

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2014

REPORT ON: COMMON GOOD FUND

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 180-2014

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides details of the Council's Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2014/15 and makes recommendations for the disbursement of funds for the financial year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

2.1 Approve the Common Good Fund 2014/15 Revenue Budget as detailed in Appendix A.

2.2 Approve the proposals for use of funds shown in Appendix B.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The draft Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2014/15 incorporates all known income and committed expenditure for that year. This results in an overall budget of £115,000 available for distribution. The proposals in Appendix B totals £115,000.

4 INTRODUCTION

4.1 Common Good is a term synonymous with the creation of Burghs as trading counties. A Burgh became a trading county when the King licensed that Burgh to have markets, and at that time a Burgh Fund was set up and is now referred to as the Common Good Fund. As indicated by its name, the Fund is to be used for the common good of the City. Under Section 222 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, it stated that the then District Council in administering the Common Good Fund must "have regard to the interests of all inhabitants of the district".

5 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 In the City Council's Financial Regulations, specific reference is made to the Common Good Fund as follows:-

"The Director of Corporate Services will submit a Revenue Budget to the Policy & Resources Committee each year. The Director of Corporate Services will have authority to incur expenditure within the approved budget.

All investments of money shall be made by the Director of Corporate Services in the name of the Council. Any investments made will be in accordance with the policy determined by the Policy & Resources Committee.

All securities which are the property of, or in the name of the Council, shall be held in custody under the supervision of the Director of Corporate Services."

5.2 It has been accepted as custom and practice that the Common Good Fund should not meet expenditure of a recurring nature other than the replacement of Christmas Lights, and that it is solely for expenditure of a one-off nature. In recent years the Common Good Fund has contributed to the following initiatives:

	£
Whitehall Theatre	30,000
Dundee Heritage Trust	25,000
Tayforth Veterans Project	15,000
Oneworld Centre	5,000
Discovery Credit Union	20,000
Unicorn Preservation Trust	10,000

5.3 In recent years, the low level of interest rates has meant that the investment income for the Common Good only covered the ongoing operating costs of the Common Good and the replacement of Christmas Lights. The draft Common Good Budget for 2014/15 shows a surplus income of £115,000 and consequently this will be available for distribution during 2014/15.

5.4 The Common Good Fund assets are currently invested in Alliance Trust Monthly Income Bond Fund and the Council's Loans Fund. This is being reviewed but it is estimated that the investments will generate approximately £150,000 income in 2014/15.

6 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2014/15

6.1 The Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for the financial year 2014/15 has been prepared, based on the latest information available. Appendix A details the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2014/15. Appendix B details proposals to be funded from the Sundry Payments budget of £115,000.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

8 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Chief Executive and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted .

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

MARJORY M STEWART
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

20 MAY 2014

APPENDIX A**COMMON GOOD****REVENUE BUDGET 2014/2015**

	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
STAFF COSTS	-	-
PROPERTY COSTS		
Property Insurance	-	-
Energy Costs	-	-
Christmas Lights	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY COSTS	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>
SUPPLIES & SERVICES		
Other Supplies and Services	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS		
Whitehall Theatre	30	-
Sundry Payments	<u>85</u>	<u>115</u>
TOTAL THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	<u>115</u>	<u>115</u>
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Recharge from Central Support Departments	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest and Dividends	150	150
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
<u>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

COMMON GOOD PROPOSALS FOR 2014/15

	2014/15 £000
<u>Hogmanay Events</u>	18
To establish a fund to which local groups can apply for assistance with the cost of community events to celebrate Hogmanay 2014.	
<u>Mary Slessor Foundation</u>	15
Contribution towards Admin Support and Project Management of the Centenary Programme of Events to celebrate the centenary of the death of Mary Slessor, in 2015.	
<u>Whitehall Theatre</u>	30
Contribution towards alterations which will enable essential disabled access to all public areas including the bar within a new Bar/Café area. The total estimated cost of works is £80,000 to £90,000.	
<u>Transport Museum</u>	30
Contribution towards development funding required to establish replacement facilities for the Transport Museum within Dundee.	
<u>Football Club Celebrations</u>	12
Funding of City Centre events for Dundee and Dundee United Football Clubs (already approved by Chief Executive in consultation with the Convener of the Policy & Resources Committee, Labour Group Spokesperson, Conservative member, Liberal Democrat member and the Independent Member).	
<u>Roller Hockey Clubs</u>	5
The Roller Hockey Clubs relocated from Dick McTaggart Centre are now operating within the Centenary Wing of Eastern Primary School. The Clubs have been successful in receiving funding of £10,000 from Awards for All and require a further £5,000 to purchase barriers for matches and to protect spectators.	
<u>Kingspark School</u>	5
Contribution to play equipment for disabled children	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>115</u>