

Agenda Item	5
Report No	DSA/16/23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee

Date: 6 November 2023

Report Title: Dingwall Common Good Fund– 2023/24
Quarter Two Monitoring Report

Report By: Executive Chief Officer - Communities and Place
Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents the Dingwall Common Good Fund Quarter Two Monitoring Statement for 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Scrutinise and note the position of Dingwall Common Good Fund as shown in 2023/24 Quarter Two Monitoring Statement.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource Implications: The Quarter Two Monitoring Statement highlights predicted income and expenditure against the budget. This is anticipated to be on target.

3.2 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) Implications – Any current and future major projects for the protection or refurbishment of Common Good assets would seek to improve equality of access.

3.3 Climate Change/Carbon Clever implications: Any current and future projects for protection of Common Good assets would seek to increase energy efficiency where possible.

3.4 Risk implications – as reported to previous Committees, there are a number of issues associated with the condition of the Dingwall Town Hall which will require further future investment. Ongoing work continues to seek to identify appropriate funding sources.

3.5 Legal, Gaelic – there are no implications.

4. **2023/24 Quarter Two Monitoring Statement**

4.1 A Monitoring Statement showing transactions to the end of September 2023 against budget and estimated year end position is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 **Income** – The principal income for Dingwall Common Good arises from rental of Dingwall Town Hall and from the lease of Jubilee Park Caravan Site. The total income received to date for these properties is £26,981. The remainder of income will show in Quarters Three and Four Monitoring Statements. Income is expected to be on budget.

Expenditure –

4.3 **Staff Costs** – Spend on staff costs is within budget at present but some additional investigatory work is still required arising from the asset register review. It is therefore anticipated that there will be an increased outturn of £2,000 as shown in Appendix 1.

4.3.2 **General Property Expenditure** – There has been only a small amount of property expenditure in Dingwall Common so far this financial year. However £6,000 spend is committed towards a funding package for the replacement fencing at Jubilee Park. This work has recently been completed and the spend will be drawn down after the work has been checked. Overall property expenditure this financial year is expected to be within the budget set.

4.3.3 **Project Expenditure** - A project expenditure budget of £55,000 was set by the Black Isle and Dingwall and Seaforth Committee on 26 April 2021 towards the cost of the Dingwall Town Hall Roof and Rainwater Project with partner funding secured from the Town Centre Fund and Place Based Investment Fund. The Project was comprised of new main hall roof coverings, new lead work, stone repairs, lintel repairs and timber rot works. The main works will be complete by end of October with scaffolding being dropped in the first 2 weeks of November with completion 10th November. The Common Good Funds allocated have been drawn down as shown in the Budget statement.

4.3.4 As a result, with this project spend incurred the overall anticipated expenditure, as set out in **Appendix I**, will result in an operating deficit of £52,936 as advised in the Quarter One report. The forecast year end useable reserves for 2023/24 are £247,529.

5. **Dingwall Community Hub**

5.1 As reported to Committee previously, the building works for the repurposing of the former Cromartie car park toilets to a Community Hub, funded from a successful bid to the Town Centre Fund, are now complete. Operational safety checks were completed with the Hub used for the popular Dingwall Gala. The building is now operational. However as local Members will be aware, the local group which had intended to take the Hub on, in fact withdrew their interest due to concerns regarding their capacity in both human and cash resources, might not be sufficient. Options going forward will be explored after discussions with local Members at an Area Business meeting.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place
Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism

Date: 5 October 2023

Authors: Helen Ross, Senior Ward Manager
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Dingwall Common Good - Quarterly Monitoring
Period to Sept 23

APPENDIX 1

	Actual to date £	Revised Budget £	Year End Estimate £	Variance £
INCOME				
Rents	26,981	28,564	28,564	-
Interest and investment income	-	700	700	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>26,981</u>	<u>29,264</u>	<u>29,264</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs - CGF Officer and Central Support	1,017	1,200	2,000	(800)
Property costs	45	22,000	22,000	-
Community Grants and Donations	982	2,000	2,000	-
Special Project Grants - CG Assets	-	2,000	2,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,044</u>	<u>27,200</u>	<u>28,000</u>	<u>(800)</u>
Income less Expenditure before Projects	24,937	2,064	1,264	800
PROJECT EXPENDITURE				
DCGF Dingwall Town Hall	55,000	-	55,000	(55,000)
DCGF Contribution to projects	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>(55,000)</u>
Income less Expenditure to be funded by reserves	<u>(30,063)</u>	<u>2,064</u>	<u>(53,736)</u>	<u>55,800</u>
Unaudited Usable Reserves 2022/23		£300,465		
Estimated outturn for 23/24		<u>(53,736)</u>		
Estimated Usable Reserves 2023/24		<u>£246,729</u>		