

Agenda Item	8
Report No	CIA/05/24

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 5th February 2024

Report Title: Inverness Wards Repurposing COVID-19 Fund

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals for the allocation of local ward-based funds; COVID-19 funding.
- 1.2 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-19 funds should be agreed at the local committee.

Inverness Ness-Side (Ward 14) and Inverness Millburn (Ward 16) wish to repurpose COVID 19 funding to support an identified project that covers both ward residents.

- 1.3 Discussions with Members at ward level have established the need for the proposed works to be done as benefit to the wider community that covers both ward constituents. The Transport Team do not enough budget for additional request enclosed Bus shelter within their allocated budget. The works required at the Inverness Gaelic Primary School Park (Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis) are shared cost with the owning Service Property and Housing and the final project at Holm Park also sits under the Property Housing Service.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree the repurposing of the following COVID-19 Funds

- i. **Ward 15 – Inverness Ness-side**

- £3,881 to support Transport Services with the installation of new enclosed bus stop area providing a shelter for all bus users within the community.

- £10,000 to support the improvements to the park area next to the Inverness Gaelic Primary School (Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis) providing a green community space for all to enjoy.

- £6,197.27 to support improvements to the green area of Holm Park for the users to continue to enjoy

ii. **Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn**

£3,881 to support Transport Services with the installation of new enclosed bus stop area

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - The resource implications are set out in the report around the funding available by the service.
- 3.2 Legal – Funding will be made internally to Council Services so will be compliant with the Council’s own legal liabilities.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) – The allocation of the funding proposed targets an improvement to the area that has high bus travel users by providing a shelter for users during poor weather conditions. The works to the park area provides green space improves for all the community to enjoy through wheelers, walkers, and dog owners.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – There are no specific climate change implications
- 3.5 Risk - There are no specific risk implications, the funding will be managed and delivered by Council Services.
- 3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people) – Works will be managed in accordance with all Health & Safety requirements.
- 3.7 Gaelic - There are no specific Gaelic implications.

4. Ward 15 – Inverness Ness Side

- 4.1 Through a request from Ward Members and discussion with the transport team, it was agreed to repurpose funding from their COVID-19 Budget towards the installation of a new enclosed bus shelter and the relevant civils work for this installation.

Also, as part of the request to repurpose funds, works have been identified within the Park Area next the Inverness Gaelic Primary School (Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis) and within Holm Park which has a large green space and play area and also includes a small sports area.

- 4.2 The Transport team have outlined the costs associated with this installation. A Quote has been approved and costs outlined to the Property and Housing team.
- 4.3 Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £20,086.27 from the COVID 19 budget for the ward.

5. Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn

- 5.1 Through a request from Ward Members and discussion with the transport team, it was agreed to repurpose funding from their COVID-19 Budget towards the installation of a new enclosed bus shelter and the relevant civils work for this installation.
- 5.2 The Transport team have outlined the costs associated with this installation.
- 5.3

Members are asked to agree repurposing the funding of £3,889 from the COVID 19 budget for the ward.

Designation: Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South

Date: 19 January 2024

Author: Mark Greig Ward Manager Inverness

Background Papers:

Appendices: