

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>CIA/15/23</b>

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area Committee

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**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 local ward-based funds; 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 Aird & Loch Ness (Ward 12), Inverness Central (Ward 14), Inverness Millburn (Ward 16) and Culloden & Ardersier (Ward 17) wish to repurpose COVID-19 funding to support projects identified within their wards.

Discussions by Members at Ward level with Amenity Services Officers have established the need for this support to ensure play parks are repaired and returned to a condition suitable for use. Amenity Services do not hold any mainstream budgets to pay for these play park repairs and the improvements made will be added to the regular maintenance schedule.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to agree the repurposing of the following COVID-19 funds:

1. **Ward 12 – Aird & Loch Ness**  
£1,145 to support Amenity Services with repairs and improvements to play parks in the Ward.
2. **Ward 14 – Inverness Central**  
£2,000 to support Amenity Services with repairs and improvements to play parks in the Ward.

3. **Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn**  
£1,800 to support Amenity Services with repairs and improvements to play parks in the Ward
4. **Ward 17 – Culloden & Ardersier**  
£10,350 to support Amenity Services with repairs and improvements to play parks in the Ward.

### **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 – Funding will be made internally to Council Services so will be compliant with the Council’s own legal liabilities.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) impacts – The allocation of funding proposed targets a range of projects, which specifically address access, inequality and improved outdoor space to encourage greater use and promote mental wellbeing.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever implications – There are no specific climate change implications
- 3.5 Risk implications – There are no specific risk implications, the funding will be managed and delivered by Council Services.
- 3.6 Gaelic implications – There are no specific Gaelic implications.

### **4. Ward 12 – Aird & Loch Ness**

- 4.1 At a meeting with Amenity Services during March 2023, Ward Members indicated their support for repurposing funding from their COVID-19 budget towards play area replacement and repairs across 5 play parks in the ward.
- 4.2 Amenity Services have outlined the costs associated with the replacement / repair of the items within the park parks
- 4.3 Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £1,145 from the COVID- 19 budget for the ward.

### **5. Ward 14 – Inverness Central**

- 5.1 During discussions at the May Ward Business Meeting, Ward Members indicated their support for repurposing funding from their COVID-19 budget towards play area replacement and repairs across 3 play parks in the ward.
- 5.2 Amenity Services have outlined the costs associated with the replacement / repair of the items within the park parks
- 5.3

6. Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £2,000 from the COVID- 19 budget for the Ward.

**Ward 16 - Inverness Millburn**

6.1

During discussions at the May Ward Business Meeting, Ward Members indicated their support for repurposing funding from their COVID-19 budget towards play area replacement and repairs across 2 play parks in the ward.

6.2

Amenity Services have outlined the costs associated with the replacement / repair of the items within the park parks

6.3

Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £1,800 from the COVID- 19 budget for the Ward.

**7. Ward 17 – Culloden & Ardersier**

7.1 At a meeting with Amenity Services during May 2023, Ward Members indicated their support for repurposing funding from their COVID-19 budget towards play area replacement and repairs across 5 play parks in the ward.

7.2 Amenity Services have outlined the costs associated with the replacement / repair of the items within the park parks

7.3 Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £10,350 from the COVID- 19 budget for the Ward.

7.4 Ward 17 currently has £28,504 remaining within its COVID-19 budget. At CIAC on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 it was agreed that *up to £21,000* of this could be re-purposed to support development of the Ardcroy Road, Croy play park thus leaving £7,504. Costings for this project are being finalised and any funds not spent up to the allocated £21,000 will be used to supplement the £7,504 balance up to £10,350 required for these said play park repairs.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities & Place

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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