

**BLAIRGOWRIE COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE****1 May 2013****Applications for Financial Assistance****Report by Depute Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report asks Blairgowrie Common Good Fund Committee to consider an application 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 grant awards support individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities.

**2. PROPOSALS**Blairgowrie High School

- 2.1 An application has been received from Blairgowrie High School (History Department) seeking a grant towards the cost of taking 19 pupils on a United States of American trip from 21 – 27 June 2013. The total costs amount to £26,600. The applicant has applied for £100 per pupil. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. Although the criteria could allow the group to access a grant of up to £600, it is recommended that Blairgowrie Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £100 due to the Fund’s limited financial capacity and in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.2 Blairgowrie High School be awarded a grant of £100 towards the costs of the trip to the USA.

### Bookmark

- 2.3 An application has been received from Bookmark seeking a grant towards the cost of bringing a book festival to Blairgowrie and the surrounding area. The total costs amount to £15,180. The applicant has secured £10,626 from Rural Tayside Leader, has applied to Awards for All (£1,000) and Live Literature and Perth and Kinross Council (£4,000). The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. As the applicant has now indicated that enough funding has been secured from other sources, it is recommended that Blairgowrie Common Good Fund Committee refuse this application.

### Recommendation

- 2.4 Bookmark be refused a grant towards the organisation of a book festival as enough funding has been secured from other sources.

### East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland

- 2.5 An application has been received from East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland seeking a grant towards the cost of hosting a ceilidh for the foreign students who work on the local farms in the area. The cost amounts to £1,000. The applicant has requested the full amount. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended that Blairgowrie Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £100 due to the Fund's limited financial capacity and in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

### Recommendation

- 2.6 East Perthshire Action of Churches Together in Scotland be awarded a grant of £100 towards the costs of a ceilidh for foreign students.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

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

### **Author(s)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
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### **Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Barbara Renton	Depute Director (Environment)	Barbara Renton
<b>Date</b> 19 April 2013		

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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

### 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.
- Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.

1.2 The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Blairgowrie 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.
- Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.

## **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**

3 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