

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Finance and Resources Committee
DATE:	28 th September 2010
REPORT BY:	Head of Finance
TITLE OF REPORT:	2010/2011 Common Good Budget – Request by Scottish Opera for support
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/10/155

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides details of a request by Scottish Opera for support from the Common Good towards the costs of a project entitled “One Day in Aberdeen: a 12 hour photo marathon”.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee

- a) Consider whether or not to approve this funding request of £6,000 by Scottish Opera.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are detailed in the report at section 6.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

If the funding for Scottish Opera was to be agreed then it would promote local culture and community participation for the citizens of Aberdeen.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. REPORT

Background

- 6.1 A request has been received (Appendix A) from Scottish Opera to help fund a project entitled "One Day in Aberdeen: a 12 hour photo marathon". The project aims to create a snap shot of Aberdeen across one day in May 2011 by asking the people and visitors to Aberdeen to take a photograph of something they see and upload it to a website. These images will then be projected onto the outside walls of His Majesty's Theatre before some performances in June 2011.
- 6.2 The photographs will also be uploaded onto public websites and a CD of the photography collection will be created to be circulated amongst the leading partners (who have yet to be confirmed) to be used as a promotional tool.
- 6.3 The project will cost £17,500 and is entirely funding dependant. Scottish Opera is seeking support of £6,000 from the Common Good in order to attract other funders. Scottish Opera would be happy to agree that if Common Good support were given then no application for a cultural grant would be made.
- 6.4 If funding for the project is approved then it would not be released until Scottish Opera provided assurance that sufficient monies have been raised, from other sources, for the remaining £11,500.
- 6.5 Scottish Opera have also applied to Aberdeen Endowment Trust and David Gordon Memorial Trust for funding of £500 each. The outcome of these applications is not known at present.

Criteria for Common Good Support

- 6.6 The purposes to which the funds held in the Common Good can be applied have to be taken into consideration.

6.7 A report on the origin, history and purposes to which the Common Good may be used was prepared in January 1976, by the then Town Clerk of the City of Aberdeen District Council. The report outlined the following purposes as meeting the required criteria: -

- Upholding the dignity of the City.
- The prudent management, upkeep and improvement of Council Property which forms part of the Common Good.
- Safeguarding the corporate rights of the community and defending its interests.
- Granting of donations to public institutions or charities, providing it is in the interests of the general public of the City.
- Any other purpose, which is in the bona fide and reasonable judgement of the Council, is for the good of the community as a whole or which the inhabitants at large may share.

It was also outlined that the prime role of the Council in managing the Common Good Fund is to ensure that the Common Good is prudently conserved.

6.8 In addition, recent practice has excluded any activity from receiving assistance from the Common Good for which Aberdeen City Council or other public body has a statutory duty to support.

6.9 It has been assessed in consultation with officers within Legal and Democratic Services, that this application meets with the criteria to be eligible for assistance from the Common Good.

6.10 The most recent similar application for funding from the Common Good was for the Archie Foundation to support a new Sick Children's Hospital. In that instance £60,000 was approved over two years as part of the budget setting process on 15 February 2001.

Common Good Cash Reserves and Balances

6.11 The Common Good cash reserve is projected to be £5.3 Million as at 31 March 2011.


6.12 The Council agreed that the cash balances of the Common Good should be no less than £4.8 million. This is after adjusting for the Greenfern Development Site and has taken account of movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) so that its value is preserved

6.13 Projected cash balances for future years along with indicative balances required to maintain the value are as follows.


Year	2011	2012	2013
	£M	£M	£M
Projected Cash Balance as at 31 March.	(5.3)	(5.1)	(5.1)
Indicative Cash Balance as at 31 March.	(4.8)	(5.0)	(5.0)

6.14 The figures outlined above reflect projected cash balances in excess of indicative levels at least until 31 March 2013 even if assistance to Scottish Opera is granted.

7 AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers used in the writing of this report.

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APPENDIX 4



Scottish
Opera

City Chamberlain
Aberdeen Common Good Fund
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen, AB10 1AH



16 July 2010

Dear City Chamberlain,

On behalf of Scottish Opera and Visible Fictions, I am hoping to ignite your interest and secure support from the Aberdeen Common Good Fund for ***One Day in Aberdeen: a 12hour photo marathon.***

This project aims to create a snap shot of Aberdeen, across one day in May 2011. Scottish Opera and Visible Fictions will encourage hundreds of people in Aberdeen to document ***One Day in Aberdeen*** using both photography and text

The project will be managed as viral campaign, creating a big buzz around the city and will be supported by drama workshops in schools and communities

In Summary

- Hundreds of people involved in a large community project
- A viral campaign to engage the population of Aberdeen and visitors to the City
- A high profile PR and press interest through partnerships and media sponsors
- Supporting drama workshops in schools and with community groups
- Exhibitions across the city and the web detailing ***One Day in Aberdeen***

Visible Fictions and Scottish Opera, both registered charities, are working together to turn an adaptation of a Philip Pullman book, *Clockwork*, to the Lemon Tree, Aberdeen in Spring/Summer 2011. This project will use the themes of *Clockwork* to explore how everyone living in one space is connected and can share stories.

From 6am to 8pm on an allocated day in May 2011, these diverse groups will take part in a photography project. Throughout the day the population of, and visitors to, Aberdeen will be invited to take a photograph of something that they see and then upload it to a website. Over the course of the day, the stories each person is experiencing should build to an exhibition of hundreds upon hundreds of images of the City

Stones are just as hard as clocks to put together, and they can go wrong just as easily.

Clockwork, Philip Pullman

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VISIBLE FICTIONS and SCOTTISH OPERA

Clockwork by Philip Pullman

March – June 2011



UPDATE

One Day in Aberdeen: a 12 hour photo marathon

This project aims to create a snap shot of Aberdeen across one day in May 2011. Scottish Opera and Visible Fictions are joining forces and will encourage hundreds of people in Aberdeen to document their day using both photography and text.

The project will be managed as viral campaign, creating a big buzz around the city and will be supported by drama workshops in schools and communities.

• **How much money are you looking for from the Common Good Fund?**

The budget for *One Day in Aberdeen* is £17,500. Scottish Opera is seeking £6,000 from the Common Good Fund. Should this full amount not be available or appropriate, a lesser contribution would be most appreciated.

• **What other organisations have you requested funding from and how much?**

Initial discussions have been held with Gary Cameron, Culture & Sport Strategy Officer at Aberdeen City Council for support of £10,000. Applications have been submitted to two trusts in the city which have previously supported Scottish Opera: Aberdeen Endowment Trust and David Gordon Memorial Trust. These applications were for £500 each.

• **Have any of the organisations agreed to fund the project and how much have they agreed to fund?**

One Day in Aberdeen has ignited the interest of the Council who are currently considering allocating resources from their 2011/12 budget. Funds would not be available until April 2011 but a guarantee would be given in advance, allowing the Company to plan for activity. This promise of money could help lever funds from other sources. The Council are also considering redirecting up to £10,000 of returned funds in this financial year towards this project. These indications are positive but a confirmed decision will not be known until October 2010.

The project will be delivered in partnership with other organisations. Recent meetings with Aberdeen Performing Arts have produced the following developments:

- Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA) are running an intergeneration theatre project at the same time – we will connect with them and an adult singing group at His Majesty's Theatre
- We will encourage the members of the Young Persons Forum at APA to become involved as participants and project ambassadors
- We will try and exhibit photos in the Art Gallery Community Room

- We want to talk to the shopping centre which is next to the train station to explore idea of a poster campaign to display images
- We will explore the benefits and potential of working with Aberdeen Evening Express
- Gray's School of Art will provide students to offer mentoring to groups
- We have booked the Lemon Tree gallery space for the exhibition
- Photography clubs and groups will be targeted