

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2022

COMMON GOOD FUNDS – PROJECT APPROVAL

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks Committee approval for Common Good property maintenance and improvement projects as well as community based applications and seeks approval for these projects to be funded from the respective Common Good funds in 2022/23.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the requested funding for the projects from Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar Common Good Funds as detailed in **Appendix 1**;
- (ii) note the correction set out in paragraph 4.3; and
- (iii) note the change of circumstances for Montrose Play House as per paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN / COUNCIL PLAN

ECONOMY

1. An inclusive and sustainable economy
2. A skilled and adaptable workforce
3. Attractive employment opportunities

PEOPLE

4. The best start in life for children
5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

7. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
8. A reduced carbon footprint
9. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The Council administers the five individual Common Good funds:

- Arbroath
- Brechin
- Forfar
- Kirriemuir
- Montrose

3.2 As part of the budget cycle council services have the opportunity to submit bids for Common Good funds and this is particularly prevalent where the bids are for the maintenance of the Common Good asset for repairs and maintenance which is a liability on the Common Good funds. Other organisations may make bids for funding from Common Good funds in accordance with the application process and guidance notes.

3.3. The process for approval of Common Good fund bids is set out in the council's Financial Regulations.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Details of the projects for which formal approval is sought is contained in **Appendix 1** in this report. Relevant Members views were sought regarding the proposed project and the responses are noted in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Further reports will be presented to Policy & Resources Committee, if further project approvals are sought during the financial year.
- 4.3 Report No 82/22 to the Special Angus Council, budget meeting, contained an error for Project 2 for Brechin Common Good (<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Report%2082%20Common%20Good%20Funds%20Project%20Approval%2022-23.pdf>) in that the report read “Repairs and Repaint to 13 Swan Street”, and should have read “Repairs and Repaint to 13 St Ninians Place, Brechin”. 13 St Ninians Place, Brechin was the project that Members were consulted on and Members are asked to note this correction.
- 4.4 In Report No 39/22 to Angus Council on 10 February 2022, the Council agreed to provide a loan to Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO. (<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Report%2039%20Common%20Good%20Funds%20Project%20Approval.pdf>)
- 4.5 Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO was subsequently successful in funding bids from other organisations and as a consequence did not wish to take up the loan. The funding is therefore no longer committed. For budgeting purposes, the previously approved loan payment was accounted for in 2021/22 and the associated loan repayment accounted for in 2022/23. There is subsequently, no net effect (of the loan no longer being required) on the estimated revenue balance of Montrose Common Good Fund as of 31 March 2023 and remains at £314,964 (minimum deminimus revenue balance = £100,000).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A summary of the financial implications are outlined below if members are minded to agree all the proposed projects. Financial implications may be reduced if not all projects are approved:

Common Good Fund	Estimated Outturn Revenue Balance as at 31/03/23 (£)	Additional 2022/23 Cost per this Report (£)	Updated Estimated Outturn Revenue Balance as at 31/03/23 (£)	Minimum Revenue Account Balance (£)
Arbroath	474,504	10,866	463,638	300,000
Brechin	342,843	10,000	332,843	200,000
Forfar	685,353	500	684,853	300,000

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 A funding request has been received for 2022/23 totalling £10,866 (additional funding request for 2023/24 £4700 and 2024/25 £185 has also been received) from the Arbroath Common Good Fund; £10,000 from Brechin Common Good and £500 from Forfar Common Good to maintain or improve the Common Good properties, and for community groups as set out in **Appendix 1**

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No 39/22 Common Good Funds – Project Approval - Angus Council, 10 February 2022
- Report No 82/22 Common Good Funds – Project Approval - Special Angus Council, 3 March 2022

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Project for Approval

ARBROATH COMMON GOOD FUND

Project Name 1	Boiler Replacement
Organisation	Abbey Bowling Club Arbroath
Value	Reduction in Arbroath Common Good rental income 2022/23 £3,133, 2023/24 £4,700 and 2024/25 £185 = total £8,018 equivalent to the works costs incurred by Club
Description	Replacement of boiler with associated works, in a rented Common Good property. The proposal is to grant a rent free period for a period equivalent to the cost of the replacement boiler (£8,018), approximately 21 months which will result in a reduction in the income, and therefore the balance, in the Common Good fund.
Status	As the request was considered in April 2022, the then ward members were consulted with support for funding from all members. 5 ward members indicated support for a rent free period; 2 ward members indicated support for a capital loan. Following the election in May 2022, the ward members were canvassed with 6 members supporting the rent free period and one member did not respond

Project Name 2	Creating a digital charity
Organisation	Arbroath FC Community Trust
Value	£7,733.40
Description	ICT equipment to develop new and innovative practices by digitalising services
Status	Four ward members indicated support for this proposal; two members declared an interest; one members did not respond.

Total funding requested Arbroath Common Good Fund 2022/23 – £15,751 (total – profile as above, £10,866 in 2022/23)

BRECHIN COMMON GOOD FUND

Project Name 1	Rooflight, Brechin City Halls
Organisation	Infrastructure Services
Value	£10,000
Description	Replace 2 rooflights; remove 4 further rooflights and slate over
Status	All ward members indicated support for this proposal

CORRECTION

Project Name 2	Repairs and Paint to 13 Swan Street, 13 St Ninians Place, Brechin
Organisation	Infrastructure Services
Value	£1,500
Description	Repair and repaint external elements of rental shop
Status	For noting (see paragraph 4.3)

Total new funding requested Brechin Common Good Fund 2022/23 – £10,000

FORFAR COMMON GOOD FUND

Project Name 1	Flower Show
Organisation	Forfar Horticultural Society
Value	£500
Description	Funding towards the cost (approximately £1330) of running the flower show
Status	All ward members indicated support for this proposal.

Total funding requested Forfar Common Good Fund 2022/23 – £500

MONTROSE COMMON GOOD FUND**FOR NOTING**

Project Name 1	Montrose Play House
Organisation	Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO (Scottish Charity No SC044798)
Value	£59,000
Description	Loan no longer required.
Status	For noting (see paragraph 4.4 and 4.5)