

ITEM No ...6.....

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 09 MAY 2016

REPORT ON: COMMON GOOD FUND

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 127-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides details of the Council's Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 and makes recommendations for the disbursement of funds for the financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the Common Good Fund 2016/17 Revenue Budget as detailed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Approve the payment of £9,000 to Dundee West Fest Big Sunday and also £16,807 for Community Hogmanay Celebrations.
- 2.3 Note that a further report will be brought back to the Committee on the use of the uncommitted 2016/17 balance of £94,193, following an assessment process by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The draft Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 incorporates all known income and committed expenditure for that year. This results in a budget of £120,000 available for distribution.

4.0 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".

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

All investments of money shall be made by the Executive 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 Executive 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:

	£
Discovery Credit Union	20,000
Unicorn Preservation Trust	10,000
Transport Museum	30,000
Mary Slessor Foundation	15,000
DP & L Ship Models	15,000
YMCA Broughty Ferry	5,000
Total Recall Memories Choir Group	12,000

- 5.3 The Common Good Fund assets are invested in Bond Funds, and the Council's Loans Fund. It is estimated that these will generate approximately £155,000 income in 2016/17.
- 5.4 After allowing for the ongoing operating costs of the Common Good and the replacement of Christmas Lights, the draft Common Good Budget for 2016/17 shows a surplus income of £120,000 and consequently this will be available for distribution during 2016/17.

6.0 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/17

- 6.1 The Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for the financial year 2016/17 has been prepared, based on the latest information available. Appendix A details the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17.
- 6.2 It is proposed that a contribution of £9,000 be given to West Fest Big Sunday. West Fest is a community-led cultural festival with music, food, crafts and children's activities which takes place in June each year. The festival has grown in size in recent years and this funding will help the organising committee to address issues such as first aid, security, parking and toilets for the thousands of people who now attend.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the Common Good Fund replace the £16,807 allocated during 2015 to allow the Hogmanay Events scheme to operate at the same level for Hogmanay 2016. This will provide a fund of £20,000 for distribution. During 2015, 13 awards were approved from the Dundee City Council Community Hogmanay Celebrations Grants budget. As a result, approximately 2,000 people took part in celebratory events which were supported by these grants.
- 6.4 It is requested that members and officers also bring forward proposals for the use of the 2016/17 uncommitted balance of £94,193. These proposals will be subject to an assessment process by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

7.0 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.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

**MARJORY M STEWART
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

19 April 2016

APPENDIX A

COMMON GOOD

REVENUE BUDGET 2016/2017

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £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		
Sundry Payments	<u>125</u>	<u>120</u>
TOTAL THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	<u>125</u>	<u>120</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>160</u>	<u>155</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest and Dividends	160	155
Other Income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>155</u>
<u>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

