

Agenda Item	6
Report No	ERA-24-21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 18 November 2021

Report Title: Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust

Report By: Derek Martin Area Education and Learning Manager

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This paper reports on the key points of work and allocations from The Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust, and The Duncraig Educational Trust throughout 2020-21 financial year.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to note the report.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

It is highly likely that investment income will remain very low over the next few years, due to the economic downturn.

3.2 Legal

There are no known legal implications.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)

None.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever

None.

3.5 Risk

There is no direct risk to The Highland Council.

3.6 Gaelic

None

4. Introduction / Context Part 1

4.1 The Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust

4.2 Reports were previously made to the former Ross and Cromarty Committee. Following reorganisation of committees, reports will now go to the following local committees:

- Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh
- Easter Ross
- Dingwall and Seaforth
- Black Isle

4.3 This report was delayed due to the pandemic.

4.4 Due to the emergency response to the pandemic, some grants were unable to be awarded within the year 2019-20. The income for 2019-20, therefore, had to be put into the capital fund, under the terms of the trust. The applications were rolled into 2020-21.

4.5 In the financial year 2019-20, the income to the trust was £227,428.

4.6 In the financial year 2020-21, the income to the trust was £12,219.

4.7 The income from 2019-20 of £227,428 was largely as a result of a shares dividend which is required to go into the capital fund. The capital fund sits around £1.6 million. Previous investment income was in the region of £15,000 per annum. The reduction of income for 2020/21 reflects the worldwide financial challenges, primarily as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

4.8 It is anticipated that economic recovery during and following the pandemic may take some years and may well have a negative impact on the availability of funds for this trust.

4.9 Under the circumstances, the possibility of drawing down from the capital fund to allow grants to be made during these difficult times was explored. Legal advice was sought but it was discovered that it is not possible to draw down from capital, under the terms of the trust.

4.10 As part of the emergency response to Covid and to allow some payments to be made to applicants, one off funding of £21,000 was made available to the trust from Mid Area Education and Learning.

4.11 Awards were, therefore, made to the following within Ross & Cromarty within the financial year of 20-21 but actually covered applications from the previous year as well.

	£400	George MacLeod and Kenneth Murray Bursaries
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██████████	£500.00	Rosehaugh Bursary
██████████	£500.00	Thomson Memorial, William Denoon and George Denoon Bursaries
Tain Royal Academy School Fund	£50.00	Brownie Memorial Prize
Tain Royal Academy School Fund	£110	John Ferguson Prize
Dingwall Academy	£60	Elizabeth Grigor Prizes
Tarbat Old Primary	£50	Donald MacDonald prizes
Dingwall Academy	£100	Peter Glass Mackenzie Memorial prizes
Tain Royal Academy	£150	Helen Munro prizes
Dingwall Academy	£180	Port Elizabeth Highland Society Major General Sir Hector MacDonald Memorial Prizes
Knockbreck Primary	£12.50	Best Girl Medal prize
Craighill Primary	£12.50	Best Girl Medal prize
Multi Year Bursaries		
██████████	£1,000	George MacLeod/Kenneth Murray Memorial Bursaries
██████████	£1,000	George MacLeod/ Kenneth Murray Memorial Bursaries
██████████	£2,000	Rosehaugh Bursary
██████████	£500	Rosehaugh Bursary
██████████	£500	Rosehaugh Bursary
Portion allocated to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for their distribution (2 years)		
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£14500	

Introduction / Context Part 2

The Duncraig Trust

5. Reports were previously made to the former Ross and Cromarty Committee.
5.1 Following reorganisation of committees, reports will now go to the following local committees:

- 5.2
- Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh
 - Easter Ross
 - Dingwall and Seaforth
 - Black Isle

In the financial year 20-21, the income to the Duncraig Trust was £7,805.

The capital fund sits around £800,000.

5.3 Due to the timing of awards (1st April to 30th June), the trust was unaffected by Covid
5.4 in its ability to make awards.

5.5 The following awards were made in August of this year:

5.6

██████████	£1000	Attending a specialist course in performing arts
██████████	£1000	Attending a specialist course in bagpiping
██████████	£1000	Attending a specialist music course
██████████	£1000	Attending a specialist course in performing arts
██████████	£500	National representation in Hockey
██████████	£500	National representation in Hockey

Date: 4 November 2021

Author: Derek Martin, Area Education and Learning Manager.