

Agenda Item	8
Report No	ERA/14/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 5 September 2022

Report Title: Tain Common Good Fund – Quarter 1 Monitoring Report

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter One monitoring statement for the Tain Common Good Fund (TCGF). Income and expenditure are as agreed as part of the budget setting process.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- Scrutinise and note the Quarter 1 monitoring statement for the Tain Common Good Fund.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource implications:** The Q1 monitoring statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget.
- 3.2 **Legal implications:** 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 limited 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 implications:** without a potential income from the mussel beds, the TCGF will struggle to cover its costs and the ongoing repairs to its assets. Ongoing monitoring of the mussel beds is therefore essential in order to establish a long-term position for the TCG.
- 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 2022 against budget and the estimated year end position is attached at Appendix 1.

4.2 Income

- The market stalls and grazings are all let. Rental income is expected to be on budget by year end.
- A small amount of income in the form of interest on revenue balances is expected in the 4th quarter.

4.3 Expenditure

- Property Costs – As shown in the monitoring statement there has been £32 property expenditure to date. However, additional property costs may occur due to newly identified Tain Common Good responsibilities in relation to the Golf Club lease (including the road – see below) and the cost of removal of an abandoned vehicle from Tain links.
- Golf Club road – Members will recall £20k was allocated from TCGF reserves to take forward this work. At the time of writing the report, the gullies have been replaced/repared and the culvert has been renewed. Surfacing the Golf Club road will follow once the Council's main surface dressing programme has finished.
- Tain Mussel Fishery – Expenditure of £1,000 is proposed against the mussel fisheries budget. This will be match funding to support an application to NatureScot to purchase improved survey equipment and pay for a drone survey which will be able to provide more detailed information than the walk-in survey originally proposed.
- There will be a charge for the TCGF proportion of the costs of the Common Good Fund Officer which is budgeted for.

5 Current Common Good Issues

5.1 Blarliath land ownership

Enquiries have taken place into Blarliath land ownership. Due to the age of most of the transactions and the extensive time that would be required to undertake this, it is not possible to prepare a definitive schedule of property transactions. However, it has been possible to clarify and resolve one of the more recent transactions. In or about 2010, Unit 2b was leased with an option to purchase after 5 years. Unit 2b is on ground held jointly by General Fund and TCGF and the proposal was that the

rental would be received by the General Fund with any sale proceeds being divided between General Fund and TCGF. The actual sale did not take place until 2018 and unfortunately the agreement to divide the proceeds of sale was overlooked. The total amount received for the purchase was £9,675.86. This has now been divided 50:50 and £4837.93 has been transferred to TCGF.

Designation: ECO, Communities and Place

Date: 11 Aug 2022

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Appendix 1

Tain Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring Period to June 22/23

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Estimated Outturn	Variance £
INCOME				
Rents	3,035	8,600	8,600	-
Interest and investment income	-	1,600	1,600	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>3,035</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs	-	2,000	2,000	-
Property costs	32	5,000	5,000	-
Central Support Charges	-	1,000	1,000	-
Tain Mussel Fishery	-	2,000	2,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>32</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u><u>3,003</u></u>	<u><u>200</u></u>	<u><u>200</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

Unaudited Usable Reserves 2021/22

£223,117