

Agenda Item	7
Report No	BSAC/14/23

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**Report Title:** Badenoch & Strathspey Repurposing COVID-19 Fund

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 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 funds should be agreed at the local committee.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Agree** to the repurposing of £3,600 COVID-19 funds for play area improvements within Badenoch and Strathspey at the locations specified in this report;
- **Note** that further improvement works are being investigated at Dulnain Bridge.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource implications – The resource implications are set out in this report. There are currently £6,106 COVID Funds remaining for Badenoch & Strathspey.
- 3.2 Legal implications – Play areas are not a statutory service however, where they are provided, we must comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960 for employees and members of the public attending play areas. We must also comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Fairer Scotland Duty.

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to relax and play, and participate in a wide range of cultural, artistic and cultural activities. The Council's earlier approach to support these rights was set out in the [Play Strategy 2016-20](#). This recognises the value of informal spaces for play as well.

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) impacts – The allocation of funding proposed targets a range of repairs to play equipment which specifically address improved access of outdoor spaces and pursuits 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 – Inspecting and maintaining and/or replacing play park equipment will prevent injury to children and claims being made against the Council.
- 3.6 Gaelic implications – There are no specific Gaelic implications.

**4. COVID-19 Funds Repurposing**

- 4.1 This project will deliver on a range of works to Badenoch & Strathspey play areas as set out below, these improvements will provide opportunity for greater outdoor activity and exercise benefiting the health & wellbeing of young people in the area.
- 4.2 Funding is requested to carry out the following improvements

<b>Play Area</b>	<b>Works Required</b>	<b>Funds Required</b>
Morlich Court	Painting of equipment	£400
Dulaig Court	Replace bark with grass matting surface	£600
Ardvonie Park	Replacement of steel feet for climbing frame and swings	£2500
Lynstock Crescent	Painting of equipment	£100
Dulnain Bridge	Improvement works are being investigated at Dulnain Bridge, a further request may be presented at a later date.	

- 4.3 Members are asked to note that the project provides a positive contribution to mitigating the 4 harms of COVID through the delivery of healthy pursuits and outdoor sports in Badenoch & Strathspey in line with the intended purpose of these funds.
- 4.4 Members are asked to agree to repurposing £3,600 from the Ward’s COVID-19 budget and to award it to Amenity Services for improvements to play equipment in Badenoch & Strathspey as detailed in this report.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities & Place

Date: 26 July 2023

Author: Debbie Sutton, Amenities Manager  
Lewis Hannah, Ward Manager

### **Background Papers**

Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee 15 February 2022 (Items 7 & 8)

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4580/badenoch\\_and\\_strathspey\\_area\\_committee](https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4580/badenoch_and_strathspey_area_committee)

Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee 6 February 2023 (item 8)

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4738/badenoch\\_and\\_strathspey\\_area\\_committee](https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4738/badenoch_and_strathspey_area_committee)