

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 22 JUNE 2015

REPORT ON: COMMON GOOD FUND

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 249-2015

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides details of the Council's Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2015/16 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 2015/16 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 2015/16 incorporates all known income and committed expenditure for that year. This results in an overall budget of £125,000 available for distribution. The proposals in Appendix B totals £99,000.

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
Transport Museum	30,000
Mary Slessor Foundation	15,000

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 2015/16 shows a surplus income of £125,000 and consequently this will be available for distribution during 2015/16.

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 £160,000 income in 2015/16.

6 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2015/16

6.1 The Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for the financial year 2015/16 has been prepared, based on the latest information available. Appendix A details the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2015/16. Appendix B details proposals to be funded from the Sundry Payments budget of £99,000.

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.

APPENDIX A**COMMON GOOD****REVENUE BUDGET 2015/2016**

	2014/15	2015/16
	£000	£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>115</u>	<u>125</u>
TOTAL THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	<u>115</u>	<u>125</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>160</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest and Dividends	150	160
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>160</u>
<u>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

APPENDIX B**COMMON GOOD PROPOSALS FOR 2015/16**

	2015/16 £000
<u>Hogmanay City Centre</u> To contribute towards the costs of a city centre live music event	15
<u>D P & L Ship Models</u> Contribution towards acquisition and restoration of ship models	15
<u>YMCA Broughty Ferry</u> Contribution towards celebration in 2016 of 150 years in Brook Street, Broughty Ferry. This will be used to increase their youth work provision over the next 12 months.	5
<u>Battle of Loos</u> Contribution towards participating city events commemorating Battle of Loos	10
<u>Total Recall Memories Chair Group</u> Contribution to group of people who suffer from Alzheimers and their families towards cost of two concerts held each year.	12
<u>Evening Telegraph Community Spirit Award</u> Sponsorship of this annual event.	5
<u>Hogmanay Events</u> Top up of fund to provide local group with assistance for community events to celebrate Hogmanay.	7
<u>Dundee Partnership</u> Allocation to enable preparation for a bid for European Capital of Culture	25
<u>Bharatiya Ashram</u> Additional financial support for environmental improvements to Dudhope Centre	5
TOTAL	99