

REPORT TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE – 14 MAY 2001

REPORT ON: HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 254-2001

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report advises Members of the additional income likely to be available in 2001/2002 from the above funds for distribution to pensioners in financial need.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are asked to approve the issue of one application form per elected member in order that they may identify appropriate constituents within their ward for receipt of a pension from the above funds. It is also proposed to increase the pension by £10.00 per annum to £50.00

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that the income from the above funds in 2001/2002 will support a further 29 annual payments of £50 (£1,450) giving a total disbursement of £25,900.00.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None.

6 BACKGROUND

The Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest were vested in and administered by the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of Dundee under a special Act of Parliament entitled "The Dundee Churches and Hospital Act 1864" for the benefit of the poor of the town. The funds are now vested and administered by the Council under The Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994.

The income from these funds is available principally for distribution to pensioners in financial need. Inclusion in the fund is by means of the prescribed application form which when completed should be signed by a member of the Council representing the wards comprising the former Corporation of Dundee boundaries. This will include each ward of the Dundee City Council.

Pensioners in receipt of payments from the fund previously received payments quarterly but in order to streamline administrative procedures it was decided to make one payment per annum of £40 for 1999/2000. This procedure proved successful and it is proposed to continue this method of payment.

The balance of capital available at 31 March 2001 is estimated to be £317,000, represented by property in Reform Street owned by the Hospital Fund and funds held on deposit with the Council's Loans Fund.

There are currently 489 pensioners in receipt of payments from the Fund and in 2000/2001 the annual payment made to each pensioner was £40, making a total of £19,560 for the year. The estimated net income available to the Fund in 2001/2002 will support the issue of an additional one application form to each elected member.

7 CONCLUSION

The above Fund can accommodate the payment of a further 29 pensions of £50 per annum in 2001/2002 and this would be achieved by the issue of one application form per elected member for the identification of appropriate constituents within each of their wards.

DAVID K DORWARD
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.