

Agenda Item	8
Report No	ERA/20/22

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Easter Ross Area Committee

Date: 8 November 2022

Report Title: Invergordon Common Good Fund – Quarter 2 monitoring report 2022/23

Report By: 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 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 This report asks Members to scrutinise and note:
- the Q2 monitoring statement for the Invergordon Common Good Fund;
 - Note the update on current Invergordon Common Good issues

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource implications:** The Q2 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. Any disposal of Common Good assets has and will be taken forward within the framework of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 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 implications:** As noted previously to this committee, before considering sale of the Bouchardon Bust it is critical that the wider implications of any such sale are considered. If sale is likely to be considered unfavourably this could result in some significant heritage funders not supporting funding to the Highland Council as a whole. This could have

significant implications for the wider Highland Council, and this will be required to be considered as part of any options appraisal on the potential for sale.

3.5 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Gaelic implications:** None

4. **Quarter 2 Monitoring Statement**

4.1 A monitoring statement showing transactions to the end of September 2022 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Income

- Invergordon Town Hall is rented to Highlife Highland at a rent of £3,500 for 2022/23. This rent was received in Q2.
- A small amount of income in the form of interest on revenue balances is expected in the 4th quarter.
- Total income for the year is expected to be on budget.

4.3 Expenditure

- There is a small property budget set aside for minor repairs and other property costs. In addition to spend of £255 in Q1, £93 was incurred for advertising fees associated with the Sherriff Court approval for the Town Hall disposal (see 5.1).
- In due course, there will be charges for the marketing of the Town Hall
- Staff costs include Invergordon Common Good Fund's proportion of the costs of the Common Good Fund Officer which is budgeted for.
- Total expenditure for the year is expected to be on budget.

5 **Current Common Good Issues**

5.1 Invergordon Town Hall

In February 2022 Members agreed to recommend to Highland Council that the Town Hall be disposed of by sale following a second disposal consultation under the Community Empowerment Act. This was agreed and following that Sherriff Court approval for such a sale was granted on 31 May 2022. The property will be marketed shortly.

5.2 Bouchardon Bust

Work is ongoing to explore the issues associated with any potential sale of the Bust. Detailed information will be compiled into a full report to be brought before a future meeting of Easter Ross Area Committee.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 6 October 2022

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Appendix 1

Invergordon Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring Period to Sept 22/23

	Actual to date £	Budget £	Estimated Outturn	Variance £
Income				
Rents	3,500	3,500	3,500	0
Interest and investment income	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenditure				
Staff Costs	551	1,100	1,100	0
Property costs	348	2,000	2,000	0
Central Support	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>899</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>0</u>
Income less Expenditure	<u><u>2,601</u></u>	<u><u>600</u></u>	<u><u>600</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>
Unaudited Usable Reserves 2021/22		£81,305		