

Agenda Item	9
Report No	CIA/31/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 24 November 2022

Report Title: Inverness Wards Repurposing COVID-19 Fund

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals for the allocation of covid-19 funding.
- 1.2 It was agreed at a meeting of the Highland Council on 7 January 2021 that Wards with unspent COVID-19 funds could decide to spend this on projects to assist children and adults post covid, especially within deprived areas. Any re-purposing of COVID-19 funds should be agreed at the local committee.
- 1.3 The report seeks approval for Covid-19 monies from Inverness Ness-side, Inverness Millburn, Inverness South, Inverness West and Inverness Central to be repurposed to support a feasibility study to be carried out on the future of Whin Park.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree the repurposing of the following COVID-19 funds:
 - i. **Ward 13 – Inverness West**
£1,000 from the Ward COVID-19 Fund to support the feasibility study.
 - ii. **Ward 14 – Inverness Central**
£1,000 from the Ward COVID-19 Fund to support the feasibility study.
 - iii. **Ward 15 – Inverness Ness-side**
£1,000 from the Ward COVID-19 Fund to support the feasibility study.
 - iv. **Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn**
£1,000 from the Ward COVID-19 Fund to support the feasibility study
 - v. **Ward 19 – Inverness South**
£1000 from the Ward COVID-19 Fund to support the feasibility study

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource implications – The resource implications are set out in the report and set out the proposed allocations against each of the City Wards.
- 3.2 Legal implications – There are no legal implications.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) impacts – The allocation of the funding is to support the redevelopment of Whin Park, creating improved accessibility outdoor space to encourage greater use and promote mental wellbeing.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever implications – There are no specific climate change implications, but some projects will have positive climate change impacts such as the community growing projects.
- 3.5 Risk implications – There are no specific risk implications, the funding will be managed, and the feasibility study delivered by Property & Housing Service.
- 3.6 Gaelic implications – There are no specific Gaelic implications.

4. Whin Park Feasibility Study

- 4.1 It is proposed to undertake a feasibility study to ascertain the necessary works and associated costs of refurbishing the Whin Park Play areas, including other associated areas within the site, to ensure that they are compliant for all users of the park. The details of the rationale and background for the proposed feasibility study are set out at item 8 on this Committee's agenda.

- The cost of this study is £10K and, it is proposed this is made up of £5k Common Good Funding and contributions of £1,250 from the ward budgets of the main City wards - wards 13,14,15 & 16. Permission is sought to repurpose covid-19 funds for this purpose.
- 4.2

5. Ward 15 – Inverness Ness-side

- 5.1 Following discussions with the Ward manager through email circulated for approval, Ward Members wish to support this feasibility project with re-purposed funding from their COVID-19 budget.
- 5.2 Members are asked to agree to repurposing the funding of £1,000 from the COVID-19 budget for the Ward.

6. Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn

- 6.1 Following discussions with the Ward manager through email circulated for approval, Ward Members wish to support this feasibility project with re-purposed funding from their COVID-19 budget.
- 6.2 Members are asked to agree to repurposing the funding of £1,000 from the COVID-19 budget for the Ward.

7. Ward 13 – Inverness West

- 7.1 Following discussions with the Ward manager through email circulated for approval, Ward Members wish to support this feasibility project with re-purposed funding from their COVID-19 budget.
- 7.2 Members are asked to agree to repurposing the funding of £1,000 from the COVID-19 budget for the Ward.

8. Ward 14 – Inverness Central

- 8.1 Following discussions with the Ward manager through email circulated for approval, Ward Members wish to support this feasibility project with re-purposed funding from their COVID-19 budget.
- 8.2 Members are asked to agree to repurposing the funding of £1,000 from the COVID-19 budget for the Ward.

9. Ward 19 – Inverness South

- 9.1 Following discussions with the Ward manager through email circulated for approval, Ward Members wish to support this feasibility project with re-purposed funding from their COVID-19 budget.
- 9.2 Members are asked to agree to repurposing the funding of £1,000 from the COVID-19 budget for the Ward.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities & Place

Date: 08/11/2022

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