

Perth Common Good Fund Committee

26 February 2014

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Report by Depute Director (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report asks Perth 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 & 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.

2. PROPOSALS**2.1 J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust**

An application has been received from the J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust seeking a grant towards their Annual Award and brochures. The Trust promotes the Arts in Perth and as a centre for arts as well as the works of JD Fergusson. It also supports and encourages promising artists of all ages. There are an average of 150 applications for the Trust’s annual Award. The work of the successful candidate will be promoted and presented at an exhibition in the J D Fergusson Gallery. Both Perth and the J D Fergusson Trust benefit from press coverage as applications for the award are widely publicised in specialist art magazines. The total costs are £5,850 (£4,000 for the Award and £1,850 for the printing of brochures). The applicant is requesting £2,000. The organisation has benefitted from the Fund in 2010/2011 (£2,000), 2011/12 (£2,000) and 2012/13 (£2,000). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £2,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 3). The grant will promote Perth City and the Arts.

Recommendation

The J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust be awarded a grant of £2,000 towards their Annual Award and brochures

2.2 The Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association (Perthshire Branch)

An application has been received from the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association (Perthshire Branch) seeking a grant towards the costs of their World War I 100th Anniversary trip to Ostend (Belgium) on 31 August-6 September 2014. The total costs of the trip amount to £16,338 for 42 senior citizens residing in Perth. The applicant is requesting £1,500. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund.

It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £1,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

The Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association (Perthshire Branch) be awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the costs of their World War I 100th Anniversary trip to Ostend (Belgium) on 31 August-6 September 2014.

2.3 1st Perth Rangers

An application has been received from the 1st Perth Rangers seeking a grant towards the costs of their visit to the National Scout and Guide Jamboree in Norway in August 2014. The total costs for 12 members amounts to £13,045. The applicant is requesting £1,000. The organisation has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £600 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

The 1st Perth Rangers be awarded a grant of £600 towards the costs of their visit to the National Scout and Guide Jamboree in Norway in August 2014.

2.4 Perth Student

An application has been received from a Perth Student seeking a grant towards the costs of attending 2 residential Access courses with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra in March (3 days) and July 2014 (5 days). The total costs amount to £595. The applicant is requesting £395. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £100 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 9). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

Perth Student be awarded a grant of £100 towards the costs of 2 residential Access courses with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra in March and July 2014.

2.5 Vision Support Service (part of Perth and Kinross Council's Education & Children Services)

An application has been received from the Vision Support Service (part of Perth and Kinross Council's Education & Children Services) seeking a grant towards the costs of purchasing a Maglink S CCTV Camera with laptop. The total costs are £5,000 (£3,500 for camera and £1,500 for specified laptop). The equipment will be used at Fairview School particularly by a pupil with severe weak distance vision who has three and half years of schooling still to go. Similar equipment (9 years old) was available, but has failed and is beyond repair. The applicant is requesting £1,500. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £1,500 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

The Vision Support Service (part of Perth and Kinross Council's Education & Children Services) be awarded a grant of £1,500 toward the costs of purchasing a Maglink S CCTV Camera with laptop for Fairview School.

2.6 Perth Student

An application has been received from a Perth Student seeking a grant towards the costs of volunteering in the World Challenge Expedition in Ecuador from 28 June – 28 July 2015 (31 days). The Expedition includes volunteering and different visits. The total costs of the trip amount to £4,075. The applicant has applied for £250. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £250 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 8). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

Perth Student be awarded £250 towards the costs of volunteering in the World Challenge Expedition in Ecuador from 28 June – 28 July 2015.

2.7 PUSH Perth and Kinross Ltd

An application has been received from PUSH Perth and Kinross Limited seeking a grant towards the costs of replacing the flooring at its Drop-In Centre (55 South Methven Street). The drop-in centre is used by people with learning disabilities (58 on a weekly basis). The total costs are £997 (£687 for material and £310 for labour). The applicant applied for £897 in November 2013. The work has been carried out in January 2014. The organisation has benefitted from the Fund in 2010/2011 (£3,023).

It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £498 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 5). If the grant is not provided, the applicant will have to meet all costs from its own resources. The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

PUSH Perth and Kinross Limited be awarded a grant of £498 towards the costs of replacing the flooring at its Drop-In Centre.

2.8 Perth High School

An application has been received from Perth High School seeking a grant towards the costs of the Annual School Prize Giving and Concert at Perth Concert Hall in June 2014. The total costs amounts to £2,450 including £1,500 for hiring of Concert Hall, £800 for prizes and £150 for programmes. The applicant is requesting £2,450. The school benefitted from the Fund in 2010/11 (£700). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £825 towards the event and £800 towards the school prizes in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2 and 7). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

Perth High School be awarded a grant of £1,625 towards the costs of the Annual School Prize Giving and Concert at Perth Concert Hall in June 2014.

2.9 Tulloch Net

An application has been received from Tulloch Net seeking a grant towards the costs of hosting a Ceilidh Evening in May 2014. The total costs of the Ceilidh for 80 people amount to £1,200. The applicant is requesting £900. The applicant has benefitted from the Fund in 2010/11 (£6,000), 2011/12 (£125) and 2012/2013 (£500). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £560 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 10). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

Tulloch Net be awarded a grant of £560 towards the costs of hosting a Ceilidh Evening in May 2014.

2.10 Perthshire Chinese Community Association

An application has been received from the Perthshire Chinese Community Association seeking a grant towards the costs of hosting the Chinese Dragon Boat Race event on 15 June 2014. The race will be held on the River Tay between the Queens Bridge and the Railway Bridge with 12 teams participating (17 participants per boat) giving a total of 204 competitors. The event will be run by Dragon Boat Events company which is a specialised company in close liaison with the Perthshire Chinese Community Association, Perth & Kinross Council, Minority Ethnic Access Development Project (MEAD), Police Scotland, Fire and Rescue and NHS Tayside. The race will take place just after the Perth Adventure Festival (13-15 June). The total costs amount to £5,640. The applicant is requesting £1,800. The applicant benefitted from the fund in 2011/12 (£2,118) and 2012/13 (£200). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £1,800 in

line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

Perthshire Chinese Community Association be awarded a grant of £1,800 towards the costs of hosting the Chinese Dragon Boat Race event on the River Tay on 15 June 2014.

2.11 Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

An application has been received from the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust seeking a grant towards the costs of holding Perth's Heritage Market on 31 May 2014 (King Edward Street). The Heritage Market will offer families 'hands on experience' and learning through sessions with archaeologists as well as sign posting to additional information through local societies. A 'fun trail' would be run in conjunction with local shops. The market will act as the launch for Perth & Kinross Archaeology Month 2014. The total costs amount to £5,675. The applicant is requesting £2,000. The applicant benefitted from the fund in 2010/11 (£2,500). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £2,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2). The grant will contribute to promote Perth City heritage.

Recommendation

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust be awarded a grant of £2,000 towards the costs of holding the Perth's Heritage Market on 31 May 2014.

2.12 Scottish Ensemble

An application has been received from the Scottish Ensemble seeking a grant towards the costs of its four day residency from 26 – 29 April 2014 in Perth. A typical residency involves 3 main types of events: Participatory events for local musicians (eg coaching session, workshops in schools), unusual performance events in non-classical contexts (eg tea dances, film screening with live music, live music in art gallery), core classical performances for people with limited access as well as existing audience. The programme in Perth will be as follows: SE piano Promenade (3 concerts in 3 venues in one day including piano soloist Alasdair Beatson), coaching session with the young musicians from the Gordon Duncan Experience, performance in Care homes, string and composition workshops at North Muirton Primary School, late night session at the Bothy, concert with Chris Stout and Catriona McKay. The total costs amount to £29,407. The applicant is requesting £1,000. The applicant has never benefitted from the fund. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £1,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

The Scottish Ensemble be awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the costs of its four day residency from 26 – 29 April 2014 in Perth of purchasing equipment.

2.13 Trust for St John's Kirk of Perth

An application has been received from the Trust for St John's Kirk of Perth seeking a grant towards the costs of an organ screen and a cover for the carillon console (Birch/Oak) to complete the Vision of the Future project. The total costs amount to £5,040. The applicant is requesting £2,000. The applicant benefitted from the fund in 2010/11 (£20,000), 2011/12 (£20,000) and 2012/13 (£20,000). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £2,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). The grant will contribute to protect Perth City Heritage.

Recommendation

The Trust for St John's Kirk of Perth be awarded a grant of £2,000 towards the costs of an organ screen and a cover for the carillon console to complete the Vision of the Future project.

2.14 Friends of the Black Watch Castle and Museum

An application has been received from the Friends of the Black Watch Castle and Museum seeking a grant towards the costs of purchasing 2 portable audio loops and production of large print labels for each of the Museum Galleries as part of the Museum and Balhousie Castle Accessibility Project. The total costs amount to £1,831. The applicant is requesting £920. The applicant benefitted from the fund in 2010/11 (£2,500) and in 2012/13 (£2,000). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund award a grant of £915, in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). The grant will contribute to the promotion of social inclusion.

Recommendation

Friends of the Black Watch Castle and Museum be awarded a grant of £915 towards the costs of purchasing 2 portable audio loops and production of large print labels for each of the Museum Galleries as part of the Museum and Balhousie Castle Accessibility Project.

2.15 Private Individual

An application has been received from a private individual seeking a grant towards the costs of researching the history of the Perth Common Good Fund including title search of smaller properties for publication. The individual's original intentions were to research Perth Common Good Fund history with a view to an eventual publication in print and/or online. However, the wealth of historical information in Perth & Kinross Council's Archives had made him realise that such research would take a significant amount of hours. The individual states that he cannot afford to take the time from other self-employed work unless it produces some income. The individual therefore proposes to dedicate 20 hours per week over a 10 week period at £15 per hour. The total costs amount to £3,500 (£3,000 of research costs and £500 of other costs such as fuel and parking). The applicant is requesting the full amount. The applicant has never benefitted from the fund. This request does not fit any of the financial assistance criteria apart from criteria 12 'any purpose where it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to the community

of the common good area' (see Appendix 1). Although the offer to research the general history of Perth Common Good Fund is commendable, it is suggested that it would not be an appropriate use of Common Good funds to support this research. Neither the amount of time spent on the research nor the output could be monitored. Regarding the research on smaller properties including title search, this research could not be used to establish the Common Good status of property until it had been checked by Legal Services. It would, therefore, be of very limited value to the Council on its own merits. On that basis, it is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund refuse this request.

Recommendation

Private individual request seeking a grant towards the costs of researching the history of the Perth Common Good Fund be refused.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Depute Director (Environment)	11 February 2014

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

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15 applications for financial assistance.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Perth Financial Assistance

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