

AUCHTERARDER COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE

1 May 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/MAIN ISSUES

- 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 grants award individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities.

2. PROPOSALSAuchterarder Student

- 2.1 An application has been received from an Auchterarder Student seeking a grant towards attending the 2013 Tour to Florence, Italy from 2 – 9 July with the Perth Youth Orchestra. The total costs of the tour amounts to £1,200. The applicant is requesting £100. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund before. It is recommended that Auchterarder Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £100 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 9). The grant will contribute to promote social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.2 Auchterarder Student be awarded £100 towards the costs of the Perth Youth Orchestra tour in Italy.

First Response Scotland Auchterarder

- 2.3 Auchterarder Common Good Fund agreed a grant of £9,000 towards the purchase of a vehicle. On 26 November 2012, the applicant informed us, that

due to delays linked to specific vehicle technical requirements, it took longer to raise the necessary funding and it was not possible to purchase the vehicle on time to start to operate. As a transitional arrangement, the group entered into a lease agreement which was thought to be short term. However, the agreement was for 4 years with strict and onerous breaking clauses. The applicant is requesting the purpose of the grant be changed from the purchase of the vehicle to a lease of a vehicle for 4 years. At the last meeting, the Committee asked for further information which has been provided as noted in paragraph 2.4 below.

- 2.4 The 4 year lease deal, which was secured with the First Response Scotland Charity, has a cost of £721.05 per quarter for 4 years totalling £11,536.80. The costs of purchasing a new vehicle would have been around £19,000 with a residual value after four years of £9,000. The group felt that it was more economically viable to lease rather than lose such a large sum of money and have the added cost of maintaining an older vehicle. The group envisages continuing the lease at the end of the contract. During this first operational year, the group has focused its fundraising efforts on securing funding for its infrastructure which has been supported by local community and businesses. The organisation would ideally like to earmark restricted funding specifically to cover leasing costs, which so far it has not been able to do. They continue to fundraise and are currently organising a ceilidh for the month of May. It is recommended that the Committee consider the request from First Response Scotland Auchterarder.

Recommendation

- 2.5 The request from First Response Scotland Auchterarder be considered by the Committee.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

Author(s)

| Name | Designation | Contact Details |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Serge Merone | Senior Regeneration Projects Officer | Pullar House – 35 Kinnoull Street Perth - Ext. 75536 |

Approved

| Name | Designation | Signature |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Barbara Renton | Depute Director (Environment) | Barbara Renton |
| Date 18 April 2013 | | |

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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

1.1 The draft Perth & Kinross Community Plan 2013- 2023 sets out the five strategic objectives. This report relates to:

- Giving every child the best start in life
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

1.2 The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Auchterarder Common Good Fund's criteria for financial assistance.

Corporate Plan

1.3 This report supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2013-18 objectives of:

- Giving every child the best start in life
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

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. 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

2 applications for financial assistance

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Common Good Fund 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