

Agenda Item	11
Report No	ERA-29-21

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Easter Ross Area Committee

**Date:** 18 November 2021

**Report Title:** Invergordon Common Good Fund – Quarter 2 monitoring report

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance  
Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter Two 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. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report asks Members to scrutinise and note:
- the Quarter 2 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 two monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget which is on target.
- 3.2 Legal implications: any disposal of Invergordon Town Hall will 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. The application of funds will comply with all financial regulations.
- 3.3 Community Impacts (Equality, Poverty and Rural): due to the lack of income there is no community grants budget. There are no other equality, poverty or rural implications as a result of the report.

3.4 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.

3.5 Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Gaelic: None

#### **4. Quarter 2 Monitoring Statement**

4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions against the budget for the period to the end of September 2021, and the estimated year end position, is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Income – No income has been received during the current financial year. Invergordon Town Hall is rented to Highlife Highland at an annual rent of £3,500 but this has not yet been received. A small amount of income in the form of interest on revenue balances is expected in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

4.3 Expenditure – The only spend to date is the charge for the Invergordon Common Good Fund's share of Common Good Fund Officer costs, plus a minor property cost.

4.4 The accounts for 2020/21 are not yet audited but when available will be brought to the Easter Ross Area Committee for approval. The unaudited usable reserves at 31/03/2021 for the Invergordon Common Good fund were £79,781.

#### **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 and agreed that disposal by lease or sale on the open market should once again be explored. The required consultation was re launched with an extended timescale in recognition of the continuing impact of Covid restrictions and to allow for the best possible response. That consultation closed on 17<sup>th</sup> September and is the subject of a separate report to Members on this agenda.

Designation: Liz Denovan, Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance and  
Carron MacDiarmid, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 4 November 2021

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

	<b>Actual to date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Estimated Outturn</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Rents	0	3,500	3,500	0
Interest and investment income	0	300	300	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Costs	356	1,100	1,100	0
Property costs	62	2,000	2,000	0
Central Support	0	100	100	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>418</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<u><b>(418)</b></u>	<u><b>600</b></u>	<u><b>600</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>
<b>Unaudited Usable Reserves 2020/21</b>		<b>£79,781</b>		