate this, the £5,000 that had been allocated for access improvements for the Children's Water Feature should be reassigned to My Ness consequently reducing the project shortfall to £4,846. It was highlighted that Creative Scotland, the key funder, remained supportive of the project and formal confirmation was awaited from them to accept the additional project works to extend the access arrangements and thus closing the project shortfall.

In addition, it was further reported that as a result of the additional access works, the Project Programme no longer had any contingency funds available therefore, if it were to proceed, the Project Programme would be continuing at risk. It was further stressed that if the Project Programme was to proceed on this basis and any unforeseen costs were to arise then the Budget would be overspent. In a Project Programme of this nature, the contingency would normally be 10% and therefore around £22,000. The strong recommendation was that contingency was required to be Re-instated and so in place prior to the project proceeding. This money would require to be found or the Project Programme underwritten.

As previously noted, given the overall financial position of the Project Programme, it was confirmed that The Trail and Children's Water Feature would not be able to progress.

It was queried whether the platform length of the My Ness Art Piece could be reduced to compensate for the additional works but it was explained that this would not be feasible. It was suggested that the section of the project located on the opposite side of the river could be withdrawn but the Artist had indicated that this component was integral to the overall concept of the project. It was further clarified that the final deadline for which notice could be given to contractors would be mid-January 2020.

The Working Group expressed disappointment at the financial position of the project and indicated that it would not be prudent for the Project Programme to proceed without an appropriate (normally 10%) contingency fund being identified and re-established. However, as highlighted in the August CIAC report, there were also financial implications should the project have to be cancelled. It was noted and agreed that work would progress with all key partners that had contributed to the project with a view to securing the remaining My Ness project shortfall (£4,846) and shortfall in contingency (£22,000) exploring all options to address the project risks including the feasibility of underwriting the costs of the project should they be required. As part of this, it was agreed that a meeting should be scheduled with the Chief Executive/Executive Chief Officer of Resources to provide an update on the current position and consider options moving forward.

It was further proposed that Members should be fully updated on the current position at the briefing being held on 12 November 2019 and it was highlighted that an annual report was due to be submitted to the CIAC on 21 November 2019 and this would reflect the current position in respect of the Project Programme.

### Rest Space

The Working Group indicated that it was supportive of the Rest Space feature being relocated to a site adjacent to the Lochan situated at the canal crossing being constructed as part of the West Link Project Programme. It was further explained that the Artist would be providing feedback on the site location via email and that once agreed the site would be subject to appropriate risk assessments and public engagement. It was recommended that the West Link Community Stakeholder Group should be used as the forum for wider local public engagement. In addition, it was further explained that once the location had been approved, installation would be carried out by the West Link project team at no further cost to the River Connections Project Programme.

Following detailed discussion, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** that the My Ness Project could proceed as per the revised proposals subject to:-
  - the Children's Water Feature Project and the Trail Project not proceeding under the Project Programme;
  - to the reallocation of £5,000 from the Children's Water Feature;
  - formal agreement from Creative Scotland to support the adjustments to the My Ness project to extend access for wheelchair users as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and thus closing the outstanding funding gap;

- appropriate contingency funding being identified/secured for the Project Programme;
- ii. **AGREED** that a meeting be scheduled with the Chief Executive/Executive Chief Officer Resources to apprise them of the current position and explore options for moving forward;
- iii. **AGREED** to Officers led by the City Area Manager, continue to liaise with all key partners to secure the remaining project shortfall (£4,846) and to identify contingency of £22,000;
- iv. **AGREED** that the Rest Space feature be relocated to a site adjacent to the Lochan situated at the canal crossing being constructed as part of the West Link Project Programme subject to:
  - Confirmation from the artist of support for the preferred location;
  - the appropriate Risk Assessments in place;
  - and a programme of local community engagement via the West Link Community Stakeholder Group; and
- v. **NOTED** that in relation to the new location for the Rest Space, that installation would be carried out by the West Link project team at no further cost to the River Connections Project Programme.

## 6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICARTS 10/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 30 October 2019. The report set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 30 September 2019 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

The Committee **NOTED** the content of the report.

## 7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

The City Area Manager advised that work was ongoing to proactively engage the press and it was reported that the Corporate Communications Manager had recommended that a press release should be issued prior to the next meeting of the Inverness City Area Committee.

The Committee **NOTED** the update and **AGREED** that a press release be issued giving an update on the current position of the work of the Group prior to the next meeting of the Inverness City Area Committee.

## 8. Date of next Meeting

The Committee **NOTED** that the dates of the 2020 meetings would be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm.