

Agenda Item	9
Report No	ERA/11/20

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 20 August 2020

Report Title: Invergordon Common Good Fund – Quarter 1 monitoring report

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance
Executive Chief Officer, Community and Places

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter One monitoring statement for the Invergordon Common Good Fund against the budget set for 2020/21. The report also provides a short update in relation to the Invergordon Town Hall.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report asks Members to scrutinise and note:
- the Quarter 1 monitoring statement for the Invergordon Common Good Fund; and
 - the current position in relation to the Invergordon Town Hall.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource: The quarter one monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget.

Legal: any disposal of Invergordon Town Hall would be carried out within the framework of the Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015. 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 Finance

- 3.2 Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): due to the lack of income there is no community grants budget. Further community consultation would be required if any decision was taken to dispose of the Town Hall to the Invergordon and District Development Trust. There are no other equality, poverty or rural implications as a result of the report

Risk: As noted previously to this committee, the Invergordon Town Hall requires significant refurbishment that cannot be accommodated within existing Common Good resources. It is for this reason that Members have agreed to consider disposing of the building via sale or long lease.

Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Gaelic: None

4. Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement

- 4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2020 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Income – No income has been received as yet but Invergordon Town Hall is rented to Highlife Highland at a rent of £3,500 for 2019/20 and this has not yet been received. A small amount of income in the form of interest on revenue balances is expected in the 4th quarter.
- 4.3 Expenditure – No charges have as yet been made but in due course there will be a charge for the Invergordon Common Good Fund's proportion of the costs of the Common Good Fund Officer. The property budget is set for minor essential repairs to the Town House and as, yet none have been required.

5. The Invergordon Town Hall

- 5.1 Members will recall that in February 2020 when the last monitoring report was provided, the Invergordon & District Development Trust (IDDT) had developed an initial Business Plan for the Town Hall. However further strengthening of the Business Plan was required and the IDDT recognised that an anchor tenant would be needed. It was therefore agreed that members would continue to monitor and receive updates on the IDDT's progress prior to deciding on how to proceed. It is suggested that given the continuing issues around Covid-19 this position should continue and be reviewed again when the Quarter 2 monitoring report is brought forward for members consideration. It should be noted that further public consultation would be required should a future decision be taken to consider disposal of the Invergordon Town Hall to the IDDT.

Designation: Liz Denovan, Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance and
Carron MacDiarmid, Executive Chief Officer, Community and Places

Date: 31 July 2020

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Appendix 1

Invergordon Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring

Period to 30th June 2020

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Estimate d Outturn	Variance £
Income				
Rents	0	3,500	3,500	0
Interest and investment income	0	300	300	0
Total Income	<u>0</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenditure				
Staff Costs	0	1,000	1,000	0
Property costs	0	2,000	2,000	0
Central Support	0	100	100	0
Total Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>0</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>700</u></u>	<u><u>700</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>