

**City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness East Sports Facilities Working Group** held remotely on Thursday, 16 December 2021 at 10.00 am.

**Present:**

**Highland Council:**

Mr C Aitken  
Mr I Brown  
Mr K Gowans  
Mr A Jarvie  
Mrs E McAllister  
Mr D MacPherson  
Mrs T Robertson

**Officials in Attendance:**

Ms L Denovan, Executive Chief Officer, Resources and Finance  
Mr M Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer, Property and Housing  
Ms N Grant, Executive Chief Officer, Education and Learning  
Mr M MacLeod, Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance

**Preliminaries**

The Inverness City Area Manager took the Chair until the Working Group appointed a Chair at item 3 of this Minute.

It was confirmed that Mrs E McAllister was the Labour Group representative for this Working Group.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. Appointment of Chair**

Nominations were invited for the post of Chair of the Inverness East Sports Facilities Working Group.

Mr I Brown, seconded by Mrs T Robertson nominated Mr K Gowans. There being no other nominations and Mr K Gowans was appointed as Chair of the Working Group for the remaining term of the Council.

Mr Gowan's expressed his appreciation to the Working Group for his appointment. He expressed the hope that there would be a collaborative approach and shared vision in the Group's discussions.

#### 4. Terms of Reference

There was circulated draft Terms of Reference which provide for the Working Group to design objectives, make decisions and invite specialist support all in terms of the remit of the Working Group agreed at the City of Inverness Area Committee held on 18 November 2021.

Following discussion, the Working **AGREED** the Terms of Reference for the Inverness East Sports Facilities Working Group, subject to the following amendments as underlined:-

Para 1.1 – 6<sup>th</sup> line – “...for the principal benefit of the residents of the City of Inverness and wider Highlands”

Para 2.1 – “to agree a draft Action Plan (which would be subject to the approval of the CIAC) and review it on a regular basis”

Para 2.4 – “providing feedback and advice on issues that affect potential partners and stakeholders”

Para 3.1 – “the Group will meet a minimum of six times a year.”

Para 3.4. – “ There may be a requirement for additional meetings for advice should the need arise.”

Para 4.1 – 5<sup>th</sup> line “List of Councillors (only Councillors have voting rights)”

Para 4.2 – “The Group will have power to co-opt additional representatives as may be reasonably required....”

#### 5. Group Objectives

There was circulated an extract copy of the minute of meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee held on 18 November 2021, detailing the decision to support the Motion to create the Inverness East Sport Facilities Working Group.

Members were invited to consider steps to formulate a set of objectives, allowing for an Action Plan to be prepared in readiness for the next meeting, based on the terms of the Motion.

In discussion, reference was made to the need to set the scope of the working group; location for sports facilities; type of facilities, funding and how this aligned with work being carried out in other areas of the Council such as education and planning.

In terms of initial additional representatives being invited to the Working Group suggestions made were – High Life Highland; Highlands & Islands Enterprise; Sports Scotland; Planning team; Education sport, University of Highlands &

Islands and NHS Highland. These organisations would be able to advise on the work being carried out already so that the Group could determine the need for and type of sports facilities required in an informed manner. In this respect, it was suggested that the next meeting should reflect on work already carried out, such as the Bught Park feasibility study. This would inform the Group as to whether there was a need to commission work on what the City of Inverness requires. There were sports facilities in other areas of the City and new facilities in the East of Inverness should complement those.

An outcome from the work of the Group may be to encourage collaboration between various sports groups to share facilities in order to make best use of facilities should they be provided. Therefore, it would be helpful to determine how do sports groups work together to make the best use of current facilities. However, it was determined that no contact would be made with individual sports groups at this time, although, this may happen at a later date once objectives had been set once all facts were known regarding initiatives already undertaken.

On a separate matter to the discussion on the project brief for Inverness East sports facilities, information was provided on work carried out on plans for a sports pitch at the Inverness College UHI campus.

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

i to invite Senior representatives from the following organisations to be co-opted onto and be part of the Working Group:- High Life Highland; Highlands & Islands Enterprise; Sports Scotland; University of Highlands & Islands and the Head Teacher of Millburn Academy.

ii to scope out the location, type and funding of sports facilities for the east of Inverness at future meetings of the Group.

## **6. AOB and Date of Next Meeting**

The Group **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 27 January, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.