

Agenda Item	8
Report No	ERA-19-21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 12 August 2021

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

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance
Executive Chief Officer, Policy and Reform

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 2021/22. The report also provides a short update in relation to the Invergordon Town Hall.

2. Recommendations

- 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 implications: The quarter one monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget.
- 3.2 Legal implications: the consultation currently being carried out in relation to the proposed disposal of Invergordon Town Hall is 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 applied by the Finance Service, funds will remain compliant with all financial regulations.

3.3

Community impacts (Equality, Poverty and Rural): due to the lack of income there is no community grants budget. Any decision regarding the future of the Town Hall will be made in the context of community views expressed during the current consultation which closes on 17th September 2021. There are no other equality, poverty or rural implications as a result of the report

- 3.4 Risk implications: 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.
- 3.5 Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Gaelic implications: None
- 4. Quarter 1 Monitoring Statement**
- 4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of June 2021 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Income – The Invergordon Town Hall is rented to Highlife Highland at a rent of £3,500 for 2021/22. This rent will be received later in the year. A small amount of income in the form of interest on revenue balances is expected in the 4th quarter.
- 4.3 Expenditure – There is a small property budget set aside for minor repairs. Spend of £62 has been incurred to date. There will also, in due course, be a charge for the Invergordon Common Good Fund's proportion of the costs of the Common Good Fund Officer which is budgeted for.
- 5. The Invergordon Town Hall**
- 5.1 In February 2021 Members noted that it had not been possible for the Invergordon Development Trust (IDT) to develop a sufficiently robust business plan in order to take on the Town Hall. As a result, Members agreed that disposal by lease or sale on the open market should once again be explored. The required consultation was re launched with a closing date of 17th September – the required 8-week consultation time being extended in recognition of the continuing impact of Covid restrictions and to allow for the best possible response. At the time of writing no responses have been received. An update will be provided to the November meeting of this committee.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance and
Executive Chief Officer, Policy & Reform

Date: 28 July 2021

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Appendix 1

**Invergordon Common Good - Quarterly
Monitoring
Period to June 2021**

	Actual to date	Budget	Estimated 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	1,100	1,100	0
Property costs	62	2,000	2,000	0
Central Support	0	100	100	0
Total Expenditure	<u>62</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>0</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u>(62)</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>0</u>
Unaudited Usable Reserves 2020/21		£79,781		