

Agenda Item	8b
Report No	CIA/34/23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 20 November 2023

Report Title: Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current applications for grant funding to be determined. Exceptionally, the Inverness Common Good Fund (ICGF) Sub-Committee decided not to use its delegated powers to approve applications where the sum applied for was £10,000 or less. This is because there were insufficient funds to allow for approval of all appropriate applications. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the funds available. Members will be asked to consider either instructing the Sub-Committee to reconsider the applications based on the available budget as shown within **Appendix 1** or decide to provide further funds to meet the recommendations of the Sub-Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Note:
 1. Applications for funding totalling £133,108.60 have been received
 2. £55,231 remains in the Poverty and Inequality grant budget
 3. £125 remains in the Other grants budget
 4. The City Vibrancy budget has been over committed by £31,242
- ii. Consider the applications received based on either the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee **OR** ask the Sub-Committee to reconsider the applications based on the available budget as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- iii. Consider application for £150,000 towards the Whin Park Refurbishment Project as detailed in the application, which if approved would require to be drawn from ICGF Reserves in addition to any sums agreed ii above.

- iv. Noting the decisions taken in ii and iii above, if required, consider and agree the allocation of further sums to the Grants and City Vibrancy budgets from reserves, which, if approved in accordance with the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee would total £77,752.60, for grants and City Vibrancy and £150,000 for Whin Park.
- v. Agree to close the Grants and City Vibrancy budgets for further applications for the remainder of financial year 2023/24.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - Funding is provided by the ICGF budget for 2023/24. Members are reminded that the overall Grants Budget was reduced from £0.275m in 2022/23 to £0.161m for 2023/24. In addition, the budget was allocated with £0.121m for Poverty and Inequality projects and £0.040m for all other grants. The Sub-Committee have taken steps to carefully assess each application as to which category it falls to ensure proper allocation of funds takes place. In order to agree the recommendations of the Sub-Committee an additional sum of £77,752.60 would be required to be made from reserves in respect of recommendations other than Whin Park Redevelopment, which would require an additional £150,000 from reserves (totalling £227,752.60), noting that sums would then be allocated as follows:
 1. £38,517 Poverty & Inequality
 2. £12,865 Other
 3. £18,329 City Vibrancy (Partnership Working)
 4. £924 City Vibrancy (City Promotions)
 5. £7,117.60 City Vibrancy (Civic Hospitality)
 6. £150,000 Whin Park Redevelopment
- 3.2 It is expected that the Blythswood £0.025m will be met from the Winter Payments budget. Subject to the Winter Payments budget of £0.217m being able to absorb this cost, then no additional amount is required from Reserves to support Poverty & Inequality and the total transfer from Reserves referred to in 3.1 becomes £202,752.60.
- 3.2 Legal - There are no Legal implications as a result of this report.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - Applications are considered on merit which includes compliance with Council Policies. The need to ensure that the residents of the former Burgh of Inverness are the main beneficiaries is paramount. The ringfencing of funds specifically to address poverty and inequality will have a positive equality and socio-economic impact.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - Consideration is given to ensuring that applications meet reasonable expectations in respect of climate change and carbon clever targets.
- 3.5 Risk - There is a risk to the long-term sustainability of the ICGF if over reliance is placed on reserves for the financing of revenue and any capital projects.
- 3.6 Gaelic - Applications if successful will be required to meet expectations set by Council Policy in this regard.

4. Grant Applications

- 4.1 The current summary of funds available following the ICGF Sub-Committee meeting on 30 October 2023 is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 **Booklet A** includes details of current grant applications including the Whin Park Redevelopment. Members are invited to consider the following applications, noting the recommendations including any conditions made by the Sub-Committee, as detailed in the ICGF Sub-Committee minutes. Also noting that recommendations are subject to an additional sum of £77,752.60 being made available from reserves for the Grants and City Vibrancy budgets plus £150,000 for the Whin Park Redevelopment project:

Poverty & Inequality Applications

- i. **Dopamine Dolls:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£2,185** from the Poverty and Inequalities Grant Budget towards start up and general running costs for year 1.
- ii. **Merkinch Community Shop:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£9,200** from the Poverty & Inequality Grants Budget towards a community food project.
- iii. **Highland One World SCIO:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£8,493** from the Poverty and Inequality Grants Budget towards supporting anti-racist education in nurseries and primary schools in Inverness.
- iv. **Highland Rugby Football Club (SCIO):** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£9,500** from the Poverty and Inequality Grants Budget towards community rugby development programme.
- v. **Calman Trust:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£9,370** from the Poverty & Inequality Grants Budget towards Club Artysans.
- vi. **Blythswood Care:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£25,000** from the Winter Payments Budget towards the Highland Foodbank – Inverness 2024.
- vii. **Special Needs Action Project (SNAP):** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£30,000** from the Poverty & Inequality Grants Budget towards setup costs for expansion of services to the Haven Centre.

Other Grant Applications

- i. **Chamber Music Tours Scotland (CMTS):** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£3,240** from the Other Grant Budget towards Inverness Piano Recitals – Autumn 2024 – Spring 2024.
- ii. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£5,000** from the Other Grants Budget towards an Active Travel Officer.
- iii. **TFX Performing Arts Community CIC:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£4,750** from the Other Grants Budget towards the Highland Drama Company.

City Vibrancy Grants

- i. **Inverness Military Wives Choir:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£924** from the City Vibrancy (City Promotions) Budget towards Remembrance Concerts 2023.
- ii. **Inverness BID:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£8,484** from the City Vibrancy (Partnership Working) Budget towards the Smart Scape project. The Sub-Committee noted the confirmation provided that this project would add value to the work undertaken by the Council's Cleansing Team.
- iii. **Inverness BID:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of a grant of **£9,845** from the City Vibrancy (Partnership Working) Budget towards Operation Respect – Festive 2023.

Civic Hospitality Requests

- i. **Inverness Burns Club:** The iCGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of the request to hold a Civic Dinner to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Inverness Burns Club at a cost of **£3,463.30** from the City Vibrancy (Civic Hospitality) Budget.
- ii. **Inverness Hospital Radio:** The ICGF Sub-Committee recommend approval of the request to hold a Civic Buffet to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Inverness Hospital Radio at a cost of **£3,654.30** from the City Vibrancy (Civic Hospitality) Budget. The Sub-Committee noted that this event had been previously approved prior to COVID 19 and had been consequently delayed until now.

Whin Park Redevelopment

The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee recommend approval of **£150,000** to be taken from reserves to deliver play equipment replacement.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Community and Place

Date: 9 November 2023

Author: David Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Background Papers:

APPENDIX 2

**Inverness Common Good Fund - Grants
Available Resource for Allocation**

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Budget Balance Available			
Grants to Poverty & Inequality		121,000	
Grants - Other		40,000	161,000
Carry Forward from 2022/23			233,626
			394,626

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)	Grants < £10k	82,814		
	Grants > £10k	150,812	233,626	161,000
15/05/2023 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants<£10k	22,770		
Other Grants	Grants<£10k	25,000	47,770	113,230
07/08/2023 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants<£10k	34,999		
Other Grants	Grants<£10k	14,875	49,874	63,356
To be Homologated 30/10/23 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
Poverty & Inequality	Grants<£10k	8,000	8,000	55,356
Poverty & Inequality Grants				121,000
07/08/2023 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants<£10k	22,770	22,770	98,230
07/08/2023 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants<£10k	34,999	34,999	63,231
To be Homologated 30/10/23 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	Grants<£10k	8,000	8,000	55,231
Other Grants				40,000

**15/05/2023 Inverness Common
Good Fund Sub-Committee**

Grants<£10k	25,000	25,000	15,000
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Inverness Common Good Fund - City Vibrancy

Available Resource for Allocation

Budget Balance Available - City Vibrancy	216,000
Conference Funding C/F from 2022/23	20,580
Partnership Working C/F from 2022/23	8,000
City Promotions C/F from 2022/23	3,000
	247,580

Committee Date	Category	Award	Total for meeting	
(Committed from previous financial years)				
	Conference Funding	20,580		
	Partnership Working	8,000		
	City Promotions	3,000	31,580	216,000
13/02/2023 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	Partnership Working	9,700		
	Partnership Working	101,572	111,272	104,728
05/06/2023 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	Conference Funding	6,000	6,000	98,728
07/08/2023 Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee				
	City Promotions	15,970		
	Partnership Working	10,000	25,970	72,758
28/08/ 2023 City of Inverness Area Committee				
	City Promotions	15,000	15,000	57,758
Civic Hospitality				
	Spend to date	80,709	80,709	-22,951
	Anticipated Costs	8,291	8,291	-31,242