

Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee

26 June 2013

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**Report by Depute Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report asks Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee to consider applications for financial assistance.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Perth and Kinross Council owns land and property which forms part of the common good of the former burghs in Perth and Kinross and has a statutory duty in terms of section 15 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 to administer this land and property “having regard to the interests of the inhabitants” of those former burghs. This duty also applies to the administration of the associated common good funds.
- 1.2 The Common Good Funds have traditionally demonstrated their support to local residents and organisations by distributing grant. These grant awards are to individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities.

2. PROPOSALS**Auchterarder Bloom Association**

- 2.1 An application has been received from Auchterarder Bloom Association seeking a grant towards purchasing a mill wheel for floral decoration. The total costs amount to £6,500. The applicant is requesting the full amount and has applied to Auchterarder Trust Fund for £6,500. The applicant benefitted from the Fund in 2010/2011 (£1,119). It is recommended that Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of up to £3,250 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4) and in the event that the full amount is not secured from Auchterarder Trust Fund. If the application to the Auchterarder Common Good Fund is not successful, the applicant would have to fund the shortfall from its own resources or other funders. The grant will contribute to promote the tourism sector.

Recommendation

- 2.2 Auchterarder Bloom Association be awarded of up to £3,250 towards the costs of the purchase of mill wheel.

Community School of Auchterarder

- 2.3 An application has been received from the Community School of Auchterarder seeking a grant towards the cost of the schools' prizes on 12 June 2013. The total costs amount to £1,900. The applicant is requesting £800. The applicant benefitted from the Fund in 2010/2011 (£700), in 2011/2012 (£700) and in 2012/2013 (£700). It is recommended that Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £700 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 7). If the grant is not approved, the applicant will have to fund the costs from its own resources. The grant will contribute to promote social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.4 Community School of Auchterarder be awarded a grant of £700 towards the school prizes.

First Response Auchterarder

- 2.5 An application has been received from First Response Auchterarder seeking a grant towards the cost of leasing an ambulance vehicle to provide help and medical support in Auchterarder and surrounding areas (within 8 minutes driving distance). The total costs of the lease amount to £11,536.80 (16 quarterly rent payments of £721.05 each) until December 2016. The applicant is requesting £7,931.55. The applicant has not previously benefitted from the Fund. The applicant has chosen to lease a vehicle instead of purchasing a vehicle for the following reasons:
- be able to access a higher specification vehicle so the group can respond faster to emergencies, provide a better and more efficient services and operate in all weather
 - no maintenance costs
 - immediate replacement in case of breakdown
 - no second hand vehicle to sell when the vehicle has reached its end of life

However, this choice means that the applicant has to fundraise on an on-going basis to cover the leasing costs over the period of the agreement and beyond (at least £2,884.20 a year). The applicant has already raised £3,605.25 through individual and group donations. A street collection is planned for July 2013 and a ceilidh is planned for November 2013. Over the past 12 months, the group has responded to 57 category A 999 calls (critically ill patients with life threatening conditions). 11 volunteers work on a rota basis providing out of hours cover with Scottish Ambulance Services providing on-going training for volunteers.

It is recommended that Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £5,750 (50% of leasing costs) in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). This grant would help to start-up the project and give the group time to fundraise and sustain the project. The grant will contribute to promote health and well-being inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.6 First Response Auchterarder be awarded a grant of £5,750 towards the leasing costs of an ambulance vehicle.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is request to approve the recommendations in the report.

Author(s)

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals will contribute to the Community Plan's aim of safe, healthy and inclusive communities and the outcome of communities will have improved quality of life. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Auchterarder Common Good Fund's criteria for financial assistance.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals will contribute to the Corporate Plan's objectives of developing educated, responsible and informed citizens and the outcome of people are ready for life and work. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Auchterarder Common Good Fund's criteria.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The Head of Finance has been consulted and has indicated agreement with the proposals. The recommendation contained within this report will be funded from the contributions to organisations provision for 2013/14.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome: No further action is required as the items summarised in the committee report do not require further assessment as they do not have an impact on people's wellbeing or equality protected characteristics.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions. The proposals in this report will encourage social equity and opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

3 applications for financial assistance

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Common Good Fund criteria

Appendix 1

COMMON GOOD FUNDS WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS AREA CRITERIA

Within the boundary of the relevant common good area and if funding is available, applications will be considered from individuals either in full time education or of senior citizen status and from groups whose members qualify on the same basis or which are operating within the same boundary.

1. Christmas lighting - Firework displays up to a maximum of 50% of the total costs
2. Organisation of events/games/festivals up to a maximum of 50% of the total costs
3. Prizes at events/games/festivals
4. Acquisition of equipment - consideration on merits up to a maximum of 50%
5. Capital grants for provision/improvement of facilities - consideration on merits up to a maximum of 50% (the facilities must be available to the general public)
6. School/youth exchanges
7. School prizes
8. Voluntary work overseas
 - 6 months or more: £100 - **Perth Common Good Fund only:** up to £400 per individual
 - 1 – 5 months: £100 - **Perth Common Good Fund only:** up to £250 per individual
9. Attendance at summer schools/events
 - Less than 1 month but more than 2 weeks: £100 **Perth Common Good Fund only:** up to £150 per individual
 - One/two weeks: up to £100 per individual
10. Excursions/Parties (up to 2 per year per group)
 - Contribution of 50% towards the actual costs. Each organisation is allowed 2 applications during the course of a financial year. **Perth Common Good Fund only:** overall grant to be capped at up to £7 per individual with an overall maximum grant of up to £700.

11. Visits by and from School/Youth/Sport/Music groups

- Contributions of up to £600 for groups less than 20 individuals and up to £1,000 for groups over 20 individuals for youth groups, senior citizen or vulnerable groups for activities exceeding 1 day. **Perth Common Good Fund only and for schools:** Contribution of 50% of the costs up to a maximum of £300 for each young person who due to financial difficulties are unable to participate in an extra curriculum school activity outwith the boundaries of Perth, exceeding 1 day and organised by a school. It will be the responsibility of each school to state the purpose of the extra curriculum school activity and identify such young person and advise the Common Good Fund accordingly.

12. Any purpose where it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to the community of the common good area

The following is not eligible:

- Assistance with further or higher education fees
- Charity based sponsored walk/cycle/canoe etc
- Town twinning activities other than those qualifying through the age/occupation criteria
- Organisations with religious/political associations where there are restrictions on usage or availability
- Core funding of the Voluntary sector
- Assistance with rental of premises