

ABERNETHY COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE**24 February 2016****FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CRITERIA****Report by Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report proposes new financial assistance criteria for the Abernethy Common Good Fund.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 All Common Good Funds are sharing the same criteria to provide financial assistance which were approved on 9 February 2011. However, apart from Perth Common Good Fund, elected members indicated that the criteria seem to be over complicated for the relatively small amount of funding available. It is therefore proposed to simplify the criteria to streamline and speed up decision making and administration process.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The current criteria are attached for reference in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Following consultation with elected members, the following criteria are proposed:
- The current 12 criteria should be replaced by one – the provision of community benefit for the people (including any individual or group of people) who live in the former burgh served by Abernethy Common Good Fund Committee.
 - Every financial assistance report should include a summary of:-
 - o the amount of Common Good funds available for disbursement, which will be disclosed as either:-
 - the uncommitted Financial Assistance budget;
 - if there is no approved Financial Assistance budget, the income generated to date available for disbursement;
 - if there is no Financial Assistance budget, nor income generated, the capital balance remaining
 - o a comment that the Committee should spend only the unallocated Financial Assistance budget, or the unallocated income generated to date. However, the capital balance could be available for spending in very exceptional circumstances as determined by the Committee, even if this will limit future availability
 - o an indication whether the applicant had indicated access to other sources of funding

- no recommendation will be made by officers.
- Applicants will be reminded that submission to the Committee does not mean that an award will be given.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is requested to agree the revised financial assistance criteria as outlined in paragraph 2.2.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
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

1.1 Corporate Plan

1.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013 – 2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.1.2 This report relates to all objectives.

2. Resource Implications

2.1 Financial

2.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report other than those reported within the body of the main report.

3. Assessments

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.1.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.2.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

3.3 Sustainability

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

4. Consultation

4.1 Internal

4.1.1 Elected members, the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Common Good Fund Financial Assistance Criteria – Current.

**COMMON GOOD FUNDS WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS AREA
CRITERIA APPROVED ON 09.02.11**

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