

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Monday 28 August 2023 at 10.00 am.

Present:

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

Non-Members also present:

Ms B Jarvie (Remote)
Mr P Oldham (Remote)

Officials in Attendance:

Mr M MacLeod, Interim Depute Chief Executive
Ms T Urry, Interim Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure and Environment
Mr S Fraser, Head of Legal and Governance
Ms A Clark, Head of Community Support & Engagement
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place
Mr C Baxter, Team Leader, Sustainable Transport
Miss J MacLennan, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Performance and Governance
Mrs O Bayon, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in attendance:

Chief Inspector J Hill, Area Commander (Inverness Area Command), 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.

Mr I Brown in the Chair

Preliminaries

The Chair referred to the death of former Councillor Norrie Donald on 4 August 2023. Mr Donald had had an extensive length of service in local government, serving a total of 18 years. Condolences, on behalf of the Committee, were expressed to his family and friends.

Business

1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan

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

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd

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

Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 (d), 12 (ii), 12 (iii) - Mr A Christie

3. Birthday Honours Urraman Co-là-breith

With Members having paid tribute to those concerned, the Committee **NOTED** that the following individuals had been recognised in the Birthday's Honours List: -

- Ms Anne McCreadie - for services to the community in Merkinch.
- Ms Ina Melville - for her services to young people and the community of Smithton.
- Ms Sheila Bruce - for services to the community in Inverness and the Highlands.

4. Recess Powers Cumhachdan Fosaidh

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 had not been exercised in relation to the business of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

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

Mr A Christie made Transparency Statements in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland and a Board Member of Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No CIA/20/23 dated 17 August 2023 by the Inverness Area Commander.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- the impact on policing of the financial crisis was queried;
- it was also queried if the increase in shoplifting was a result of the cost of living and energy crisis;
- the significant increase in hate crimes was of concern but it was pleasing to note that, as a result of improvements in the detection of drugs, levels of drug possession had decreased;
- many victims of fraud were elderly and vulnerable and new innovative ways of combatting this were necessary;
- the Council had introduced a number of 20mph zones and information was sought, and provided, as to how these were being enforced;

- Community Councils would welcome more information from Police Scotland and methods as to how this, and greater community engagement, could be achieved were explored;
- in response to a query, Members were urged to encourage the public to report instances of crime, often where it was down to one or two individuals who then had a detrimental effect on others. Where this took place in Council houses/flats, the Housing and Property Service should also be involved;
- there was concern that the Police were less visible in the City Centre but, as referred to later in the agenda, it was confirmed they would still be using accommodation in the Town House as a local base;
- there were reported instances where it was feared that, as a result of a number of road traffic collisions, there had been a delay in answering 101 calls;
- whilst Highland might not have the population of other areas, it was important that its geography was taken into account;
- the increase in the number of children who absconded was of concern;
- information was sought as to the number of Police Officers from other ethnic backgrounds and how Police Scotland actively linked with different communities; and
- Members expressed their confidence in the work of Police Scotland, recognising the difficult issues they had to contend with.

The Committee **NOTED** the progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 3, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023.

6. Making Academy Street a Place for Everyone A' Dèanamh Sràid na h-Acadamaidh na h-Àite do na h-Uile

Mr A Christie made Transparency Statements in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland and a Board Member of Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/21/23 dated 17 August 2023 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment.

Prior to the commencement of debate reference was made to a letter which had been circulated to Committee Members from solicitors acting on behalf on the owners of the Eastgate Centre. In order to make an informed decision, advice was sought from the Head of Legal and Governance.

At this juncture, the Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the advice to be provided involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Head of Legal and Governance then provided his advice, after which the public were invited back into the meeting.

Following the legal advice the item continued and a presentation was then undertaken by officers where the context of the proposal was set out. Improving Academy Street was part of the City Strategy and it was important to improve the environment of the city centre for all users. Significant engagement had been undertaken but further consultation would take place going forward. A video and PowerPoint presentation setting out the broad aims and objectives of the scheme was then shown.

Following the presentation, and during lengthy discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- officers were thanked for their hard work and willingness to meet with groups and individuals to address concerns. Disappointment was therefore expressed at some comments made by individuals directed to officers, something which Members found unacceptable;
- it was acknowledged Academy Street needed to change;
- some Members reported having received representations in support of the proposals including from local residents, teachers, parents, disability groups, health professionals and active travel campaigners. In addition, at a recent consultative breakfast, groups represented, with the exception of Business Improvement District (BID) and the City Alliance, had supported the proposals;
- the views of BID had been taken into account and the scheme considered by the Committee in November 2022 had been adapted accordingly;
- consultation would continue on the proposals moving forward, including statutory consultation, and information was sought, and provided, as to how and when this would happen;
- many supporting the proposals were customers who indicated that they were more likely to come to the City centre as a result as it would be a safer, more attractive, cleaner, greener place to trade, shop and dine. It was therefore important that a more desirable and vibrant environment was provided to encourage people to come and spend time in Academy Street;
- encouraging more people, such as cyclists and pedestrians, into Academy Street would encourage more spend. It was also hoped the economic impact assessment would look at the prospect of continuing decline in Academy Street if nothing was done;
- there was evidence that reducing traffic increased footfall and economic activity and, in Inverness itself, business unit vacancy rates were lower in pedestrianised areas such as the High Street, Inglis Street and Baron Taylor's Street;
- 45% of households in the Central Ward did not have access to a car and reference was made to the correlation between levels of deprivation and car ownership, car promoting policies benefiting the more affluent;
- if car usage was to be reduced then it was important to make public transport and active travel more available and attractive, including providing adequate Park and Ride, bus, taxi and active travel infrastructure. This was a crucial step towards changing behaviour and embracing alternative modes of transportation. In this regard it was queried if initiatives such as Park and Ride would be concurrent or consecutive. Reducing carbon emissions would also make significant inroads towards a more sustainable and ecological future;
- the design took into account the needs of the blind and visually impaired and those who used wheelchairs and other mobility equipment. It would also provide a safer road for cycling, an efficient bus lane, wider pavements for walking and wheeling and vehicle access for deliveries and drop off;

- previous Administrations had discussed taking action to improve Academy Street and reference was made to a Development Brief in 2016 where it was agreed to start consultation on how to improve walking and cycling routes and manage vehicle movements and reconfigure streets at Academy Street and Strothers Lane. This also demonstrated the length and breadth of consultation;
- this scheme had support and potential funding and it needed to move forward in a progressive way;
- Academy Street was marred by traffic jams and was noisy and polluted;
- the Council had a climate pollution reduction policy and, if Highland Council was to meet its Net Zero targets, action was needed to reduce traffic. This proposal would improve air quality and enhance the city centre;
- assurances were sought, and provided, that the Economic Impact Assessment would be independently carried out;
- although many who responded to BID's survey were opposed to the proposals, only 90 out of 800 members being a small proportion of BID's membership had taken part;
- it was important to strengthen the Council's relationship with the business community;
- alternative solutions, including direct access to Rose Street, were suggested. However, it was felt the proposal, in its present form, was premature and there was a perception that not enough true consultation had taken place. Furthermore, all the facts were needed before a proper and informed decision could be reached;
- change was needed but for the right reasons and this had the support and backing of local residents and businesses;
- it was important to have an economic impact assessment before progressing, to do more remodelling on the displaced traffic and to revisit the vehicle cap;
- a trial of a preferred option was proposed so that businesses and the public could see what it was like and it was suggested that a local referendum then be carried out so the views of the people of Inverness could be taken into account in a clear and structured manner and then taken forward in a unified way. This would have no negative impact on funding streams;
- this was a scheme that would shape the future and it was important to take time to get it right given the potential detrimental impacts that might otherwise arise as a result;
- those working in the "old town" were best placed to gauge how footfall functioned;
- the city centre economy depended on people coming in to Inverness and it was feared that this proposal might discourage that;
- it was important to re-engage with BID and residents, and that discussions take place with Sustrans regarding their funding and possible alternative modes of transport, such as electric buses, Park and Ride etc, being put in place before closing off roads to private traffic;
- the ambiance of Academy Street could be improved in the short term by increasing cleansing, particularly where travellers left the train and bus stations;
- there was a concern professionals working in Academy Street would move out of town, also taking their clients with them. This would result in period properties becoming vacant and potentially left to deteriorate;
- small independent retailers were not able to relocate to retail parks and, with a possible reduction in footfall, they feared for their livelihoods;

- the concerns of objectors were recognised, the majority being representatives of businesses based in and around Academy Street who feared they would lose business with the proposals pushing customers out of town to the retail parks. These businesses were dependent on customer access and, if they closed, this would have a negative impact on the business rates the Council received. If the proposal moved forward and there was a detrimental impact it could be irreversible;
- the impact on care workers navigating the Academy Street route was highlighted, direct routes being crucial;
- it was questioned if the scheme would reduce pollution as it would involve moving 75% of vehicles to longer routes, doubling fuel use and emissions;
- it was disappointing that cyclists had to share the carriageway with motorised vehicles. The road would be narrower leading to close, and potentially more dangerous, vehicle passes and preventing cyclists from moving up at traffic lights;
- it was contended that the proposals would have a detrimental impact on takeaways and other food businesses;
- it was important to take into account the aging population, who were often excluded from digital processes and had limited access to reliable public transport or appropriate disabled badges. Age fell under Equality Act protection and it was important to examine the plan's impact on older citizens. It did not appear that the Highland Senior Citizens Network Group had been consulted;
- there would be a knock-on effect in the Longman and Crown areas with increased congestion, especially at Crown Primary School and Millburn Academy;
- Academy Street was an important artery in the traffic circulation system of Inverness; and
- in terms of funding, particularly in light of increasing costs, it was queried what confidence there was that the project could be fully funded and whether, if there was a fundamental design change, it would be reported to Committee.

After full debate, Mr I Brown, seconded by Mr C Balance, **MOVED** the recommendations, with an addition, that the Committee, as follows:-

- i. note design progress, which struck a balance between delivering sustainable transport, city centre regeneration and supporting the city centre economy; and
- ii. agree that officers proceed with finalising the proposed design and consult on a Traffic Regulation Order, as explained in Section 10 of the report, including appropriate equalities and economic impact assessments while exploring additional measures to encourage people to travel to the city centre including park and ride and improved public transport and active travel links.

Mr A Christie seconded by Ms H Crawford moved, as an **AMENDMENT**, that the future of Academy Street be progressed in clear stages to determine the best option to implement, as follows:-

Stage 1: That an independent economic impact assessment be commissioned and when complete the findings reported to a special meeting of this committee. Whilst this is underway consultation should take place with businesses, groups, individuals and other interested parties. Additionally further modelling on

displaced traffic and its impact upon areas especially the Crown, Longman and Castle Street be carried out and shared with all stakeholders. This will all allow time for further dialogue and meaningful consultation.

Stage 2: This Committee will consider the economic impact assessment and outcomes of the further consultation and research and decide upon a preferred option for making Academy Street a place for everyone.

Stage 3: That arrangements and actions be initiated to allow a two-month trial period of the preferred option.

Stage 4: The Committee will consider and implement a method/process whereby local people can vote in an advisory style referendum to endorse or not the preferred option.

Stage 5: That officers proceed with finalising the design of the preferred option and commence consultation on the required Traffic Regulation Order.

On a vote being taken, there were 12 votes for the motion and 10 for the amendment, with no abstentions. The **MOTION** was 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, Mrs K MacLean, Mrs M Reid.

For the Amendment:

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

Decision

The Committee:-

**Notice of
Amendment**

- i. **NOTED** design progress, which struck a balance between delivering sustainable transport, city centre regeneration and supporting the city centre economy; and
- ii. **AGREED** that officers proceed with finalising the proposed design and consult on a Traffic Regulation Order, as explained in Section 10 of the report including appropriate equalities and economic impact assessments while exploring additional measures to encourage people to travel to the city centre including park and ride and improved public transport and active travel links.

**7. 2023/24 Annual Report on Inverness Business Improvement District
Aithisg Bhliadhna 2023/24 mu Sgìre Leasachadh Gnothachais Inbhir Nis**

Mr A Christie made Transparency Statements in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland and a Board Member of Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA22/23 dated 17 July 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place. The report highlighted the many benefits the Business Improvement District (BID) brought to the City of Inverness and the successful partnership projects that the Council and BID worked on and this was commended by Members.

During discussion, the following main issues were raised:-

- BID had received approximately £100k annually over the last few years from the Inverness Common Good Fund and it was queried what discussions there had been with BID on them becoming less reliant on Council funding and their targets to achieve this. It was advised that BID was supported in their efforts to receive third party funding and it was recognised that they had relied on Common Good Funding for some time. The Inverness City Area Manager would discuss this matter with BID;
- the Gull population in Inverness was a concern for businesses and they were asking for funds to be given to BID for a different approach to Gull control. It was advised that officers continued to look at and develop options for Gull control in consultation with NatureScot and the BID Manager. New ways of working on this issue were being monitored such as the use of ultrasonic devices. Also, a detailed update was provided to Members at the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee when applications for Gull control were submitted. In terms of expanding the Gull control project outwith the City Centre, this was challenging as the Council had a passive policy on this matter and would give advice but not undertake management of Gull programmes. How to better inform the public not to feed Gulls was queried;
- the BID security team was welcomed for enhancing security in the town centre;
- the value of the coach friendly project was highlighted.
- the Events and Festivals Working Group would welcome the opportunity to work with BID to make events happen in the City;
- the assistance from BID in promoting the Inverness Highland Games was acknowledged;
- although suggested, it was confirmed that the move to encourage coaches to use more environmentally friendly fuels was not a responsibility of BID;
- discussions could be held about extending the BID district;
- funding needed to be provided to ensure CCTV systems were working and were as effective as possible; and
- BID officers would be invited to give Members a briefing on their future annual reports.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to endorse the work detailed in the report; and
- ii. **NOTED** the ongoing development of partnership working in the key areas identified.

8. Winter Service Plan for 2023/24 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh airson 2023/24

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and

any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/23/23 dated 4 August 2023 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment.

During discussion, the following main issues were raised:-

- Members expressed concern that, with only one gully emptying machine currently available, water was not able to effectively drain away and it was hoped that the second machine could be actively pursued. Members were aware of the considerable amount of green vegetation now growing in gullies. It was important too to liaise with Scottish Water;
- the reasons for the use of quad bikes spraying weedkiller at nights were explained;
- there had been a significant overspend on winter maintenance in 2022/23 and the reasons for this were sought;
- it was disappointing that there was a delay in installing and filling grit bins. In this regard, it was suggested scoops could be included but it was explained that this had been tried previously and had been unsuccessful;
- it was important to point out that only a small amount of grit was required on icy surfaces;
- in response to a query it was confirmed that the grit bin map was up-to-date;
- ideally there would be closer collaboration with Bear Scotland;
- in response to a query it was confirmed that the responsibility for gritting footways on the A82 , predominantly in Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus, was the responsibility of Bear Scotland;
- it was important to explain to the public that the gritting teams could not cover all areas at the same time; and
- Members asked that their appreciation of the tremendous work carried out by the Winter Maintenance team be conveyed.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2023/24.

9. Ward Discretionary Budget Applications Iarrtasan Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED** that the following City of Inverness Ward Discretionary Budget applications had been approved since 5 June 2023:-

- **Ward 12**
 - Dopamine Dolls – Outreach & Awareness - £300
- **Ward 13**
 - Highland Rugby Club – U16 Legacy Rugby Tour of Italy October 2023 - £810
 - Inverness Caledonian Thistle Community Development – Free Football – Inverness High School - £169
- **Ward 14**
 - South Kessock & Merkinch Community Action Group - Summer Fun Day Engagement Event - £1,000
 - Merkinch Partnership – Maintenance of Defibrillators - £750

- Inverness Caledonian Thistle Community Development – Free Football – Inverness High School - £338
- Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis – Trim Trail - £604
- South Kessock Residents Association – Lawn Mower & Strimmer - £468
- **Ward 15**
 - 27th Inverness Brownies – Holm Primary Hire -£936.20
 - Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis – Trim Trail - £2,416
- **Ward 16**
 - Highland Rugby Club – U16 Legacy Rugby Tour of Italy October 2023 - £810
- **Ward 17**
 - Highland Rugby Club – U16 Legacy Rugby Tour of Italy October 2023 - £1,350
 - Ardersier Community Hub – Ardersier Christmas Lights - £2,000
- **Ward 19**
 - No Spend

10. Inverness Common Good Fund Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis

a) Financial Monitoring Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/24/23 dated 16 August 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

On the point being raised, it was confirmed that officers were in negotiations with the Inverness Castle project team regarding compensation for the majority of the Town House car park being taken over for the Energy Centre. An assurance was provided that compensation would be calculated on a best value basis, the interests of the Inverness Common Good Fund would be protected, and the outcome of negotiations would be reported back to Members.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the financial monitoring report to 30 June 2023 and that overall expenditure was within agreed budgets excepting the estimated outturns detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report; and
- ii. **APPROVED** the continued use of Inverness Town House by Police Scotland as detailed within paragraph 6.6 of the report.

b) Grants Applications over £10,000 Iarrtas an Tabhartais thar £10,000

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/25/23 dated 14 August 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place. In this connection, there had been circulated separately, as Booklet A, a copy of supporting documentation.

1. D C Thomson & Company Limited

The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee had recommended approval of a grant of £15,000 subject to clarity on the difference the grant would make and confirmation that the City would benefit directly from it, and the Inverness City Area Manager provided additional information in that regard.

One Member expressed opposition to the application, commenting that it was a profit-making event that would proceed whether or not a grant was awarded. The Inverness Common Good Fund was for the benefit of the people of Inverness and, in a time of economic hardship, it was considered that the event ought not to be a priority.

However, with all but one Member being supportive of the application, the Committee **APPROVED** a grant of £15,000 from the City Vibrancy budget.

2. Bishop's Road Lighting

The Committee **APPROVED** a grant of £12,175 from the Other Properties budget.

3. Whin Park

The Committee **AGREED** to defer consideration of this application to the next meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee scheduled to take place on 20 November 2023.

4. The Highland Council - Rose Window into Inverness Castle

The Committee **APPROVED** a grant of £9,500 from the Other Properties budget.

c) Events and Festivals Working Group Update Cunntas às Ùr mu Bhuidheann-obrach Thachartasan is Fhèisean

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/26/23 dated 18 August 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- the report indicated that there were no climate change implications. However, the Bonfire and Fireworks event had a climate impact and other events might have too. The Inverness City Area Manager confirmed that this would be taken into account in future reports;
- the proposal to charge for entry to the Red Hot Highland Fling event was welcomed, and it was commented that the pricing model should not be subsidised by the Common Good Fund;
- support was expressed for maintaining free entry to the Bonfire and Fireworks event and the Christmas Lights Switch-on, which were primarily for young children;
- it was suggested that Halloween was more culturally significant in Highland than Bonfire Night;
- the Chair of the Events and Festivals Working Group spoke to the success of the Inverness Highland Games held at Bught Park on 15 July 2023. Locals and tourists had thoroughly enjoyed the expanded outfield, the Games had attracted the highest ever number of female athletes in the track and field

events, and the newly created Highland Games Ceilidh had ended the day in traditional Highland style. One-off costs amounting to £10,347 included a new website design, banners, entry tickets and One World Rental to facilitate card payments. As Members were aware, the Events and Festivals budget had been reduced by almost 50% this year. However, funds had been raised through sponsorship for the Inverness Highland Games and sponsorship would also be sought for the remaining events. It was disappointing that the Events and Festivals Working Group was not in a position to prioritise a Halloween event. However, it was understood that there would be an independent Halloween event on the riverside. In relation to the Red Hot Highland Fling event, it was emphasised that the Events and Festivals Working Group had a track record of delivering first-class Hogmanay events since 2008. The Inverness event would be one of only two Hogmanay events being held in Scotland this year and, knowing how important the event was, not only to local communities but to tourists and the local economy, a minimal entry charge was proposed to enable a high-quality event to be delivered. She expressed thanks to the Members of the Events and Festivals Working Group for their vision, hard work and dedication, and to Kim Rait of Black Orchid Events, newly appointed Events Manager, who had skilfully delivered the Highland Games; and

- information was sought, and provided, on the number of people that had attended the Red Hot Highland Fling event in previous years when it had not been ticketed in comparison with 2022 when the decision had been taken to make it a ticketed event. Members were assured that officers were working to ensure capacity was maximised whilst meeting health and safety requirements.

The Committee **AGREED** to the Events and Festivals Working Group having the delegated power to extend charging for entry to the Red Hot Highland Fling event within the community events programme set by the Working Group, noting the attendant risk to events being delivered within the allocated budget.

**d) Inverness Common Good Fund (ICGF) Annual Report 2022/23
Aithisg Bhliadhnail Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis 2022/23**

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as a Board Member of Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/27/23 dated 17 July 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

In introducing the report, noting the position with Community Regeneration Funding and the success of applying the work to the Common Good Fund Sub-Committee to date, the Inverness City Area Manager suggested that recommendation ii. of the report be amended as follows:-

“agree that powers delegated to the ICGF Sub-Committee in respect of Community Regeneration Funding be amended to include:-

- a) expressions of interest and the selection of projects that should proceed to full application;
- b) full applications for funding; and

- c) to make a recommendation to the next City of Inverness Area Committee on the selection of projects for approval and the value of grants to be made.”

The Chair of the ICGF Sub-Committee commented that the report gave an indication of the range of activities that came under the ICGF, adding that Inverness was fortunate to have a large Common Good Fund that enabled good causes to be supported. He expressed thanks to all those involved in the administration of the ICGF and its large property portfolio, as well as to Members of the ICGF Sub-Committee.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** and scrutinised the work of the ICGF Sub-Committee as described within the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that powers delegated to the ICGF Sub-Committee in respect of the Community Regeneration Funding be amended to include:-
 - a) expressions of interest and the selection of projects that should proceed to full application;
 - b) full applications for funding; and
 - c) to make a recommendation to the next City of Inverness Area Committee on the selection of projects for approval and the value of grants to be made.

11. Appointment to Sub-Committee, Working Groups etc Cur an Dreuchd gu Fo-Chomataidh, Buidhnean Obrach is eile

The Committee **AGREED** to appoint Mr I Brown to the Community Events and Festivals Working Group to replace Mrs M Reid.

12. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

Mr A Christie made Transparency Statement in respect of item 12 (ii) and 12 (iii) in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

The following Minutes were circulated for noting or approval as appropriate:-

- i. **NOTED** the City of Inverness Area Committee held on 5 June 2023);
- ii. **APPROVED** the Inverness Events and Festivals Working Group held on 25 May 2023, 16 June 2023, 3 July 2023, and 7 August 2023; and
- iii. **APPROVED** the Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee held on 12 June 2023 and 7 August 2023.

The meeting ended at 3.50 pm.