

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held Remotely on Thursday 19 August, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:**

Mrs H Carmichael  
Mr I Brown  
Mrs I Mackenzie

**Non Member in Attendance:-**

Mrs T Robertson

**In Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place Service  
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Property & Housing Service  
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland.  
Ms K Dick, Place Partnerships & Communications Officer, Creative Scotland  
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance & Governance Service

**Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications and Resilience Manager.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**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 10 December, 2020, which had previously been circulated to and approved by the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting held on 18 February, 2021.

The City Area Manager highlighted that progress had been made on the education element of the My Ness project and the aspects that the City of Inverness Committee wished to take forward, such as the width at the end of the structure had been made wide enough for the turning of wheelchairs and a handrail would be fitted. Further, a detailed plan for the My Ness project had been drawn up and would be discussed later in the meeting (item 7).

The Working Group **NOTED** the update.

## 5. Project Programme Update

The final project of the ICArts Project Programme, My Ness (The Gathering Place) was nearing completion.

It was advised that all the projects in the programme had now been delivered allowing the My Ness project to progress. In this respect, a summary of the timeline and progress to deliver the project was provided and in particular it was advised that the structure was nearly finished with an estimated completion date of mid September, 2021. It was highlighted that the project would be delivered within the budget allocated to it and delivered in terms of the consents granted. All the ecological and environmental requirements had been adhered to and accounted for. The requirements by the principal funder of the project to transfer the educational elements of the other projects to My Ness had been accounted for. There had been regular liaison with the Inverness Angling club and River Ness District Fisheries Board to ensure the project met their requirements.

It was not anticipated that the structure would require much maintenance and should there be a requirement for this, this could be funded from the Other properties budget within the Inverness Common Good Fund. The enhanced accessibility of the structure for wheelchair users should be tested prior to public use. It was advised that the width of the turning circle had been built in accordance with the specification for access to wheelchair users and this could be a feature in the opening ceremony and Officers would discuss this.

Members commended the work of the team for all the work gone into the My Ness project. Members support to Officers on the project was also appreciated. Creative Scotland's support to the project was also commended and their team had helped this project progress. Creative Scotland also commended the Council for progressing this significant Art Project as part of the Creative Scotland Capital Projects Programme Fund.

An update was provided on the educational elements of the project. A module would be designed on how to deliver a public arts project. All those involved in the My Ness project such as the Artist, Project management, Engineers would take part in this and it was scheduled to be launched in September. It was intended that the module be also rolled out to students in future years. An online community event involving the Artist would also be held.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED**:-

i the presentation and that the My Ness Project remains fully funded with the remaining funding to be drawn down as follows:-

- Creative Scotland £161,546
- Inverness Common Good Fund £8,237
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise £55,626
- Highland Council £66,000

ii the balance between expenditure and income for cashflow purposes has been funded from Highland Council's general fund.

iii that My Ness was forecast to remain within the allocated budget.

## **6. Financial Monitoring**

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 01/21 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 11 August, 2021. The report set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 July, 2021 and showed the actual expenditure to date. It was highlighted that the My Ness project was on schedule and on budget.

The Working Group **NOTED** the content of the report.

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

The City Area Manager gave an update on the public relations (PR) plans for the My Ness project. It was highlighted that the Corporate Communications and Resilience Manager would be producing a PR plan for the opening of the My Ness project. The Artists would lead on this as well as members of the Evaluation panel. Photographs of the art piece and drone footage would be taken and released to the public as part of the PR package as well as articles on the art piece for various media publications.

It was advised that Creative Scotland's digital communications team would be happy to be involved in the PR for the opening as this was one of the few large scale public arts projects that Creative Scotland had been able to support.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** that they would receive a briefing on the PR for the opening of the My Ness art piece in due course.

## **8. Date of next Meeting**

The Committee **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in consultation with the Chair.

It was highlighted that the project was now approaching its conclusion and at the next meeting the Working Group would likely be in a position to conclude the project. A report would be submitted to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting in November, 2021 in order to conclude the Working Group.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.