

CRIEFF COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE**7 October 2015****APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE****Report by Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report asks Crieff Common Good Fund Committee to consider 2 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 & 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 allow individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities. For each application, the level of previous grant awarded is listed, but variances between years could be due to the numbers of participants. Retrospective applications are not accepted. However, if an application is received before the activities take place and cannot be considered at the following meeting because the papers have already been issued, the application will be considered at the following next meeting even if the activities have taken place between meetings. Therefore the Committee decision will only be known after the activities have taken place, and if the grant is not awarded, the applicant will have to fund the activities from its own funds.

2. PROPOSALS**PKC Community Learning & Development**

- 2.1 An application has been received from PKC Community & Learning seeking a grant towards the cost of a Cultural Connections project. Between August 2015 and March 2016, the project will host four different events;
 - A ceilidh
 - A food night featuring traditional dishes.
 - Film nights
 - A sporting event

- 2.2 Strathearn is a vibrant community that has attracted many people from outwith the UK to the area due to work opportunities mainly in the hospitality and catering industries. Cultural Connections creates opportunities for people to come together, share experiences and learning, encouraging respect, understanding and tolerance for and of others. The project encourages participants to develop new skills that they can use in different situation throughout their lives. Therefore, the project, and any grant awarded, will contribute to lifelong learning and to social inclusion.
- 2.3 The cost of the project is £2,100 and the applicant is seeking a grant of £1,400. The applicant has never previously benefited from the fund. It is recommended that a grant of £1,050 is awarded in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2).

Recommendation

- 2.4 The Committee is asked to consider that PKC Community & Learning be awarded a grant of £1,050 towards the cost of the Cultural Connections project.

Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership (CUSP)

- 2.5 An application has been received from Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership (CUSP) seeking a grant for Quantity Surveyors Fees to assess the costs of restoring or demolishing the Old St Michael's Church Hall. This is a Category B listed building. The ensuing report will assess costs of repair and re-use as well as the alternative of demolition and removal of rubble. The report will inform community opinion and debate and also provide PKC with a credible, objective assessment of the likely financial costs required to refurbish & or demolish the building. The cost of the project is £1,000 + Vat (£1,200). CUSP has been offered a grant of £500 (no VAT) from PKC's Vacant Property Feasibility Fund. The applicant is seeking a grant of £700 to cover all of the remaining costs, including VAT. The applicant has never previously benefited from the fund. It is recommended that a grant of £600 (£500 + VAT) is awarded in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 12).

Recommendation

- 2.6 The Committee is asked to consider that Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership (CUSP) be awarded a grant of £600 towards the cost of Quantity Surveyors Fees to assess the costs of restoring or demolishing the Category B listed Old St Michael's Church Hall.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to consider the recommendations in the report.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Director (Environment)	23 September 2015

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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 Crieff 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 Crieff 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 2015/16.

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, the Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2 applications for financial assistance.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Common Good Funds within Perth & Kinross Area – Criteria.

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