

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2023

COMMON GOOD FUND – PROJECT APPLICATIONS

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT

This report advises members on two Common Good funding applications that have been received and seeks Committee approval to fund both the projects. The applications are from the Forfar Action Network to procure replacement Christmas Lights and from the Montrose Burns Club for a contribution towards the funding of a new Burns memorial in the town.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves to fund the additional 2023/24 project from Forfar Common Good Fund as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- (ii) approves to fund the additional 2023/24 project from Montrose Common Good Fund as detailed in **Appendix 2**.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report aligns with the Council Plan 2023-2028 priorities as follows.

Caring for our Place:

- We will engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations (e.g. community asset transfer requests, community gardens, food hubs)
- We will maximise funding opportunities and grants to the Third Sector and communities to support their ambitions to deliver services

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council administers the five individual Common Good funds:

- Arbroath
- Brechin
- Forfar
- Kirriemuir
- Montrose

3.2 The process for approval of Common Good fund bids is set out in the council's Financial Regulations. Members for wards which have Common Good funds are consulted on applications for the use of the funds either for management of the Common Good properties or where funding is requested by communities or Angus Council services. Reports on such applications are submitted to Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

3.3 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.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Report [119/23](#) to Policy & Resources Committee on 2 May 2023 set out the annual Common Good Funds budget and provided indicative budgets of income and expenditure (including asset maintenance schedules) projections for the following two years.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Details of the Common Good funding request from the Forfar Action Network for £20,105 to cover the cost of replacement Christmas Lights is contained in **Appendix 1**. Details of the Common Good funding request from the Montrose Burns Club for £4,000 to contribute towards a Robert Burns memorial project is contained in **Appendix 2**. Local elected members views were sought regarding the funding applications and the responses are noted in **Appendices**.
- 5.2 The process for accessing of Common Good Funds for any further one-off projects was followed and after assessment of the applications, and consideration of local elected members views, it is proposed that both the applications are approved in full.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 At the Council meeting on 2 May 2023, Report [119/23](#) set out the provisional revenue budget and estimated revenue balances for future financial years for each on the Common Good funds.
- 6.2 A summary of the financial implications are outlined below if the Committee are minded to agree the proposed funding of the project set out in **Appendix 1**.

Common Good Fund	Audited Revenue Balance as at 01/04/22 (£)	Estimated Revenue Balance as at 31/03/23 (£)	Estimated Revenue Balance as at 31/03/24 (£)	Additional 2023/24 Cost per this Report (£)	Updated Estimated Revenue Balance as at 31/03/24 (£)
Forfar	763,454	701,781	685,775	20,105	665,670
Montrose	456,876	373,304	328,962	4,000	324,962

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment screening has been carried out and is attached.

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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 [119/23](#) – Common Good Funds Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Provisional Budgets 2024/25 2025/26 – Policy & Resources Committee 2 May 2023

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Forfar Common Good Project for Approval
Appendix 2 – Montrose Common Good Project Approval

Appendix 1

FORFAR COMMON GOOD FUND APPLICATION

Project Name 1	Forfar Replacement Christmas Lights
Organisation	Forfar Action Network
Value	£20,105
Description	<p>Application from Forfar Action Network requesting £20,105 for capital works for replacement Christmas Lights, inherited from Angus Council and now condemned due to age.</p> <p>Forfar Action Network (FAN) is a group of volunteers that describe themselves in their application as working together with local clubs, organisations, businesses, and individuals to bring together and celebrate our local community by putting on events and improving our town.</p> <p>8 years ago, Forfar Action Network (FAN) took over the responsibility of installing and maintaining the Christmas Lights in Forfar. FAN advise that the lights they inherited from Angus Council are now condemned due to their age. The group are looking for funding to replace the condemned lighting and to install brand new lights around Forfar Town Hall and Municipal Buildings.</p> <p>FAN also advise that they pay £4,000.00 for the installation costs of the Forfar Christmas lights; monies are raised by a dedicated committee of volunteers who work all year round to ensure that Forfar town centre is lit up over the festive period. To replace the condemned Christmas lights funding is essential, FAN do not have the funds available to purchase replacements.</p> <p>This application was assessed by a panel of three Council officers and the recommendation of the assessors was to approve the application.</p>
Elected member consultation	All four elected members for the Forfar and District ward were consulted and three conveyed their support for funding of this project and one declared an interest as a member of the Forfar Action Network.

Appendix 2

MONTROSE COMMON GOOD FUND APPLICATION

Project Name 1	Robert Burns Memorial Project
Organisation	Montrose Burns Club
Value	£4,000
Description	<p>Application from Montrose Burns Club requesting £4,000 towards capital works that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The removal of the Robert Burns Plaque, currently situated at Rosemount, Hillside, Montrose and replacement with a new memorial cairn at Rosepark, Montrose.• Website design and creation with QR coding to set up a Burns Trail to provide community and tourism information to visit all Burns sites in and around Montrose. <p>The current Burns memorial plaque which is contained in a stone wall, is under threat. Recent storms, the crumbling wall condition, and tree roots, now threaten the integrity of this important local and national heritage.</p> <p>The construction of this new cairn is of local, national and international interest and importance, as it will be the first Burns memorial to be erected since the Millennium.</p> <p>The applicant advises that the total cost of the project is £18,000 for the memorial project and as of mid-June they currently have approx. £7,500 in donations from organisations, businesses & individuals. Applications for funding and donations from businesses and other organisations are ongoing.</p> <p>If approved, the group would have 12 months to use the Common Good funding and therefore time to secure the additional funding required.</p>
Elected member consultation	All four elected members for the Montrose and District ward were consulted and all conveyed their support for funding of this project.



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Approval of a community Common Good Fund application.

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

Yes/No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes/No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

Yes/No

(iii) It is for information only

Yes/No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

Yes/No

(v) It is technical

Yes/No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes/No

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure & Environment, 25.09.23

Reviewed by: Gavin Balfour, Service Leader Assets, 25.09.23

Approved by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure & Environment, 25.09.23

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
