

The Highland Council

Minutes of **City of Inverness Area Committee** took place **Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness** on **Monday 26 September 2022** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Mr C Aitken (remote)	Mrs J Hendry
Mr C Ballance	Ms E Knox
Mr B Boyd	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mr I Brown	Mr R MacKintosh (remote)
Mr M Cameron (remote)	Mr A MacKintosh
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Ms K MacLean
Mr A Christie	Mr D Macpherson
Ms H Crawford (remote)	Mrs B McAllister
Mr K Gowans (remote)	Mrs M Reid
Mr A Graham	Mrs T Robertson
Mr D Gregg	Mr A Sinclair (remote)

Officials in Attendance:

Mr A Gunn, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Mr M MacLeod, Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure, Economy & Environment
Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Mr S Dalgarno, Development Plans Manager, Infrastructure, Environment & Economy
Mrs S McKandie, Interim Head of Revenues & Business Support
Mr G Munro, Policy & Assurance Officer, Resources and Finance
Mr J Taylor, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment & Economy
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance
Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Performance and Governance
Mrs O Bayon, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in Attendance:-

Chief Inspector Judy Hill, Police Scotland

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.

Preliminaries

The Committee **NOTED** the following awards:-

- William John Dingwall, Vice-President and Standard Bearer, Inverness Branch, Royal British Legion Scotland received a Medal of the Order of the British Empire for his voluntary service to veterans; and
- Lindsay Graham, Deputy Chair, Poverty and Inequality Commission Scotland received an Order of the British Empire for services to Tackling Children's Food Insecurity.

Mr I Brown in the Chair

Business

**1. Apologies for Absence
Leisgeulan**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr D Fraser.

**2. Declarations of Interest
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Transparency Statements:-

Item 5: Mr A Christie

Item 7 (xiii): Mr A Christie

Item 8: Mr A Christie

**3. Recess Powers
Cumhachdan Fosaidh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022 had not been required to be exercised in relation to the business of this Committee.

Additional Item

The Leader explained that, following the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the need to revise the date of the meeting, a number of key officers had been unable to attend due to other commitments.

As the Committee's approval was required to truncate the agenda, Mr I Brown, seconded by Ms E Knox, **MOVED**, to consider only the items that required a decision today, namely item 1-4, 7-9, 10d, 12 and 13. An email had been sent to Members with regard to this proposal.

Mr A Christie, seconded by Mr D MacPherson, moved as an **AMENDMENT**, to continue with the full agenda.

Following a vote, the Motion received 10 votes and the amendment received 11 votes, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore carried, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion:

Mr M Cameron, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mrs J Hendry, Mr B Boyd, Mr C Ballance, Mr I Brown, Ms E Knox, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Reid.

For the amendment:

Mr C Aitken, Mrs H Crawford, Mr A Sinclair, Mrs T Robertson, Mrs E McAllister, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr D MacPherson, Mr D Gregg, Mr A Christie, Mr A Graham, Mr A MacKintosh.

**4. Police – Area Performance Summary
Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil**

There was circulated Report No CIA/17/22 by the Inverness Area Commander.

During discussion the following issues were raised and responded to:

- Members welcomed the new format of the report, the 'Coffee with a Cop' initiative, and the monthly newsletter to Community Councils, and it was asked if the newsletter could be extended to Community Councils in outlying villages and settlements;
- it was disappointing that some of the 20mph zones around schools were not being enforced. Additional road furniture to slow traffic was helpful but costly. This was an area which would benefit from further consideration in future;
- cold calling and fly tipping were areas of concern to residents and specific incidents should be reported to the Police. Concern was expressed that the response times could be lengthy;
- concern was expressed at the high level of drug deaths in Scotland, and the antisocial behaviour that resulted from drug activities. Information was provided on initiatives to tackle this, including a Harm Prevention Officer funded by Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership;
- concern was expressed at the response times to 101 calls and a call back or call waiting information service was proposed;
- information was sought ,and provided, on the CCTV provision in Inverness;
- the increasing numbers of disappearances of Looked After Children and young people were a concern and it was hoped more local people would consider fostering to help keep young people in the Highlands. Information was provided on the process and resources for dealing with missing people, and for suicide-related issues; and
- many online crimes were dealt with by national units and work was being undertaken with pupils in the senior phase of secondary school to raise awareness of online issues.

The Committee thanked the Chief Inspector for her attendance and **NOTED** the report.

5. Inverness Strategy Update Ro-innleachd Baile Inbhir Nis

Transparency Statement: Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as a Non-executive director of NHS Highland and as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There was circulated Report No. CIA/18/22 dated 29 August, 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In discussion, the following main points were raised by Members:-

- the strategy was welcomed and considered comprehensive, with many projects having been discussed for a considerable length of time. The challenges around modernising the layout of an old town centre were acknowledged;
- it was hoped that linkage between the train and bus stations and Academy Street would be improved;
- the proposals in relation to active travel, with particular reference to central Inverness, were not sufficiently ambitious or transformative enough in light of the climate change emergency and examples were provided of further improvements that could be made, such as one-way systems, segregated

- active travel routes and clearly marked safe cycle routes. The importance of cycle tourism, and adequate links to long distance routes, was pointed out;
- assurance was sought that there would be no loss of employment as a result of the redevelopment of freight yards and depots;
 - it was hoped feedback on the consultations held in July, August and September 2022 would be made available in due course;
 - the development of the strategy was so important it was suggested a separate meeting might be required. The formation of a stakeholder group was also suggested, as well as a timeline and ragging system, and information on progress with this was provided;
 - assurance was sought and provided, that the engagement strategy would include all stakeholders, including charitable outlets in the city centre which were not part of the BID, and would include physical as well as online engagement;
 - it was hoped efforts could be made to encourage the use of empty buildings and to improve employment opportunities in the city centre;
 - in addition to active travel issues, it was important to consider access to the city centre for people unable to walk or cycle;
 - visitor engagement and/or feedback in relation to the strategy should be encouraged;
 - the planned redevelopment of various schools by 2025 was ambitious but welcomed. It was important the strategy was developed in conjunction with improvements to the school estate;
 - it was disappointing the Inshes junction upgrade was not anticipated until 2030;
 - consideration was given to possible future uses of Farraline Park, Inverness;
 - concerns were raised about gaps in the roll out of City Fibre broadband;
 - inward investment to improve the city centre should be included; and
 - it was important to communicate what was happening to the wider public and also to be honest about what was achievable.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the progress made to date, including the commitment to appointing a Project Manager to coordinate place-based work across Inverness
- ii. **NOTED** the list of delivered, live and emerging projects set out in Appendix 1;
- iii. **AGREED** for officers to undertake engagement on the Inverness Strategy incorporating outcomes / vision, the key projects, and a new masterplan for the City Centre, with feedback and next steps to be reported to a future Committee;
- iv. **AGREED** that the Inverness One City, One Vision as set out in Appendix 2 was integrated into the overall vision for the city and that the projects being taken forward will be viewed in that context, and timescales, subject to funding opportunities being identified;
- v. **NOTED** that in advance of the consultation officers will brief the Community Planning Partnership on the work to date and the proposed consultation to ensure a collaborative cross-Council and cross-sector approach; and
- vi. **NOTED** that in partnership with Corporate Communications and Digital Services, Officers will develop a branding and communications strategy for the Inverness place-based work, including the development of a dedicated 'Inverness portal' webpage for all Inverness workstreams and consultations.

6. Notion of Motion Brath Gluasaid

The following Notice of Motion had been received by the Head of Legal and Governance –

(i) “The venue for Area Committee meetings is a decision for councillors. The Town House has been the centre of Inverness local government for centuries and is well capable of continuing to fulfil this role. The Committee resolves that meetings of Inverness City Area Committee return to the Town House forthwith”.

Signed: Alex Graham Alasdair Christie Mr C Aitkin Mrs T Robertson

During discussion a number of Members spoke in support of the Motion, raising the following points:-

- the Town House was the natural home of the City of Inverness Area (CIA) Committee;
- if the CIA Committee met at Glenurquhart Road there was a fear it would lose its identity and become just like any other Headquarters Committee. It was vital that there was a distinction;
- in determining the matter, it was important to bear in mind what was best for the CIA Committee and, in this instance, it was for it to return to the Town House;
- the Town House had been the focus for local government for hundreds of years and – whether it be the Burgh, Town or District Council – they had all met in the Town House. Members had a sense of pride meeting there, in what was recognised widely as a Municipal Building;
- the change of venue to Headquarters should have been discussed by the Committee. There had been no consultation and no Business Plan showing the reasons for the relocation;
- the Town House had recently undergone an £8m refurbishment. Currently it was under used but there was scope for attracting other organisation to use its facilities, thus generating an income, something very important at this time;
- the investment to upgrade the technology to facilitate hybrid meetings should be made, although it was questioned why this hadn't been included as part of the refurbishment to future proof it for the 21st Century;
- MS Teams was available in the Town House and Members were reminded that meetings had previously been webcast from there;
- it was essential, as part of the Council's localism agenda, meetings be held in the Town House and the decision should not be based simply down to cost. The City of Inverness Area Committee was the largest Local Committee, in fact bigger than some other Local Authorities, and it was right for it to have pride of place in the Town House;
- the people of Inverness would want the CIA Committee to be held in the Town House;
- in response to questions about available parking at the Town House it was pointed out that there were various car parking options in Inverness;
- parts of Headquarters were also difficult to navigate for those with mobility issues;
- if it was argued that the Town House was not DDA compliant, then there was possibly an issue that, and was suggested that the Provost consider, it was also unsuitable for Civic functions. If it was used less there was a danger it would close;

- it was reported that others with mobility issues had reported no difficulty with access to the Town House
- for those using public transport, the town centre was much more accessible than Council Headquarters in Glenurquhart Road; and
- it was suggested by a Member had been advised that it had been possible for the Committee to meet in the Town House and the reasons for the move were called into question.

Other Members, however, spoke against the Motion, making the following points:-

- whilst the Town House might be convenient for those living in Inverness, for those Members living in the outlying areas it wasn't so accessible, especially if using public transport;
- it was acknowledged that the Town House was a beautiful civic building, an undoubted asset to Inverness. It also had historical, architectural and artistic significance but it was not fit to use as a venue for holding CIA Committee meetings;
- the money spent in upgrading the Town House was not solely for the purposes of holding Committee meetings there - it was for the public to visit and appreciate the building;
- the Town House was difficult to navigate if one had sensory or mobility impairments with its narrow corridors and stairs;
- a lift was available but it small, difficult to manoeuvre in/out off and only went as far as the first floor;
- a hearing loop system was only available in the Town Hall but not in the Town House Chamber whereas the Headquarters Chamber did have this facility;
- there was limited parking at the Town House;
- the ICT infrastructure at Headquarters was considerably better with a number of Members able to join the meeting on MS Teams. This had become the norm for many meetings and, if meetings reverted to the Town House, then it would go against the Council hybrid working policy. Also, joining the meeting remotely from home was more environmentally friendly;
- the Town House Chamber was cramped for CIA Committee meetings;
- adaptations would cost in the region of £75k and it was argued this was not the best use of Common Good money;
- the Committee was the sum of the Members and the decisions made, not the venue; and
- due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Committee had met remotely for two years and the issue of loss of identity had not been raised.

Mr A Graham, seconded by Mr A Christie, **MOVED** the terms of the Notice of Motion as detailed above.

Ms E Knox, seconded by Mr M Cameron, moved as an **AMENDMENT** to reject the motion.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 11 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 11 votes, with no abstentions. In terms of Standing Order 29, the Chair had the casting vote and elected to vote for the **AMENDMENT** which was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion

Mr C Aitkin; Mr A Christie; Mrs H Crawford; Mr A Graham; Mr D Gregg; Mrs I MacKenzie; Mr A MacKintosh; Mr D Macpherson; Mrs B McAllister; Mrs T Robertson; Mr A Sinclair

For the Amendment

Mr C Ballance; Mr B Boyd; Mr I Brown; Mr M Cameron; Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair; Mr K Gowans; Mrs J Hendry; Ms E Knox; Mr R MacKintosh; Ms K MacLean; Mrs M Reid.

Casting Vote

Mr I Brown – Amendment

Decision

The Committee **REJECTED** the Motion.

7. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Suidheachadh Dhreuchdan gu Buidhnean on Taobh A-muigh

Transparency Statement: Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of item 7 (xiii) as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

The Committee **APPROVED** the appointments to the following Outside Bodies:

- (i) **Addictions Counselling Inverness** – Ms K MacLean and Mr A Graham
- (ii) **Dr Forbes Trust** – Provost, Mr M Cameron, Mr C Ballance, and Mr D Gregg
- (iii) **Highland Disability Sport** – Mrs E McAllister
- (iv) **Inverness and Nairn Local Access Forum** – Mr M Cameron and Mr R MacKintosh
- (v) **Inverness BID** – City Leader
- (vii) **Inverness Civic Trust** – Mr D Macpherson and Mrs I MacKenzie
- (viii) **Inverness Community Safety Partnership** – Mrs E McAllister
- (ix) **Inverness Festival Association** – Provost, Mr D Macpherson and Mr R MacKintosh
- (x) **Inverness Partnership (Chair)** – City Leader. While others had expressed an interest, it was clarified Members were welcome to attend the meetings.
- (xi) **Visit Inverness Loch Ness** – City Leader
- (xii) **Inverness Town Twinning Committee** – The Committee **AGREED** to increase the number of nominees from 5 to 7 and appointed the following: Provost, Mrs M Reid, Mrs J Hendry, Ms K Maclean, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mrs E McAllister and Mr D Macpherson.
- (xiii) **Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens' Advice Bureau** – Mr D Gregg
- (xiv) **Ness District Salmon Fisheries Board** – Mr C Ballance
- (xv) **Victorian Market Stakeholder Group** – City Leader and Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr M Cameron, Mrs E McAllister, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr D Macpherson
- (xvi) **City Area Development Group** – 12 political balanced places were available and the appointments were made as follows:- Mrs M Reid (Highland Independents); Mr I Brown, Mrs J Hendry, Ms K MacLean (SNP); Mr D Gregg (Lib Dems); Mrs B McAllister (Labour); Mrs I MacKenzie (Scottish Conservatives); Mr C Ballance (Scottish Greens) and, with the remaining Lib Dem place being provided to Mr D Macpherson.

- (xvii) **East Inverness Sports Facilities Working Group** – The Committee **AGREED** to increase the number of available places from 7 to 8 as follows – Mrs M Reid, Mr D MacPherson, Mr I Brown, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr K Gowans, Mr D Gregg, Mrs E McAllister, Mr R MacKintosh. It was clarified that all Members were welcome to attend meetings.

The Committee **NOTED** that appointment to Item 7(vi), Inverness City Heritage Trust, had been deferred meantime.

8. Inverness Common Good Fund: Discretionary Scheme for Winter Payments Plan 2022/23
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis: Sgeama fo Ùghdarras airson Plana Pàighidhean Geamhraidh 2022/23

Transparency Statement: Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There was circulated Report No CIA/19/22 dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

In discussion, the following main points were raised by Members:-

- clarification was sought, and provided, that the £50 winter payment mentioned at the Council meeting the previous week was a Scottish Government benefit-based scheme to replace the previous cold weather payment, and was not something that impacted on Council or CGF budgets;
- it was proposed that the £97 be approved today but increased to £150, subject to a satisfactory financial assessment being presented to a next meeting of the Committee;
- consideration should be given to also helping those just above the threshold for benefits, many of whom would struggle financially over the coming winter;
- it was confusing, even for professionals, to understand what benefits were available, who was eligible and what the route to apply for them was, and a flowchart depicting this was requested;
- assurance was sought, and provided, that payments could be made to people without bank accounts if required. A summary was provided of who was eligible, how they would be identified, how the scheme would be publicised and how people would receive the money; and
- Members thanked the welfare team for their work.

The Committee **AGREED** the following recommendations for the 2022/23 Inverness Winter Payments Discretionary Scheme:-

- i. accept applications from 1 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 inclusive;
- ii. propose an increase to the single tier payment to £150, subject to a financial assessment report brought back to the next City of Inverness Area Committee Meeting, and pending this assessment, agree to the £97 amount specified in the report to those applicants that satisfy the eligibility criteria;
- iii. provide a budget of £200,000 as agreed by Members at Committee on 17 February 2022 to accommodate the continuing demand as a result of the

- cost of living crisis, ongoing welfare reforms and fluctuations in energy costs, with provision for the budget to be increased pending the outcome of the full financial impact, this decision being deferred to the meeting of the Committee in November 2022. Also noting that payments for Landward Areas would be sourced from available income within the Inverness Benevolent Funds first, with the ICGF being utilised for the Landward Areas in the event that officers decided it financially prudent to do so;
- iv. that the criteria utilised for the 2021/22 scheme as set out in paragraphs 11.2 to 11.6 shall be used as the basis for the 2022/23 scheme;
 - v. this discretionary scheme was to be made available to residents in the City of Inverness and the Landward areas of the seven City Wards;
 - vi. BACS payments were to be used for this discretionary scheme as this is the most secure method of payment for recipients of the payment and the Council alike;

and:-

- vii. **NOTED** that for 2022/23 applications for grants to support Foodbank provision would be considered under the ICGF Grants Budget. All as more particularly referred to in Para 10 of the report; and
- viii. **AGREED** a flow chart be prepared for Members showing benefit information sources and routes.

9. Winter Service Plan 2022/23 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh 2022/23

There was circulated Report No. CIA/20/22 dated 17 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In discussion, the following main points were raised by Members:-

- Members expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the team;
- information was sought, and provided, as to the mechanism of communicating any changes to the arrangements to Members and the general public, whether it to be as a result of Covid 19 or other factors;
- concern was expressed that the Whiteness route, as a school bus route, had been, excluded. It was explained however that Whiteness was in the Nairn Area;
- the new development at Ness Castle only showed gritting up to the first roundabout but, with the proposed new school coming online, it was requested, as in similar areas, if this could be extended as a secondary route;
- concern was expressed at footpath clearing, especially at the periphery of the city centre, as many Members had received complaints about this;
- to encourage use of grit bins it was suggested plastic scoops be provided However, in response, it was explained that, given how heavy grit was, steel scoops would be required;
- with many housing developments now taking place on the hills surrounding Inverness, it was important to reassure these residents that they would receive the service they deserved;
- flexibility was called for, especially when bad weather hit on a Sunday, whilst still recognising the need to comply with driver regulations;
- details were sought, and provided, as to the budget for the Winter Service as it was felt it was under funded and under resourced;

- information was sought, and provided, as to the extent of liabilities which the Service received;
- the Service Plan supported a number of other Council Committees and outside bodies and it was suggested that contact also be made with Third Sector Groups, especially those concerned with elderly people;
- a request was made for Members to be sent the contact details of the officer who community self -help groups could get in touch with;
- it was queried what contact was made with Stage Coach and exploring the possibility of them assisting with clearing routes;
- there needed to be a clear message that AMEY now managed the A96 route and were responsible for the gritting of the A96 Trunk Road footway/cycleway from the Raigmore Interchange to the Smithton Roundabout; and
- details were sought as to what Primary Cycleways were classed as. The provision of maps would help cyclists to chose safer routes during times of bad weather.

The Committee:-

- APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for Inverness Area; and
- NOTED** that Covid-19 and driver's hours regulations will potentially have an impact on the winter service provided.

10. Inverness Common Good Fund Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis

a) Financial Monitoring Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail

There was circulated Report No CIA/21/22 dated 25 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

Members felt there was a need to look at how expenditure might be redirected, particularly in relation to Appendix 1, towards poverty alleviation measures but this would require detailed reports. Accordingly, it was suggested that a special meeting of the Committee be held in October to review this expenditure with a view to redirecting it to facilitate this end.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** that overall expenditure was within agreed budgets excepting the estimated outturns detailed in Appendices 1 and 2;
- AGREED** to homologate expenditure of £0.045m incurred in respect fly tipping at the Longman Landfill Site to date as outlined and **NOTED** that additional works referred to would be undertaken and reported to Committee in due course; and
- AGREED** a special meeting of the Committee be held in October to review expenditure with a view to redirect resources to poverty alleviation measures.

b) Capital Projects Update Report Aithisg às Ùr mu Phròiseactan Calpa

There was circulated joint Report No CIA/22/22 dated 23 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing & Property and Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

The Committee **NOTED** the current status of capital projects.

**c) Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee Annual Report 2021/22
Aithisg Bhliadhnaidh Fo-Chomataidh Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis
2021/22**

There was circulated Report No CIA/23/22 dated 25 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

It was hoped a Press Release would be considered, highlighting the Annual Report, to explain, in detail to the general public, what the Common Good Fund had undertaken during 2021/22. The Members of the Common Good Fund Sub Committee were thanked, particularly former Councillors Carmichael and Ross who had chaired the Sub Committee in the previous Administration.

The Committee **NOTED** the work of the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee as described within the report.

**d) Grant Applications over £10,000
Iarrtasan Tabhartais thar £10,000**

There was circulated Report No CIA/24/22 dated 22 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

The Committee determined the current grant applications as follows:-

- 1) Free North Church – **REFUSED**; and
- 2) City Decorative Lighting – **DEFERRED**.

**11. Appointments to Events and Festivals Working Group
Suidheachadh Dhreuchdan gu Buidheann-obrach nan Tachartasan is nam
Fèisean**

Mr D Macpherson was nominated by Mrs I MacKenzie and this was seconded by Mrs T Robertson.

Mr A MacKintosh was nominated by Mrs B McAllister and this was seconded by Mr A Graham.

Ms K MacLean was nominated by Mrs J Hendry and this was seconded by Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair.

On a vote being taken, Mr Macpherson received 6 votes, Mr MacKintosh received 5 votes and Ms MacLean received 10 votes the votes having been cast as follows:-

Votes for Mr Macpherson

Mr C Aitkin; Mrs H Crawford; Mrs I MacKenzie; Mr D Macpherson; Mrs T Robertson; Mr A Sinclair.

Votes for Mr A MacKintosh

Mr A Christie; Mr A Graham; Mr D Gregg; Mr A MacKintosh; Mrs B McAllister.

Votes for Ms K MacLean

Mr M Cameron; Mr R MacKintosh; Ms K MacLean, C Aitkin; Mr A Christie; Ms H Crawford; Mr A Graham; Mr D Gregg; Mrs I MacKenzie; Mr D Macpherson; Mrs T Robertson; Mr A Sinclair.

The Committee **AGREED** to appoint Ms MacLean to replace Mrs I MacKenzie on the Events and Festivals Working Group.

(N.B. Incomplete vote – item to be revisited at Committee on 24 November 2022)

12. Inverness Local Holidays 2023/24 Saor-làithean Ionadail Inbhir Nis 2023/24

The Committee **AGREED** the following dates as Local Holidays for the City of Inverness for years 2023 and 2024.

2023

Monday 2 January 2023 (New Year's Day)
Tuesday 3 January 2023 (2nd January Holiday)
Monday 6 February 2023
Monday 6 March 2023
Monday 10 April 2023 (Easter Monday)
Monday 1 May 2023 (May Day Holiday)
Monday 3 July 2023
Monday 2 October 2023
Monday 6 November 2023
Monday 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day)
Tuesday 26 December 2023 (Boxing Day)

2024

Monday 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day)
Tuesday 2 January 2024 (2nd January Holiday)
Monday 5 February 2024
Monday 4 March 2024
Monday 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday)
Monday 6 May 2024 (May Day Holiday)
Monday 1 July 2024
Monday 7 October 2024
Monday 4 November 2024
Wednesday 25 December 2024 (Christmas Day)
Thursday 26 December 2024 (Boxing Day)

13. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** City of Inverness Area Committee held on 8 June, 2022;
- ii. **APPROVED** Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee on 27 June and 15 August, 2022; and
- iii. **APPROVED** Events and Festivals Working Group held on 15 August, 2022

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm

The Highland Council

Minutes of Special Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Friday 4 November 2022 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr C Aitken (Teams)	Ms E Knox (Teams)
Mr C Ballance	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mr B Boyd	Mr R MacKintosh (Teams)
Mr I Brown (Chair)	Mr A MacKintosh
Mr M Cameron (Teams)	Ms K MacLean
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Mr D Macpherson
Mr A Christie	Mrs B McAllister
Mr D Fraser (Teams)	Mrs M Reid
Mr K Gowans (Teams)	Mrs T Robertson
Mr A Graham	Mr A Sinclair (Teams)
Mrs J Hendry	

In attendance:

Mr A Gunn, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Ms A Clark, Head of Community Support and Engagement
Ms S McKandie, Head of Revenues and Customer Services
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Ms L Harrison, Accountant
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator
Miss M Murray, Committee Administrator
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Mr I Brown in the Chair

Business

**1. Apologies for Absence
Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms H Crawford and Mr D Gregg.

**2. Declarations of Interest
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**3. Inverness Common Good Fund: Financial Monitoring and Budget Allocation Report
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis: Aithisg Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail agus Riarachadh Buidseit**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/25/22 dated 20 October 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place.

The recommendations in the report were as follows:-

- i. consider the 2022/23 financial monitoring report for the six months to 30 September 2022; note the predicted outturn and associated underspend and note the potential discretionary areas of the budget where spending could be redirected;
- ii. consider utilising £0.100m of the predicted underspend from the 2022/23 budget to increase the single tier payment for those applicants that satisfied the eligibility criteria for the Winter Payment Scheme for 2022/23 to £150 in the light of the Cost of Living Crisis;
- iii. consider and agree any areas of the budget they may wish to repurpose for poverty alleviation measures;
- iv. consider and discuss the type of poverty alleviation measures they would wish to see proposed, noting any proposals would be subject to a report to CIAC on 24 November 2022, noting that this is subject to and dependent upon the type of proposals suggested and the associated work to develop these in sufficient time for the meeting on the 24 November 2022; and
- v. agree to a series of Members' workshops to be held in preparation of the ICGF Budget for 2023/24, with a focus on establishing priorities for the ICGF, planned to be presented to the first scheduled meeting of the CIAC in 2023.

The Provost of Inverness and Area, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, stated that, given the current financial uncertainty, the rise in inflation and interest rates, the recent budget statement by the Scottish Government's Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, and the financial turmoil at Westminster as Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's budget statement on 17 November 2022 was awaited, it was important that the Committee moved forward, as well-informed as it could be, under what were unprecedented circumstances.

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, seconded by Mr C Ballance, then **MOVED** that the Committee:-

- i. agree recommendation 2 on today's agenda to ensure that the winter payment of £150 was not delayed; and
- ii. defer all other business on today's agenda to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 24 November 2022.

Other Members expressed opposition to the proposal, commenting that the purpose of today's meeting was to discuss poverty alleviation measures ahead of the meeting of the Committee on 24 November. It was suggested that the Council's Political Administration did not want scrutiny of the budget or to discuss different proposals such as providing three support workers to help elderly people and check on their wellbeing rather than spending £150k on five hours of entertainment for Hogmanay. To spring such a proposal on Members at the meeting was unfair and was not a good look for any Committee to adopt. Members were urged to vote against the proposal, continue with the meeting and use the time to have the intended debate on the Inverness Common Good Fund, looking at different directions and strategies, that would help the Committee come to a consensus that would benefit the vulnerable people of the city.

Additionally, concern was expressed that the Scottish Conservative and Unionist group had not had a pre-Committee briefing and that matters were not being communicated correctly. Members had made an effort to come to Council Headquarters for the meeting and had expected a full agenda, and it was felt that nothing had been achieved during the current session due to the postponement/rescheduling of meetings.

Mr A Christie, seconded by Mrs T Robertson, then moved, as an **AMENDMENT**, to proceed with today's agenda as laid out and notified to the public and press.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 12 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 8 votes, with no abstentions. The **MOTION** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion:

Mr C Ballance, Mr B Boyd, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr D Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mrs J Hendry, Ms E Knox, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, and Mrs M Reid.

For the Amendment:

Mr C Aitken, Mr A Christie, Mr A Graham, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister and Mrs T Robertson.

During further discussion, some Members expressed dissatisfaction at the manner in which business had been conducted and an assurance was sought that no money would be spent on festive lights between now and the meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee on 24 November 2022. In response, it was explained that the festive lights budget had been agreed by the Committee in February 2022 and advice was provided that there was no basis to change this position until the Committee had debated the matter.

Decision

Notice of
Amendment

The Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. recommendation 2 on today's agenda (as detailed above) to ensure that the winter payment of £150 was not delayed; and
- ii. to defer all other business on today's agenda to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 24 November 2022.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 am.

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in the 2nd Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Wednesday, 26 October 2022 at 1.00 pm.

Present:

Highland Council:

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair } Working Group Members
Mrs J Hendry }
Mr R Mackintosh }
Mrs M Reid }

Ms K MacLean } Non-Working Group Member

Other Representatives:

Mr M Smith, Inverness BID

Officials in Attendance:

Mr A Gunn, ECO, Communities and Place
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr S Walsh, Chief Executive, High Life Highland
Mr L Christie, Funding and Sponsorship Manager, High Life Highland
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr M Golding, Visit Inverness Loch Ness Ltd and Ms J Cuddy, Eastgate Centre.

2. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members of the Working Group.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The circulated Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15 August 2022, were **NOTED**.

5. Presentation

A presentation was given by the Funding and Sponsorship Manager, High Life Highland on the following:-

Halloween – Inverness Botanics

Botanics was a light and projection experience which, together with unexpected features, brought the plants and gardens at Inverness Botanics to life. Due to open later that day, this year's event had seen the 6,000 tickets snapped up in a matter of hours with another 3,000 on the waiting list for any returned tickets. 1,200 people would visit each night. Extending the event would cost another £5,000 but it had to be borne in mind that the Events Budget was already fully committed. Nevertheless, this provided good information for Members when considering the 2023/24 Budget.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- given the cost of living crisis it was all the more important that this was a free event to enable families who might not otherwise would have been able to afford it to attend;
- the provision of a quality event was key;
- it was pleasing to see the attendance was comparable to the Halloween events that had been staged at the Ness Islands;
- careful consideration was required as to how to manage those who had not been able to get a ticket; and
- confirmation was sought, and provided, that the local Community Council had been contacted with details of the traffic management plan for this event.

Bonfire Night – Bught Park

This was a free, unticketed event but the timings this year had been brought forward with the event starting at 5pm. The bonfire would be lit at 5.45 pm and would be followed with 16 minutes of fireworks. One difficulty that had been encountered was stewarding given the number of other events taking place elsewhere but this had now been satisfactorily addressed.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- it was suggested that the 3,000 on the waiting list for the Botanics be sent the firework simulation link;
- the event had featured prominently on social media with the vast majority of comments being positive; and
- it was important to link in with the Area Commander of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as they had been particularly supportive of having one main civic event in place of smaller unsupervised bonfires.

Red Hot Highland Fling – Northern Meeting Park Arena

Another free event, this year's Fling would be hosted by Fred MacAulay with bands Manran, Tweed and Torridon playing. The last Fling had taken place in 2019 and had attracted 9,000 people. This year's event would be ticketed and

attendance limited to 5,000-6,000 on the advice of the local Safety Advisory Group.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- the Red Hot Highland Fling was a significant event for Inverness bringing in trade to local pubs, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs and confirmation was given that every reasonable effort would be made to maximise numbers attending in compliance with health and safety requirements;
- people came and went throughout the evening, some preferring to come earlier than others;
- the safety of those attending the event was paramount, as were the arrangements for clearing the ground in an emergency;
- it was suggested that a certain number of tickets be made available in advance and another number able to enter as “walk ins” on the night. It was also suggested that those with tickets had to attend by a certain time, otherwise their places would be allocated to “walk ins”;
- there was potential reputational damage if people turned up and were unable to get into the event. It was important therefore to explain that whatever limit was decided this had been done following detailed discussions and consultations;
- in 2019 a pressure point was the location of the bar and it was suggested that consideration be given to moving it elsewhere;
- the small funfair on the site plan should be removed; and
- screens showing the event should be made available for those in the “holding pen”

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the progress of the 2022/23 Events Programme.

6. Budget – Update – 2022/23

Members were informed that details of expenditure to date would form part of the Budget Monitoring Statement reported to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 24 November 2022. The budget was being carefully monitored but it was under constant pressure, especially in regard to security costs. In relation to the Red Hot Highland Fling, the Working Group were informed that the Council were now fully committed to using Fred MacAulay and the three bands. In response to a question, it was explained that the event was not insured as previous estimates were that the premiums would be prohibitive.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Friday 18 November 2022 at 2pm.

The meeting ended at 2.0 pm

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in the 2nd Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Friday, 18 November 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Highland Council:

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair } Working Group Members
Mrs J Hendry }
Mr R Mackintosh }
Mrs M Reid (in the Chair) }

Ms K MacLean } Non Working Group Member
Mr D Fraser }

Other Representatives:

Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr L Christie, Funding and Sponsorship Manager, High life Highland
Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies from Working Group Members.

2. Exclusion of the Public

Members **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 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There are circulated and were **NOTED** the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 26 October 2022.

5. Presentation

A presentation was provided by the Funding and Sponsorship Manager, High life Highland, and the Inverness City Area Manager, reporting on various recent and future event. For each event issues covered included audience, nightly totals, running order, times, parking, welfare, infrastructure, attractions,

vendors, set-up, risks, communications, security, staff & volunteers, and a budget overview.

During discussion of each event, the following issues were raised:

Night of the Bootanics 26-30 October 2022

- 6,000 tickets had been issued, with a drop-off rate of around 20% and a waiting list of over 5,000;
- wheelchair accessibility could be improved for future events;
- the stewards had been helpful and welcoming;
- covid issues had resulted in fewer performers being available and it was hoped this would be improved for future years; and
- concern was expressed at increase in young people behaving in an anti-social manner.

Bonfire Night

- the high number of attendees was welcomed, and the appeal of the event for all age groups was emphasised, with positive feedback from attendees and local residents, who had appreciated additional efforts to marshal participants and manage traffic;
- additional last minute security had caused the budget variance;
- there were fewer fairground rides than previous years and some families welcomed there being fewer opportunities to spend money. This would be reconsidered for future years;
- the five food vendors had been busy, with queues for most stalls;
- information was sought and provided on the logistics of the firework firing zone and the importance of avoiding damage to the shinty pitch, disruption to nearby residents, and the need to have safe exit zones for the audience. It was requested that consideration be given to reviewing this for future years to avoid the trees spoiling the view; and
- it was suggested by Mr R MacKintosh that the music for the fireworks was not ideal, and it was clarified that he could suggest improvements.

Red Hot Highland Fling

- information was sought and provided on the rationale for the ticketing policy;
- information was sought on the possibility of hosting over-flow in the Northern Meeting Park, however issues included the soft ground and the firework firing zone;
- it was clarified that there would be waiting lists for tickets, but that people would be urged not to attend without a ticket;
- information was sought and provided on the likely attendance logistics, noting that people would not be able to come and go freely as they had been able to in previous years, and were likely to be there for much longer period of time. This might require additional catering and licensed vendor provision. Consideration was given to possible locations for this;
- 5069 was the official maximum number of attendees and there would be a clicker system to monitor people leaving;
- it was hoped there would be a piper and / or drums at the start of the event, with ideas sought for early evening entertainment;

- even though tickets would be free, this would raise attendees' expectations;
- consideration was given to the pros and cons of asking for donations to the event on the night;
- it was hoped there would be capacity as the event progressed to issue further tickets if attendance was low, or people had left early;
- there remained some branded merchandise that could be sold, and a free stall in the Eastgate Centre was offered; and
- discussion took place on whether tickets should be charged in future years. Ideas included a 'pay what you are able to' or an 'add a donation' option.

Members **NOTED** the progress of the event planning.

6. Budget – Update – 2022/23

A presentation was provided updating Members on the expenditure to date and confirming the allocated budgets of the agreed events programme by the Funding and Sponsorship Manager, High life Highland, and the Inverness City Area Manager

Members **NOTED** the information provided.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Members **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 15 December at 3pm.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm.

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held in The Chamber, Town House, Inverness on Monday 7 November 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:

Mr C Ballance

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

Mr A Graham (Chair)

Mrs I MacKenzie

Ms K MacLean

Mr D Macpherson

Mrs E McAllister

Ms M Reid

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Mr M MacKay, Ward Manager

Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Area Manager's Office

Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance Service

Mr A Graham in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr C Aitken, Mr M Cameron and Mr A Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 4: Mr A Graham

Item 7a: Mrs E McAllister

and the following Transparency Statements:-

Item 4: Mr A Graham

Item 10: Mr C Ballance

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Sub-Committee **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 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Prior to consideration of the applications the City Area Manager introduced Mr Mark MacKay, the new Ward Manager for Wards 12, 17 and 19. Mr MacKay, who would formally take up his position on 28 November 2022, had previously been employed by

Police Scotland. Continuing, the City Area Manager also informed Members that adjustments had been made to the arrangement of the robes, at a cost of £2,600, so the Provost could continue to represent Inverness.

The Committee **NOTED** the position.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2022/23

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/09/22 dated 28 October 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager. A copy of the applications had been circulated separately.

The City Area Manager explained that the current Common Good Fund Grants Budget stood at £275,000 with a budget of £200,000 available for applications of over £5,000. This left £75,000 available for applications of less than £5,000 and at today's meeting Members would be considering applications totalling £106,365.

Discussion also took place on a number of projects including the Canal College which had now been withdrawn. In addition, referring to the Committee's decision to underwrite the Under Canvas project, it was confirmed that, to date, no claim had yet been received. It was commented that there was an impressive list of projects which had been submitted and which had been wide ranging, especially those community based ones. It was suggested, and **AGREED**, that Committee Members be encouraged to attend events so that they had a better understanding of what the Common Good was supporting.

General discussion also took place regarding the European Pipe Band Championships, the Merkinch Walkway and the Green Canopy. In relation to the application to achieve Lord Provost status, it was disappointing Inverness had not succeeded but it had been a useful exercise.

Following detailed discussion on the merits or otherwise of each application, the Sub-Committee determined the applications for financial assistance as follows:-

Booklet A – Applications under £5,000

Applicant: The Inverness Singers

Project/Activity: 50th Anniversary celebratory new musical composition and public performance event

Total amount applied for: £650.00

Decision: **APPROVED**

Applicant: Inverness City Roller Derby

Project/activity: Inverness Scrim and Referee Development

Total amount applied for: £1,031.00

Decision: **APPROVED**

Booklet B – Applications £5,001 - £10,000

Applicant: Inverness Botanic Gardens (High Life Highland)

Project/activity: Disability access paths in orchard

Total amount applied for: £6,850.00

Decision: **APPROVED**

Declaration of Interest: Mr A Graham declared an interest in the following application having been previously professionally involved with the Hall Association and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting while the application was being discussed. The Provost took the place of Chair in his place.

Applicant: Culcabock & Drakies Community Hall Association
Project/activity: Essential repairs to Culcabock & Drakies Community Hall
Total amount applied for: £9,995.00
Decision: **DEFERRED**

Members deferred this application to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to allow the City Area Manager to request further information and clarification as to the exact nature of the repairs and the extent of how the repairs would benefit the community.

Applicant: Home-Start East Highland
Project/activity: Provision of family support activities and events
Total amount applied for: £9,500.00
Decision: **REFUSED**

Members refused this application on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence of direct community benefit for Inverness identified within the report.

Booklet C – Applications over £10,000

Transparency Statement: Mr A Graham made a Transparency Statement in the following application as a family member was a volunteer with Blythswood Care. However, having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

Applicant: Blythswood Care
Project/activity: Highland Foodbank 2023
Total amount applied for: £20,000.00
Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED** and also suggested that they apply to the Cost of Living fund.

Applicant: Apex Scotland
Project/activity: Highland Challenge Team
Total amount applied for: £14,342.00
Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED** but suggested that they also contact the local Community Council.

Booklet D – Applications for Conference Support

Applicant: GOYA Events Ltd
Project/activity: Loch Ness Festival and 100 miler
Total amount applied for: £15,000.00
Decision: **DEFERRED** until it was established if GOYA Events Ltd's application for funding from Events Scotland had been successful.

Booklet E – Partnership Working

Applicant: Inverness City Centre Business Improvement District (BID)

Project/activity: Smart Scape

Total amount applied for: £9,997.00

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED**.

Applicant: Inverness City Centre BID

Project/activity: Inverness Loves Local – Especially at Christmas campaign

Total amount applied for: £5,900.00

Decision: **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED**.

Applicant: Inverness City Centre BID

Inverness Loves Local – Festive Parking

Total amount applied for: £9,950.00

Decision: Following a vote, **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be **APPROVED**.

Some Members contended that this application encouraged people to drive to Inverness and flew in the face of the Council's ambition of active travel and carbon neutral. Furthermore, this provided no benefit to those without cars. An alternative would be to provide a Park and Ride but it was pointed out that this had been tried before with limited success. Other Members highlighted the pressure retailers were under, especially after Covid and the Cost of Living crisis.

Mrs I MacKenzie, seconded by Mrs M Reid, **MOVED** that the application be approved.

As an **AMENDMENT** Mr C Ballance, seconded by Ms K MacLean, moved that the application be refused.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 5 votes, the **AMENDMENT** received 2 votes and there was 1 abstention, and the **MOTION** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion

Mr A Graham, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs E McAllister and Mrs M Reid.

For the Amendment

Mr C Ballance and Ms K MacLean.

Abstention

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

Applicant: Visit Inverness Loch Ness

Project/activity: Food and beverage tourism

Total amount applied for: £10,000.00

Decision: Following a vote, **DEFERRED**

Some Members contended that this application lacked detail and more information, in the form of a Business Plan, was required before any agreement in principle could be made. It was also question if there was also a degree of duplication with this project.

Mrs E McAllister, seconded by Mr A Graham, **MOVED** that the application be approved.

As an **AMENDMENT** Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, seconded by Mrs I MacKenzie, moved that the application be deferred pending the receipt of a Business Plan.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 2 votes, the **AMENDMENT** received 6 votes and there were no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion

Mr A Graham and Mrs E McAllister.

For the Amendment

Mr C Ballance, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs I MacKenzie, Ms K MacLean. Mr D Macpherson and Mrs M Reid.

The Sub-Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to determine the applications for up to and including £10,000 as detailed above;
- ii. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee, at its meeting on 24 November 2022, that the applications for more than £10,000 be determined as detailed above; and
- iii. **NOTED** the allocations made from the small grants budget of £75,000 and the larger grants budget of £200,000.

5. Operation Respect Festive 2022 – Inverness and Area

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/10/22 dated 5 October 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager.

The Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the targeting of objectives for Operation Respect Festive 2022-23 on providing added community safety and public reassurance whilst supporting measures to improve and reduce the continuing impact of the economic crisis and the lasting impact of the pandemic on people's physical and mental health and wellbeing; and
- ii. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee approval of match funding of £12,447 for Operation Respect 2022-23 from the Inverness Common Good Fund Partnership Working Budget.

6. The Mahler Players

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider a request from The Mahler Players to amend the condition of their grant requiring them to offer free tickets to young musicians.

The original proposal had been to give the members of Inverness Cathedral's newly formed Junior Choir complimentary tickets to the performances of Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde". However, the Director of Music at the Cathedral considered that attending the full performance would be too much for the Junior Choir and, instead, it was now proposed to invite them to the afternoon rehearsal to hear the soloists live. Part of the rehearsal would be specifically for the Junior Choir so they would be welcomed and appropriate excerpts chosen to play for them. Consequently, no money would now be required from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the position.

7. Homologation Requests

The following applications had been approved by the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with the Sub-Committee, subject to homologation/noting at the next available Sub-Committee meeting:-

a. Partnerships for Wellbeing

Declaration of Interest: Mrs E McAllister declared an interest in the following application as a member of Partnerships for Wellbeing and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting while the application was being discussed.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award a grant of £8,390 to Partnerships for Wellbeing for assistance towards the provision of wheelchair accessible transport for Inverness.

b. Heartstone and The Highland Indian Association

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the rejection of a grant of £4,900 to Heartstone and the Highland Indian Association for assistance towards Cura Guardian. On receipt of further information from the applicants it had been felt that the project still did not give enough benefit to the community.

c. Care and Learning Alliance

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the decision taken by the Inverness City Area Manager to award a grant of £250 to the Care and Learning Alliance towards the promotion of the importance of childcare to businesses through attendance at the Highland Spotlight Event.

d. Highland Food and Drink Trail

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award a grant of £4,995 to Highland Food and Drink Trail Ltd towards the Highland Food and Drink Trail Pop-Up in the Victorian Market.

8. Merkinch Local Nature Reserve Boardwalk Update

There had been circulated an update on the Merkinch Local Nature Reserve Boardwalk Project Update.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the position.

9. Evaluation Forms

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the Evaluation Forms submitted by applicants on completion of their projects.

10. Civic Hospitality Requests

Transparency Statement: Mr C Ballance made a Transparency Statement in respect of one of the request as a family member was a member of the Boys' Brigade. However, having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/11/22 dated 26 October 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager. A copy of the applications for Civic Hospitality and any supporting documentation had been circulated separately as Booklet F.

Following detailed discussion on the merits or otherwise of each application, the Sub-Committee determined the requests for Civic Hospitality as follows:-

Organisation: The British Legion Club (Inverness) Ltd
Event: Remembrance Sunday
Cost: Request for a financial contribution towards the cost of a buffet
Decision: **APPROVED**

Organisation: The Highland Council
Event: Private Dinner for Sheriff Principal Derek Pyle
Decision: **APPROVED**

Sheriff Principal Derek Pyle's decision to read the Proclamation of Accession for the Sheriffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Inverness Town House had highlighted Inverness and the offer of a Private Dinner was in recognition of this. The cost of the dinner was not yet known but it was thought to be relatively modest but this could be confirmed by the Inverness City Area Manager with the Chair and the Provost and reported back to this Committee. Should the Sheriff Principal decline the offer it would still be appropriate to present him with a civic gift.

Organisation: Inverness City Centre BID
Event: Inverness City Centre BID Business Awards Ceremony
Cost: Request for a financial contribution of £1,200 towards the cost of a buffet
Decision: **APPROVED**

Organisation: The Boys' Brigade Highland Battalion
Event: The Boys' Brigade North Scottish Area Conference 2023
Cost: £2,223.30
Decision: **APPROVED**

The Sub-Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** that applicants remained responsible for their own costs and might be held liable for the whole costs of the event if it was cancelled due to their own act or omission; and
- ii. **NOTED** that costs of Civic Events continued to increase beyond expected levels and that decisions might need to be taken regarding the prioritisation of events to be supported; and
- iii. **AGREED** to determine the applications for Civic Hospitality as detailed above.

11. Inverness Town House Whisky

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that, in line with previous decisions, the Inverness Town House whisky supply, which was a much valued civic gift, was being replenished at a cost of £1,590.00 for 50 bottles. This would provide approximately five years' supply.

12. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decisions to approve/refuse the following Civic Hospitality requests:-

- Port of Inverness 175th Anniversary - Civic Dinner - £5,931.00 - Refused
- Marie Therese School Visit - 13th September 2022 - Event Cost £775.60 – Approved

13. The Reading of the Proclamation of Accession for the Sherifffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to utilise the event booking for civic hospitality for the Kirking event, which was cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for the Reading of the Proclamation of Accession for the Sherifffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands at Inverness Town House on Sunday, 11 September 2022 at a cost of £4,432.60. The arrangement fell in line with the contractual obligations with the caterer.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. that the next meeting would take place on Monday 23 January 2023 at 9.30 am; and
- ii. the following timetable for applications during 2023:

City of Inverness Area Committee	Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Applications due by date
13 February 2023	23 January 2023	6 January 2023
5 June 2023	15 May 2023	28 April 2023
28 August 2023	7 August 2023	14 July 2023
20 November 2023	30 October 2023	6 October 2023

The meeting concluded at 12.50pm

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness East Sports Facilities Working Group** held remotely on Thursday, 17 November 2022 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Highland Council:

Mr I Brown
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair (remote)
Mr K Gowans
Mr D Gregg (remote)
Mr R Mackintosh
Mrs M Reid

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance

Preliminaries

The Clerk took the Chair until the Working Group appointed a Chair at item 3 of this Minute.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs E McAllister.

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 M Reid nominated Mr K Gowans. There being no other nominations Mr K Gowans was appointed as Chair of the Working Group.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

There had been circulated, for information, the Minutes of the last meeting of the Working Group held on 31 March, 2022, the terms of which were **NOTED**.

5. Terms of Reference

There was circulated the Terms of Reference for the Working Group.

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

Para 2.6. be amended to read “ Minutes from the Working Group will be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the CIAC for approval.”

Para 3.2 be amended to read “ Members of the Group will receive any papers in accordance with the timescale set in Standing Orders relating to the Conduct of Meetings.”

Para 3.6 be merged with the last sentence in paragraph 4.1 to read “ The Group will be supported as appropriate by Council Officers and as may be reasonably required, individuals may be invited to provide specific advice and expertise as required.”

Para 4.2 and 4.3 be deleted.

6. AOB and Schedule of Meetings

The Working Group **AGREED**:-

i that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 15 December, 2022 at 1.30 p.m. in Council Headquarters, Inverness to enable an update on the progress of the Feasibility study; and

ii that a schedule of meeting dates in 2023 would be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Working Group.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.