

PERTH COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE

17 December 2020

Applications for Financial Assistance

Report by Executive Director (Communities) (Report No. 20/248)

The report asks Perth Common Good Fund Committee to consider seven applications for financial assistance.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Perth & Kinross Council owns land and property which forms part of the Common Good of the former burghs in Perth and 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 Local residents and organisations can apply to Common Good Funds for support to develop projects in the Common Good area. These grants allow individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities. Retrospective applications are not accepted. However, if an application is received before the project takes place and cannot be considered at the following meeting because papers have already been issued, the application will be considered at the next meeting even if the activities have taken place. Therefore, the Committee decision will only be known after the activities have taken place, and if the grant is not awarded, the applicant will have to fund the activities from its own funds.
- 1.3 Applications to Common Good Funds vary across the different former burghs of Perth and Kinross. The Perth Common Good Fund is larger and receives a much higher number of applications than the other Funds. Therefore, additional criteria are applied to assist with assessing applications (see Appendix 1).
- 1.4 The 2020/21 Financial Assistance budget for Perth Common Good Fund was approved by this Committee at the meeting on 19 February 2020 (Report 20/45 refers). The approved budget, the value of funding approved to date, together with the remaining budget and value of applications to be considered at this meeting is summarised below:

Approved 2020/21 Financial Assistance Budget	
Small Grants	£60,000
Capital Grants	£40,000
Value of Applications Approved 2020/21	
Small Grants	£8,532
Capital Grants	£21,761
Remaining Financial Assistance Budget	
Small Grants	£51,468

Capital Grants	£18,239
Value of applications to be considered at Committee meeting on 17 December 2020	
Small Grants	£9,620
Capital Grants	-

2. PROPOSALS – Small Grants

2.1 PERFORM IN PERTH

Perform in Perth are seeking funding for the 2021 Perform in Perth Music Festival. The group are aiming to have a physical festival in Perth, however they have made contingency plans for a virtual festival if necessary. The festival will be run over 14 days in March 2021 and they estimate 2,000 people will take part in the event. The estimated cost is £16,150 and the group are applying for £1,500 from the Common Good Fund. The costs include £3,000 for facility hire, £5,000 for adjudicator/ accompanist costs, £4,000 for advertising and postage, £300 for music purchases, £500 for insurance, £350 for website update and £3,000 for the honorarium for the adjudicators.

2.2 Consideration

It is considered that a grant of £1,500 is consistent with Criteria 9.2

Year	Amount	Criteria	Project
2018/19	£1,500	9.2	Perform in Perth
2017/18	£1,500	9.2	Perform in Perth

2.3 EQUAL PARENTING DISCUSSION GROUP

The Equal Parenting Discussion Group are a new group, run by parents for parents of children under-5. The group will discuss gender equality issues in the context of raising children, with the intent of raising awareness of the issues of subconscious bias around gender. The group will run once every two months for one year, with a total of six sessions. After an initial introductory session addressing the definitions of gender and sex and the common stereotypes girls and boys face from even before birth, each session will have a different theme as its focus, including: language; toys and clothes; parental roles; books and media; and a final session reflecting on the course and identifying action points.

The meetings will be conducted on Zoom with two leaders and a maximum of twelve participants, unless the situation with COVID changes. There will not be a charge for attending the workshop. The group aims to reach 130 people in Perth and 180 people from outside the Common Good area. The project will run from January to December 2021. The total cost of the project is

£1,763.40, including advertising (£100), Zoom subscription (£119.90) and facilitators costs (£1,543.50). The group are applying for £761.50 from the Common Good Fund. The group have not previously benefited from this fund.

2.4 Consideration

It is considered that a grant of £295 is consistent with Criteria 9.2

2.5 PEOPLE WITH A MISSION MINISTRIES

An application has been received from People With a Mission Ministries, seeking a grant towards the costs of a Perth Senior Citizens 2020 Christmas Appeal. The total costs amount to is estimated to be between £17,000 and £20,000 for 1,500 gift bags for senior citizens living in Perth. The gift bags have an estimated retail value of £50 and include food and non-food items such as: jams, chutneys, chocolates, biscuits, shortbread, calendars, soaps, CDs, books and other gifts. Many of the items are donated by retailers or secured at a heavily discounted rate. The bags are distributed two weeks before Christmas. This grant will contribute to tackling social isolation amongst senior citizens during this difficult festive period. The group are applying for £2,500 of funding from Common Good.

Year	Amount	Criteria	Project
2019/20	£1,650	9.8	Christmas Appeal
2018/19	£1,500	9.8	Christmas Appeal
2017/18	£1,500	9.8	Christmas Appeal

2.6 Consideration

In line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

2.7 PERTH 20TH RAINBOWS GUIDES

The 20th Perth Rainbow Guides (St Matthews) are seeking funding to cover the increased costs associated with COVID. The group need to hire additional cleaning from January to June 2021 at £20 a week (£540). The group have secured support for PPE, activity costs and funding for girls who have been financially impacted by COVID. The total costs from January to June is £1,269. Without support the group would find it difficult to keep going. There are 12 Rainbows all from the Perth Common Good area. The group are applying for £540 from the Common Good Fund and have not previously benefited from the Common good Fund.

2.8 Consideration

In line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

2.9 ANCHOR HOUSE

Anchor House are seeking funding to support for their peer support programme for people who have experienced difficulties such as addiction. During the COVID outbreak peer support services have become increasingly important for the clients supported by Anchor House. The peer support groups are usually a weekly coffee morning with every third week having a mindfulness activity such as art or baking. The group can operate under COVID restrictions in tier 2 and below. Anchor House also offer peer support groups digitally. A total of 95 people take part in these support groups with 75 from the Perth Common Good Area. The total cost of this project is £4,630 and the group are seeking £4,320 from the Common Good fund and have already secured £310. The application is split between two activities:

Part 1 Weekly meetings: The activity will cover refreshments for 20 people at £2 per person for 52 weeks (£2,080). The meetings are a space to share experiences and practice methods to help in times of distress.

Part 2: Wellbeing workshop session: once every three weeks the groups has mindfulness activates items for 15 people at £10 per person with 17 sessions taking place (£2,550). The activities help people develop strong connections with other group members.

2.10 Consideration

With regard to Part 1 and in line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded. With regard to Part 2 it is considered that a grant of £805 is consistent with criteria 9.2.

2.11 HOSPITAL RADIO IN PERTH

Hospital Radio in Perth is seeking funding to support its operation in 2021. Because of the pandemic the charity has been unable to fundraise or secure corporate donors this year. The charity broadcasts to people in hospital and those recovering at home. The station estimates 2,700 people listen to the station in Perth, 9,600 people from elsewhere in Perth and Kinross and 860 people from other areas of Scotland. The charity has been helping people with COVID-19 in hospitals and those isolating within the community with broadcast updates of public health information. The radio station is a great comfort to people recovering in hospital, which can be very isolating for patients. Without a grant it will be difficult for the charity to continue its services in 2021. The total costs for the station are £7,000, including: insurance, heating and alarm service (£1,500); Licensing PPL/PRS (£1,400); broadcasting and internet costs (£1,600); news and music purchase (£1,000); and studio maintenance (£1,500). The group is applying for £1,700 from the Common Good Fund and other funders for the remaining funds. The applicant has not previously benefitted from the Common Good Fund.

2.12 Consideration

In line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

2.13 PROVOST LAMP POST GLASGOW ROAD

An application has been received from a Perth resident wishing to repair an old Provost Lamp within the grounds of a dwelling on Glasgow Road. The Lamp is on private property, but the upper section of the lamppost can be seen by the public from the road. The Lamp would have been gifted by the Burgh to the Provost a long time ago and has fallen into private ownership as the property has changed owners. The total cost of the restoration is estimated to be £400 which includes: paint, electrical parts and labour. The applicant is seeking £200 to support the restoration of the lamp. A grant will help ensure a piece of the Perth Burgh Council's history is preserved for future generations. There are several such similar Provost lampposts in private grounds throughout Perth.

2.14 Consideration in line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider and approve the recommendations in the report.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Housing and Environment)	27 November 2020

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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 recommendations contained within this report will be funded from the 2020/21 Financial Assistance budget.

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 must 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 Finance and the Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7 applications for financial assistance.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Perth Common Good Fund Criteria.