

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 20 November 2023 at 10.00 am.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr A Gunn, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Mr P Nevin, Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place
Mr B Cameron, Head of Housing and Building Maintenance, Property and Housing
Mr S Fraser, Head of Legal and Governance, Performance and Governance
Mr G Smith, Strategic Lead – Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Mr K Forbes, Senior Property Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Mr M Greig, Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms S Murdoch, Common Good Fund Officer, Performance and Governance
Ms D Sutton, Amenity Services Manager, Communities and Place
Miss J MacLennan, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Performance and Governance
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Performance and Governance
Mrs G MacPherson, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in attendance:

Mr J Thrower, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Mr I Brown in the Chair

Preliminaries

Prior to the commencement of formal business, the Chair reflected on the recent sad passing of Mr Graham Ross, former Councillor and Depute Provost of the City of Inverness Area. Elected to Ward 13 (Inverness West) in 2012, he resigned in May 2021 but during his tenure he proved to be an excellent Councillor for his Ward, the City and the Council as a whole. Other Members also reflected on his achievements, both as a Councillor and as a former Council employee. Having been involved in setting up the Charleston Community Complex he helped to establish the Management Committee, extending the building and battling for better facilities for the Scorguie and Charleston communities. He gained the respect of fellow Elected Members and acted both as a mentor and a role model to them. He was a big loss to of all and the Committee sent their thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Business

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

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs H Crawford and Mr A Sinclair.

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

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declarations of Interest:-

Item 8b – Mrs J Hendry and Ms M Reid

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

Item 8 – Mr A Christie

Item 8b – Mr A Graham

Item 12 – Mrs J Hendry

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Area Performance Report Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn na h-Alba – Aithisg Coileanaidh Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No CIA/28/23 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- aware that the community were encouraged to install interlinked smoke alarms, information was sought, and provided, regarding the benefits generated;
- it was asked if there remained time and resource to provide the wellbeing care to staff when needed and levels of debrief were explained from local support to external referrals;
- a breakdown of incident types was requested, namely the percentage of calls devoted to fire and to rescue, and Members were informed that this information could be provided;
- information was sought, and provided, regarding recent wildfires and it was asked how Members could advise their constituents as to how to avoid wildfires from starting in the first place;
- in relation to unwanted fire alarm signals and that fire had to be evidenced by the reporter, it was asked if there had been any delay in sending an appliance if the reporter had been, for example elsewhere;
- that in addition to partnership working with Police, Ambulance and Social Care, Members would also be able to refer a constituent for a Home Fire Safety Visit, and it was asked if those applying for benefits, such as disability allowance, would be offered a visit as part of the application;
- information was sought, and provided, regarding the target for availability of retained staff and if the service was taking active measures where staffing was low;
- it was queried if calls that appliances did not attend were recorded, to gauge the level of malicious calls;
- the number of female officers in the fire service was low, and holding meetings in the community or schools could encourage more to join. Members requested contact details to arrange such meetings and the details were to be provided; and
- information was sought, and provided, regarding Fire Safety Visits to Short Term Let properties.

The Committee scrutinised and **NOTED** the Area Performance Report.

4. **Visit Inverness Loch Ness (VILN) Business Improvement District (BID) Renewal Urachadh Sgìre Leasachadh Gnothachais Tadhail Inbhir Nis Loch Nis**

There had been circulated Joint Report No. CIA/29/23 dated 2 November 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Executive Chief Officer Economy and Regeneration.

Members welcomed the report and felt it was excellent value for money regarding the £20k per annum amount. It was confirmed that a briefing session by Inverness BID had taken place on Friday 17 November 2023 and the intention was to carry out another briefing session in 2024/25.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Proposal for the renewal of the VILN BID; and
- * ii. **AGREED to RECOMMEND** to full Council at its meeting on 14 December 2023 that the Council supported the VILN BID Ltd Proposal in the BID ballot.

5. **Whin Park Redevelopment Update Cunntas às Ùr mu Ath-leasachadh Pàirc a' Chonaisg**

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/30/23 dated 9 November 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- Whin Park was the responsibility of the Highland Council and the amount of money needed from the Common Good and Discretionary Budgets was disappointing. To prevent deterioration there should have been continuing maintenance over the years and there could not be a reliance going forward on Ward budgets;
- it was not disputed that Whin Park needed investment and the benefit of open spaces to the wellbeing and mental health of all citizens had become apparent during the Covid pandemic;
- the report suggested that Wards 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19 were allocating funding of £51,247 but it was clarified that the Ness-Side Ward (Ward 15) had chosen to allocate £30,000 instead, taking into account the number of other parks and play areas in the Ward which also required investment both now and in the future;
- although described as a City Park, the Culloden and Ardersier Ward (Ward 17) had been asked for a contribution. However, it was contended that constituents from all areas used Whin Park;
- concern was expressed that the Inverness Millburn Ward (Ward 16) had allocated the full £51,247 as some of this funding could have been used to re-open two other play parks in the Ward;
- a holistic approach covering all “strategic” parks across the city was called for to arrive at a strategy for investment;
- the Council had still to approve its Play Strategy and it was hoped there was flexibility within the redevelopment plans to adhere to any requirements that might arise as a result; and
- Whin Park should not just be a children’s park but an inter-generational facility to encourage those of all ages and abilities to access it.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the vision for the park;
- ii. **AGREED** the Scottish Government Play Park funding allocation for this Project as detailed in the report subject to the revision of an allocation of £30k from Ward 15;
- iii. **NOTED** the completed work to revitalise the boating pond;
- iv. **NOTED** the toilets were to be redeveloped in winter 2023 and funding was already secured for this;
- v. **NOTED** the feasibility study outcomes and costs for a full park redevelopment to be undertaken as per the scope of works detailed in the report to Committee on 24 November 2022; and
- vi. **NOTED** that funding opportunities would continue to be explored.

6. Inshes Junction Improvements – Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Stopping Up Orders
Leasachaidhean Snaidhm-rathaid nan Innseagan – Òrdugh Ceannach Èigneachail ga Mholadh agus Òrdughan Stad a Bhith na Rathad-mòr

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/31/23 dated 30 October 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- improvements to the Inshes Junction had been part of the Capital Plan since 2012 but there was a feeling locally that there had been poor public communication, which, in recent years, could be partly attributed to the Covid pandemic. Whilst the improvements would benefit all of Inverness there would be an impact on the local community;
- there was doubt, with a reduced Capital Plan, if improvements would ever take place. Confirmation was sought, and provided, that the report considered by the Highland Council on 14 September 2023 had deferred this £5m project. Consequently, it was questioned why, without an approved scheme or planning application in place, this was being pursued now, causing alarm and distress. Confirmation as to the budget position for this project would be confirmed;
- clarification was sought as to the various areas which could be the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order. Some businesses had only been notified as recently as September, suggesting that they were unaware of what was going to take place;
- concern had also been voiced by some businesses regarding access and how this would impact on them. Much of the land identified as being required was on key access routes and it was queried when perpetual rights of access would be discussed with affected parties;
- one business had, as a planning requirement, needed to address flood defences and it was queried how the improvements would impact on this;
- one landowner had emailed Members with a list of valid questions and concerns and it was hoped that officers would respond to these questions, copying Members in to the response; and
- the ownership of one area identified on the maps appended to the report, identified as Plot 17, had still to be determined and it was queried why Plot 4, some distance away, was required.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- * i. **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to The Highland Council that plans for Inshes Junction Improvements as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, were taken forward for use in progressing Compulsory Purchase Orders for the scheme;

- ii. **NOTED** the plans for Inshes Junction Improvements as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, which were to be taken forward for use in progressing Stopping Up Orders for the scheme; and
- iii. **AGREED** that a private Members' Briefing be held to provide an opportunity to discuss the finer details of the proposed improvements.

7. Inverness Common Good Fund - Reclassification of Inverness Town House car park
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis – Ath-sheòrsachadh Pàirc Chàraichean Taigh Baile Inbhir Nis

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/32/23 dated 25 October 2023 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance & Governance.

During discussion, it was proposed the reclassification of the car park, from Inverness Common Good Fund (ICGF) to the Council, should take place on 1 January 2024 to allow the ICGF to benefit from the income in December 2023. However, it was explained that, legally, the transfer should take place as soon as possible after the discrepancy became known. It was then proposed that the Council be asked if the car park income until 31 December 2023 could be retained by the ICGF even if the asset was transferred earlier. It was also proposed that the ICGF buy the car park from the Council, however due to the complex legal situation between the Council and the ICGF, this would not be possible unless by way of a notional legal agreement.

The Committee **NOTED** the:-

- i. investigations undertaken in connection with the legal title for the Town House car park;
- ii. reclassification of the Town House car park from Common Good to General Fund;
- iii. consequent impact on the financial position for Inverness Common Good Fund;

and **AGREED**:-

- * iv. to **RECOMMEND** to the Council that, although ownership of the car park would be reclassified as early as possible, the income from the car park continue to benefit the Inverness Common Good Fund until 31 December 2023; and
- iv. to investigate the possibility of the Inverness Common Good Fund entering into a notional agreement with the Council to retain ownership of the Town House car park.

8. Inverness Common Good Fund
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis

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.

**a. Financial Monitoring
Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail**

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/33/23 dated 3 November 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

The Committee **NOTED** the financial monitoring report to 30 September 2023 and that overall expenditure was within agreed budgets excepting estimated outturns detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

**b. Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee Report
Aithisg Fo-Chomataidh Maoin Math Choitcheann Inbhir Nis**

Declarations of Interest: the undernoted Members made Declarations of Interest and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, they left the meeting for this item:-

Mrs J Hendry – as a family member played rugby at Highland Rugby Club

Mrs M Reid – as a family member attended the TFX Performing Arts Academy

Transparency Statement: Mr A Graham made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as a family member was a volunteer at Blythswood. 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/34/23 dated 9 November 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

In this connection, there had been circulated separately a copy of supporting documentation as Booklet A.

Although support was expressed for both applications for civic hospitality, the Inverness Burns Club and Inverness Hospital Radio, concern was expressed about the provision of civic hospitality in general, given the budget was already overspent and in light of the cost of living crisis. Information was sought, and provided, on the reasons for the overspends, including rising costs, and the levels of scrutiny given to the IGCF budgets.

Mr I Brown, seconded by Mr A Graham, **MOVED** to approve the applications as recommended.

Mr D Gregg, seconded by A Christie, moved as an **AMENDMENT**, to approve all applications except the two for civic hospitality, which would be postponed until 2024-25, subject to the Committee agreeing a budget in early 2024.

On a vote being taken, the motion received 15 votes and the amendment received 3 votes, with no abstentions, and the **MOTION** was carried, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion: Mr C Aitken, Mr C Ballance, Mr B Boyd, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr D Fraser, Ms E Knox, Mr K Gowans, Mr A Graham, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister.

For the amendment: Mr A Christie, Mr D Gregg, Mrs T Robertson.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED:**
 - applications for funding totalling £133,108.60 had been received;
 - £55,231 remained in the Poverty and Inequality grant budget;
 - £125 remained in the Other grants budget; and
 - the City Vibrancy budget had been over committed by £31,242.
- ii. **APPROVED** the applications received based on the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee;
- iii. **APPROVED** the application for £150,000 towards the Whin Park Refurbishment Project as detailed in the application, which would be drawn from ICGF Reserves in addition to any sums agreed ii above;
- iv. **NOTED** the decisions taken in ii and iii above, and **AGREED** 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; and
- v. **AGREED** to close the Grants and City Vibrancy budgets for further applications for the remainder of financial year 2023/24.

9. Ward Discretionary Budget Applications Iarrtasan Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED** the following City of Inverness Ward Discretionary Budget applications which had been approved since 28 August 2023:-

- **Ward 12**
 - Dopamine Dolls: Outreach & Awareness - Purchase Initial Publicity Material - £200
 - Beauly Community Council: Christmas Lights Replacement and Upgrade - £1,500
- **Ward 13** – None
- **Ward 14**
 - Inverness Women's Aid: Operation Love Your Refugee - £2,520
 - Inverness Festival Association: Inverness Music Festival - £750
- **Ward 15** – None
- **Ward 16**
 - HLH Millburn Active Schools: Associated Schools Football Groups Ward 16 - £1,751
- **Ward 17** – None
- **Ward 19** – None

10. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

- i. The Committee **NOTED** the minutes of City of Inverness Area Committee held on 28 August 2023.

- ii. The Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee held on 9 October 2023 and 30 October 2023; and
- iii. The Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of Inverness Events and Festivals Working Group held on 4 September 2023, 9 October 2023 and 10 November 2023.

11. Exclusion of the Public **Às-dùnadh a' Phobail**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

12. Inverness Common Good Fund – Sites and Premises Transaction Report **Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis – Aithisg Gnothachais Làraich is Thogalaichean**

Transparency Statement: Mrs J Hendry made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as a Shareholder of Teclan, who worked for two of the businesses listed in this item. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed her position in relation to the item and any personal connection, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated to Members only Joint Report No CIA/35/23 dated 30 October 2023 by the Head of Economic Development & Regeneration and Property Manager.

The Committee **NOTED** the recommendations as detailed in the report.

13. Notices of Motion **Brathan Glusaid**

The following Notices of Motion had been received by the Head of Legal and Governance –

- (i) “That the artwork transfers of footprints and paw prints that have sprung up in Lombard Street, Drummond Street and Union Street be removed. They do nothing to improve the appearance of our city or increase the economic performance of town centre traders.”

Signed: Mr A Christie Mrs T Robertson

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion was anticipated to have a financial implication. Officers have estimated the cost of cleaning/removal as £2,800. The risk has been highlighted that this approach, given the nature of the materials, may not prove successful. If so, it was estimated that costs of full replacement of the slab stones and associated labour and materials would be in the region of £12,000. This was an estimate and with the potential that costs might differ, and might be higher, given the specialised and made to order nature of the materials.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- the artwork had been implemented without the Committee's agreement or consultation with traders and did nothing to improve the appearance of the city centre. Some traders had the artwork right outside their premises and they didn't want it there. The motion was to remove the artwork and it was appreciated there would be costs associated with this;
- significant funding had been put to upgrade the Victorian Market to make it look attractive and these bright coloured objects on the pavement were not attractive and did nothing for the city centre and should be removed;
- it was requested that a decision on the artwork be deferred until the February 2024 meeting to allow time for an enquiry into changing the colour or removing the artwork at minimal cost;
- it was confirmed that the decision to implement the artwork was sanctioned by the Inverness City Area Manager following decisions taken by businesses within the Victorian Market to attract footfall into the market and a catalyst to encouraging people into the city centre. The bright colours had been used for the benefit of people with sight disabilities. The project had cost £800. Ways of improving the artwork could be looked at and proposals brought back to this Committee for consideration;
- reference was made to anecdotal evidence that young people did enjoy having a path to follow into the market. However, the view was expressed that in doing so people were not visiting other shops on the way to the market and this was why businesses did not like the artwork outside their premises;
- there had been a lack of communication on the artwork and this needed to be improved going forward and lessons learned from the project;
- it was suggested that the metal motifs that were missing from the city centre pavements should be replaced at the same time as the work to remove the footprints/pawprints, when funding was available. It was advised that this suggestion was not within the terms of the motion and therefore was not for consideration by the Committee at this time. However the suggestion could be looked at separately outwith the meeting; and
- the funding to remove the artwork would require to come from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

Thereafter, Mr A Christie, seconded by Mrs T Robertson, **MOVED** that the artwork transfers of footprints and paw prints that had sprung up in Lombard Street, Drummond Street and Union Street be removed. They did nothing to improve the appearance of our city or increase the economic performance of town centre traders.

Ms K MacLean, seconded by Mrs J Hendry, moved as an **AMENDMENT** to defer any decision about the 'footsteps' printed around the city centre until the February 2024 meeting, with the aim to increase footfall, especially to the Victorian Market. This will allow time for an enquiry into the changing of their colour, or even their removal. Damage to slabs was a risk. The latter had been costed at £12.5k, which was deemed not an acceptable risk given the financial constraints on the budget at present.

On a vote being taken, the motion received 7 votes and the amendment received 14 votes, with no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was carried, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion: Mr C Aitken, Mr A Christie, Mr A Graham, Mr D Gregg, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs T Robertson

For the amendment: 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, Mrs M Reid, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Mrs B McAllister, Ms K MacLean

Decision:

The Committee **AGREED** to defer any decision about the ‘footsteps’ printed around the city centre until the February 2024 meeting, with the aim to increase footfall, especially to the Victorian Market. This would allow time for an enquiry into the changing of their colour, or even their removal. Damage to slabs was a risk. The latter had been costed at £12.5k, which was deemed not an acceptable risk given the financial constraints on the budget at present.

- (ii) “That the City of Inverness Area Committee notes the decision by Council on 14th September to defer the Capital funding allocation for the following schools. In order that the Area elected members can better understand the impact on the educational experience and attainment of our pupils, the impact on capacity limitations at all Area Schools and any health and safety risks posed by the deferral that a seminar be arranged as soon as possible”.

Charleston Academy £13M deferral in funding
Culloden Academy £6.5M deferral in funding
Ness Castle Phase 2 £7.7M deferral in funding
Stratton Primary £22M deferral in funding
East Inverness New Academy £59M deferral in funding”

Signed: Mr A Christie Mr D Gregg Mr A Graham

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion was not anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council. There might be ancillary costs, or opportunity costs, associated with the calling of a seminar and officer time involved in preparing for such a meeting.

During discussion, it was highlighted that good educational facilities had an impact on good educational attainment and the motion sought a seminar for Members to understand what the deferral of capital funding allocation to the schools would mean for learning and experiences of children in these schools. Children were being taught in temporary accommodation and building environments that were far from ideal compared to those being taught in standard permanent accommodation. The City of Inverness was affected disproportionately by this deferral in capital spend than any other area of the Council. There was a need for more information to Members, the public and parents on the impact of the deferral.

Other views expressed were that everyone was aware of the distress and frustration at the inability to allocate capital funding to the schools set out in the motion. The immediate priority was to allocate funds for essential repairs and £5m had been set aside for this. The situation would continue to be monitored as would dialogue with the Scottish Government to try and obtain additional funding. Irrespective of whether to have a seminar or not, this would not achieve any more funding and therefore the Council could not meet any more expectation. The budget situation in the Council was very challenging and difficult decisions would have to be made and a seminar would not assist the situation. Therefore, an amendment to the motion was proposed as shown below.

Mr A Christie, seconded by Mr D Gregg, **MOVED** that the City of Inverness Area Committee notes the decision by Council on 14th September to defer the capital funding allocation for the schools listed above. In order that the Area elected members can better understand the impact on the educational experience and attainment of our pupils, the impact on capacity limitations at all area schools and any health and safety risks posed by the deferral that a seminar be arranged as soon as possible.

Mrs J Hendry, seconded by Mr B Boyd, moved as an **AMENDMENT** that the City of Inverness Area Committee notes that £5m has been set aside in the 5-year capital budget to enable any urgent maintenance, repair or health and safety issues in Charleston and Culloden Academies, and further notes the report agreed by Council in September that latest population projection and other data is suggesting a lower school capacity impact from new housing development. As a result, for a few capacity driven school investment projects, including new school builds, current assessment is that the need for full capital replacement is not expected to be required within the life of the new 5-year capital programme. Full replacement projects assessed as not being required within the 5-year programme are Ness Castle Primary Phase 2, Stratton Primary School and East Inverness Secondary. In all cases there is a recognition that school roll forecasts continue to be kept under regular review, and if circumstances change and the need and timescale for delivery alters, future capital programme reviews provide the opportunity to revisit assumptions.

On a vote being taken, the motion received 9 votes and the amendment received 12 votes, with no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was carried, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion: Mr C Aitken, Mr D Macpherson, Mr A MacKintosh, Mrs B McAllister, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr D Gregg, Mr A Graham, Mr A Christie, Mrs T Robertson.

For the amendment: 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, Ms K MacLean, Mrs M Reid

Decision:

It was **AGREED** that the City of Inverness Area Committee noted that £5m had been set aside in the 5-year Capital Budget to enable any urgent maintenance, repair or health and safety issues in Charleston and Culloden Academies, and further noted the report agreed by Council in September that latest population projection and other data was suggesting a lower school capacity impact from new housing development. As a result, for a few capacity driven school investment projects, including new school builds, current assessment was that the need for full capital replacement was not expected to be required within the life of the new 5-year capital programme. Full Replacement Projects assessed as not being required within the 5-year programme were Ness Castle Primary Phase 2, Stratton Primary School and East Inverness Secondary. In all cases there was a recognition that school roll forecasts continued to be kept under regular review, and if circumstances changed and the need and timescale for delivery altered, future capital programme reviews provide the opportunity to revisit assumptions.

The meeting concluded at 1.15p.m.