

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	6 March 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Common Good Budget 2024/25
REPORT NUMBER	RES/24/062
DIRECTOR	Steven Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Helen Sherrit
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of the draft Common Good budget for 2024/25, to enable the Council to approve a final budget that will take effect on 1 April 2024. The information included in the report allows all aspects of the Common Good to be considered by elected members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- 2.1 Approve the Common Good budget for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Consider and decide on each of the new requests for funding detailed in Appendix 3 to this report, taking account of the affordable funding available for 2024/25; and
- 2.3 Instruct Chief Officer – Finance to integrate the Common Good Budget setting into the General Fund Budget for 2025/26.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Projected Out-turn 2023/24

- 3.1 The projected outturn for 2023/24 shows, based on spending to the end of Quarter 3, that the Common Good is forecast to be slightly above budget as at 31 December 2023.

Income levels expect to be maintained and the budgeted income achieved. Recurring expenditure is generally forecast to be on budget, with events proceeding as expected this year, and grants payable throughout the year to the wide range of approved organisations.

Budget 2024/25

Income

- 3.2 The Common Good is a highly valuable asset for Aberdeen City. The value of the Common Good is based predominantly on land and buildings, the history of which dates back to King Robert the Bruce.
- 3.3 Today the asset portfolio comprises land, buildings and cash. The position at the start of the year (31 March 2023) is as follows:

	£'000
Land and Buildings	82,231
Investment in ACC Loans Fund	13,302
Long Term Investments	24,145
Total Long-Term Assets	119,678

- 3.4 The income generated from these assets is the basis of expenditure that can be incurred by the Common Good annually. The ground rents, lease income and cash investment returns generate in excess of £3 million per annum in income, which is used to fund a wide range of organisations and their activities in the City of Aberdeen, and this includes some activities undertaken by the Council itself. Further details are shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Cash balances have increased in recent years due to the sale of land for development, and this can reduce annual income. The cash balances are generally set aside to help maintain annual income levels, through investment income, rather than being used to fund expenditure. A minimum cash balance recommendation is maintained for the Common Good.
- 3.6 In preparing the 2024/25 Common Good budget the assumption is that no additional one-off funding will be withdrawn from the assets it holds.
- 3.7 The investment of cash balances in a multi-asset income fund, approved by Council on 10 March 2021 has now been implemented. The value of the investment may fall as well as increase, this will be reported quarterly. As at 31 December 2023 the value of the investments was £23.756m, an increase in the quarter of £0.744m. Cash balances will be affected by this change as will the overall Net Value of the Common Good. The investment with Fidelity remains a long-term investment and should be measured over a 3-to-5-year period.
- 3.8 Rental income is received by the Common Good for predominantly ground rent and leases that are in place and is based on projections provided by the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord. Appendix 1 shows that income is forecast to be stable for the Common Good in 2024/25.

Expenditure

- 3.9 A significant proportion of the expenditure annually is on recurring activities and outcomes and therefore these recurring elements are a continuing feature in building the 2024/25 budget.

- 3.10 Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the various categories of expenditure that have been included in the draft budget for 2024/25. The recurring nature of a range of activities and outcomes, to support external organisations and the work of the Council is included in these.
- 3.11 As the assets of the Common Good include land and buildings, there are times when expenditure on those assets must be incurred. Continuing investment in its assets is included in the first section of Appendix 1, General Property and Estates, where the core costs of insurance and necessary repair and maintenance are included.
- 3.12 The recurring nature of many of the projects and activities that the Common Good funds means that assumptions have to be included about what their future cost might be. Note that the recurring funding provided by the Common Good is subject to an annual review. Appendix 1 has details of the impact of inflation based assumptions on pay and prices to provide an insight to the sustainability of the Common Good. An explanation of the various categories of spend has been detailed in Appendix 2.

Net Budget

- 3.13 Appendix 1 shows that, taking account of the total income that it can reasonably expect, and an estimate of the recurring expenditure that must be met there is £0.516m available. Any balance has historically been used to support funding of a more one-off and discretionary nature. For 2024/25 the value of funding available is £0.516m.
- 3.14 In relation to non-recurring / discretionary spending that can be approved from the Common Good a new process was approved as part of the 2019/20 Budget for accepting applications and this was implemented during the previous year and continues to be used to provide specific application conditions and timescales. It has provided the opportunity to assess the applications in a more consistent and collective basis, rather than simply responding to ad hoc approaches. The aim of the process is to make it equitable and transparent, enabling closer links to the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- 3.15 The criteria and instructions on the application process were made available on the Council website in the autumn, with a closing date of 3 November 2023. Having the information on the website raised awareness of the application process and 29 applications were received.
- 3.16 All applications were assessed by Finance and Legal Services to ensure they met the underlying criteria that is required of Common Good funding. Once these basic checks had been carried out, those applications that met the criteria were ranked against quality of project, impact of the activity on the LOIP outcomes and how the project will be managed.
- 3.17 Appendix 3 provides a brief summary of the applications that were received and the outcome of the assessment against underlying criteria and also the scoring

matrix. These items are not currently included in the draft budget, and as such, if approved, will reduce the level of available funding.

- 3.18 Approval of one-off or discretionary funding should not exceed the £0.516m that is available. The Council may choose to alter the value awarded to either recurring or non-recurring funding set out in the budget.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report outlines proposals for the Common Good budget for the financial year 2024/25. The approved budget must ensure that expenditure proposed for the year is fully funded from income generated by the Common Good.
- 4.2 Following capital receipts in 2023/24 the value of the Common Good's cash balances are projected at year-end are £40.543m in line with the recommended level.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 15(4)(b) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 requires the Council to "have regard to the interests of all the inhabitants of their areas" when administering common good property. Therefore, the following two basic principles are followed in determining the appropriate use of the Common Good fund:

- (1) That the Common Good must be applied for the benefit of the community; and
 (2) That the Council must in each case use reasonable judgement in allocating Common Good funding.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Use of the Common	When funding is requested from the	L	Yes

	<p>Good not achieving intended strategic objectives.</p> <p>Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee on 22 February 2022 refreshed the Risk Appetite Statement. The RAS sets out how the Council will balance its risks and opportunities in pursuit of delivering the outcomes set out within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and associated strategies.</p>	<p>Common Good legal review to ensure it is compliant with the criteria, and new applications for one-off funding are further assessed against the LOIP stretch outcome criteria.</p> <p>The recommendations and risk assessment carried out are consistent with the Council's RAS. Should Council be minded to depart from the recommendations, it is important in doing so that the Council considers the potential impacts across the organisation and on the Council's pursuit of strategic outcomes.</p>	M	
Compliance	Non-compliance with Common Good criteria	Legal review process.	L	Yes
Operational	Grants paid to third party organisations may be lost and benefits not achieved if organisations fail to remain operational.	Review process for preparing the budget and ongoing contact with the organisations.	L	Yes
Financial	The Common Good funds provide support to a	A financial assessment process is included in the application process.	M	Yes

	<p>range of services and projects both internal and external to the Council. If funding was not provided there may be a risk that services and projects would no longer be delivered or would become unsustainable.</p> <p>Reduction in rental income as a result of the sale of properties.</p> <p>Loss of capital value in the investments made.</p>	<p>Council is robust and equitable.</p> <p>The Common Good has an investment strategy for the cash balances it holds and this should be reviewed on a regular basis, included in this report.</p> <p>A robust procurement process to appoint a suitable Fund Manager and regular performance review and monitoring of investments.</p>	M	
Reputational	<p>There is a risk that the reputation of the Council will be adversely affected by changes to projects and services that currently receive funding.</p>	<p>These are minimised by the having a robust and objective application process that enhances the Council's reputation as a fair and equitable funder of services and projects.</p>	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	<p>None identified</p>			

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The Council's commissioning cycle specifically joins the allocation of resources, through the approval of the budget, with the intention to deliver on the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The process of evaluation of applications for Common Good Funding specifically asked for details of how the LOIP stretch outcomes would be addressed and therefore the distribution options available to the Council cover all 15 outcomes to a greater or lesser extent.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Council aims to support improvement in the local economy to ensure a high quality of life for all people in Aberdeen. The Common Good funds initiatives and programmes that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public sector partners which impact on all the citizens of Aberdeen.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The Council is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen. The Common Good Fund supports a range of initiatives to support the citizens of Aberdeen City. Investment in the range of initiatives by the Common Good will enhance the place by creating a better and more vibrant city in which to live.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Investment in the range of initiatives by the Common Good will enhance the place by creating a better and more vibrant city in which to live.
Regional and City Strategies	The Common Good provides a sustainable funding source or a range of initiatives described in the Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not required.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Common Good Fund Budget 2024/25

Appendix 2 Notes to accompany the Common Good Budget 2024/25

Appendix 3 Items for consideration for 2024/25 – one off items

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Good Fund Budget	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Properties/Estates							
Insurance Costs	18	18	18	18	19	19	20
Repairs and Maintenance	187	184	185	189	193	197	201
	205	201	203	207	212	216	220
Grants & Contributions to External Organisations							
Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau	337	337	337	337	337	337	337
Contributions to Trusts & Festivals							
- Aberdeen Performing Arts funding which includes the festivals eg Granite Noir and True North	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
- Aberdeen Performing Arts - Core Funding	711	711	711	711	711	711	711
- Peacock Visual Arts	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Aberdeen Performing Arts Contribution - Stage 1 Agreement	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Castlegate Arts	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
	1,453	1,453	1,453	1,453	1,453	1,453	1,453
External Organisations Rents							
Castlegate Arts Rent	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Lemon Tree Rent	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Lemon Tree Office Rental	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Charity Shop	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
Promoting Aberdeen							
Events							
- Armed Forces Day	17	15	13	13	13	13	13
- Celebrate Aberdeen	11	10	11	11	11	11	11
- Fireworks	49	59	49	49	49	49	49
Highland Games	90	84	110	110	110	110	110
Site & Equipment Hire	10	25	10	10	10	10	10
Christmas Celebrations							
- Christmas Village	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
- Sculpture Trail Storage	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
- Nativity	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
- Stavanger Christmas Tree	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
Christmas Illuminations and Festivals	96	96	96	96	96	96	96
Nuart (3 years)	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
European Pipe Band Championship	160	106	0	0	0	0	0
	713	681	575	575	575	575	575
Grants/Services Provided by Aberdeen City Council							
Youth Activities Small Grant Funding	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Community Galas	10	8	10	10	10	10	10
Festive Community Grants	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Maintenance in Parks	1,294	1,294	1,351	1,392	1,433	1,476	1,521
	1,379	1,377	1,436	1,477	1,518	1,561	1,606
Civic Service Funding							
St Nicholas Carillon	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Armistice Day Expenses	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Fund Public Clocks	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Civic Support	296	223	224	230	236	242	248
Civic Support to Burgesses	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Civic Receptions	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
- Freedom of the City	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
- Coronation	15	13	0	0	0	0	0
Civic Hospitality - visitors	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Civic Hospitality - promoting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Archivist Unit	269	263	296	305	315	325	335
Central Support Services	406	406	443	456	470	484	499
Civic Gift Fund	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lord Provost & Lord Lieutenant Travel	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Lord Lieutenantcy and other duties	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	1,099	1,019	1,062	1,090	1,119	1,149	1,180

	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Duthie Park HLF							
Duthie Park Capital Charges	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
Recurring Expenditure	4,974	4,856	4,854	4,927	5,002	5,079	5,158
Specific Projects							
BOD & District Men's Shed	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen Street Pastors	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen Multicultural Centre - Mela	22	22	0	0	0	0	0
Tillydrone Community Trust	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Fittie Community Development Trust	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
Bridge of Don Skatepark	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
Cove Woodland Trust	21	21	0	0	0	0	0
Non Recurring Expenditure	114	114	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	5,088	4,970	4,854	4,927	5,002	5,079	5,158
Income from Properties and Estates	(3,468)	(3,169)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)
Interest on Invested Funds	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)
Interest on reserve funds		(500)	(500)	(400)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Lands of Skene/Torry (Share of Surplus)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)
ORDINARY INCOME	(5,088)	(5,289)	(5,370)	(5,270)	(5,170)	(5,170)	(5,170)
Net Operating (Surplus)/Deficit	0	(319)	(516)	(343)	(168)	(91)	(12)
Growth/Impairment on Invested Funds	0	1,132					
Net (Surplus)/Deficit		813	(516)	(343)	(168)	(91)	(12)

Notes to accompany the Common Good Budget 2024/25

23/24 Out-turn Variances

Events

Underspend in the Highland Games £6k and Pipe Band Championships £54k due to shared infrastructure costs, the full allocation required for 2024 due to increased infrastructure and contractor costs

Fireworks potentially overspent by £10k due to increasing costs.

Although the budget was removed for the Christmas tree switch on event the tree was still to be installed this will cost £3k for the following -

	£
Importation License	12
Import Inspection	175
Barriers	550
Anti Vandal Paint	250
Crane Hire	1,500
Total	2,487

Also the Christmas Nativity which was agreed to be moved to Union Terrace Gardens as per Finance & Resources Committee 29th March (Christmas village feedback report included in the proposal to activate Union Terrace Gardens), the costs for this are as follows –

	£
Update and print order of service	100
Security x4	205
Transport of figures	800
PA and staffing for Blessing event	650
Blackout drape 6m x3m keep	160
Build costs	400
Frame build	200
keys cut for UTG arch windows	60
Total	2,575

Various underspends within Civic Service Funding is as a result of staffing vacancies.

Income is based on actuals to date forecast to year end.

Budget Notes for 2024/25

Note 1

This budget is used to insure properties owned by the Common Good.

Note 2

This is a budget for repairs and maintenance costs for properties owned by the Common Good to meet legislative standards.

Note 3

This represents the current contribution towards the core funding for Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Note 4

This is a contribution towards the costs of Aberdeen Performing Arts (£225,000), and the core funding of (£711,000) and Peacock Visual Arts (£35,000).

Note 5

This provides match funding for Aberdeen Performing Arts in relation to a grant awarded by Creative Scotland towards the costs of programming at His Majesty's Theatre.

Note 6

This represents contribution to core funding for Castlegate Arts.

Note 7

This is a grant to cover the cost of rental of various premises from Aberdeen City Council for external organisations.

Note 8

This is funding towards the costs of organising specific events as detailed in the events programme that promote the City as a visitor destination.

Note 9

This funding is for the provision of grants and services administered by the City Council.

Note 10

This is funding for the Civic Services that support the Civic functions within the City Council and services to the citizens of Aberdeen.

This includes grant funding to support the Lord Dean and the Burgesses of Guild.

Note 11

This is a budget for the servicing of the capital debt for the upgrade to Duthie Park.

Note 12

These items are one-off items approved by Council for expenditure in 2023/24.

Note 13

Around 100 properties have registerable leases on land owned by the Common Good. In addition to this, the Common Good owns land at Brimmond Hill, Hazlehead, Hilton, Hillhead of Pitfodells, Kincorth, Kepplehills, Tullos and Mastrick, all of which generate income for the Common Good and which is reflected in this budget.

Note 14

This is a budget for income received on invested funds based on the income received to date in 2023/24 from the Multi Asset Income Fund.

Note 15

This is a budget for income for interest on reserve funds.

Note 16

The Common Good receives 51% of the Lands of Torry Trust and 30% of the Lands of Skene Trust income. These trusts earn income in rents and interest from investment.

Note 17

This is the current year outturn in Q2 for the reduction or growth on the £30million that has been invested.

Items for consideration for 2024/25- One off items

Common Good Fund Budget				
Items for Consideration for 2024/25 - One off Items				
	Organisation	Amount Requested	2023/24 Funding	Officer Evaluation Out of 16
1	Aberdeen City Heritage Trust	£1,000		15
2	Avenue	£94,761		15
3	Aberdeen Cyrenians (Neighbourhood Connector Services Manager)	£55,690		14
4	Aberdeen Cyrenians (Reception Support Practitioner)	£31,358		14
5	Aberdeen Cyrenians (Volunteer Co-ordinator)	£40,024		14
6	Aberdeen Street Pastors	£20,000	£15,000	14
7	Camphill School	£150,000		14
8	Aberdeen City Libraries	£18,316		13
9	Aberdeen Science Centre	£42,000		13
10	ACC Winter Clothing	£100,000		13
11	Bonnymuir Green Community Trust	£7,500		13
12	Culter Community Council	£6,000		13
13	Home Start Aberdeen	£50,000		13
14	Aberdeen Arts Centre (Children's Theatre)	£78,860		12
15	Orchard Brae School	£5,000		12
16	Aberdeen Care and Repair	£5,652		11
17	Aberdeen City Libraries (Edit YBG)	£10,407		11
18	Aberdeen Street Pastors - Additional Application	£25,000		11
19	Absafe - Glover House	£88,582		11
20	Belmont Cinema	£175,000		11
21	Bridge of Don & District Men's Shed	£10,795	£5,100	11
22	Cairncry Community Centre	£20,000		11
23	Westburn Development Trust	£5,000		11
24	53rd Aberdeen Scout Group	£10,000		10
25	Aberdeen Mela - One World Day 2023	£22,000	£22,000	10
26	Instant Neighbour	£50,000		10
27	The Living Well Project	£56,530		10
28	Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust	£28,500		7
	Total	£1,207,975		
	<u>Applications which do not meet criteria</u>			
	Early Intervention	£730		6

Applications which meet criteria**Note 1 Aberdeen City Heritage Trust Amount Requested £1,000**

This represents a contribution towards the cost of designing and producing leaflets to advertise their Doors Open Day Aberdeen 2024 event, and the cost of hiring a bus to transport participants to the various venues.

Note 2 Avenue Amount Requested £94,761

This represents funding to be used to retain a Couple Counsellor, engage and additional full time equivalent Family Support Worker (working within Family Time – formally Child Contact) and a full time Creative Engagement Officer.

Note 3 Aberdeen Cyrenians (Neighbourhood Connector Service Manager) Amount requested £55,690

This represents funding to be used for a full time post of the newly created Neighbourhood Connector Services Manager. This role includes the responsibility for the delivery and development of community-facing services supporting individuals experiencing crisis and exclusion. Will also be responsible for planned expansion of community services, including offering volunteering opportunities, community food growing, community kitchen, community café and flexible learning/social space.

Note 4 Aberdeen Cyrenians (Reception support practitioner) Amount requested £31,358

This represents funding for a full time post of Reception Support Practitioner. This role includes responsibility as first point of contact for anyone experiencing crisis through poverty, abuse, discrimination or exclusion. The main objective will be to triage presentations to ensure the most suitable support is provided.

Note 5 Aberdeen Cyrenians (Volunteer Co-ordinator) Amount Requested £40,024

This represents funding for a full time post of Volunteer Co-ordinator. This role includes the responsibility for the recruitment, training, support and co-ordination of volunteers across the organisation. It will ensure volunteers are recognised for their work through activities that support work experience and employability skills, social engagement.

Note 6 Aberdeen Street Pastors Amount Requested £20,000

This represents funding for the salary costs of 2 part time staff (Office Manager and Schools Coordinator) or the running costs of the "Safe Space" vehicle and ongoing purchases of equipment.

Note 7 Camphill School Amount Requested £150,000

This represents the creation of a first fully inclusive outdoor Sensory Adventure Play Ground that is free at point of access, open all-year-round to all children and young people with sensory disorders.

Note 8 Aberdeen City Libraries Amount Requested £18,316

This project has three strands.

The purchase of flexible devices to enable the service to build capacity in Volunteer Programme.

Aberdeen Reads (Summer Reading Challenge) – engaging more children and young people – development of rewards system which acknowledges achievement during the Summer, when reading engagement traditionally falls.

Purchase of STEM equipment to enable children, young people and families to access coding opportunities and contribute towards the development of tech sector skills for our future workforce. Also the potential for borrowable kits for use at home.

Note 9 Aberdeen Science Centre Amount Requested £42,000

This represents funding to reinstate the annual funding for annual rental fees for building on Constitution Street (leased from ACC).

Note 10 ACC Winter Clothing Amount Requested £100,000

This represents funding which would be used to support families with the cost of living, through the provision of a grant to support the cost of winter clothing for children. Would equate to approx. £20 per school pupil already in receipt of the school clothing grant.

Note 11 Bonnymuir Green Community Trust Amount Requested £7,500

This represents funding which will be used to purchase and install a 9.5kWh battery to store renewable solar electricity produced by PV solar panels on the main roof of the building.

Note 12 Culter Community Council Amount Requested £6,000

This represents funding to be used for improvements to a section of "Lovers' Walk" path in Peterculter. This section is prone to flooding and each time it floods the sections of the path which do not have a concrete surface are very badly damaged and unusable for wheelchair, buggy or bicycle access. Previous sections have been concreted over the years, this is the final section that will make the path fully accessible for all.

Note 13 Home Start Aberdeen Amount Requested £50,000

This represents funding required to address projected year end deficit this will allow Home Start Aberdeen to maintain current level of service, supporting 200 families per year. There has been a higher demand for support due to cost of living crisis.

Note 14 Aberdeen Arts Centre (Children's Theatre) Amount Requested £78,860

This represents funding for the purchase of new lighting grids, lights, speakers, curtains, lighting and sound control, this is the final stage of Children's Theatre redevelopment.

Note 15 Orchard Brae School Amount Requested £5,000

This represents funding to be used as a contribution towards the provision of new outdoor classroom at Orchard Brae. Funding to date of £40,000 has been identified from local donors and others have offered to provide materials and/or services to support the delivery of the project.

Note 16 Aberdeen Care and Repair Amount Requested £5,651

This represents funding for 254 hours of a Support Officer's time. This equates to 3.5 hours a week to visit older people in their own homes and carry out an early intervention and prevention survey. Funding will also be used to cover staff time to provide information sessions at various locations in the city, such as sheltered housing complexes, community groups, older persons' groups etc (24 events per year).

Note 17 Aberdeen City Libraries (Edit YBG) Amount Requested £10,407

This represents the funding to purchase small pieces of outdoor sports equipment to address barriers children, young people and families in Aberdeen face when adopting a healthier lifestyle. Through network of libraries will expand lending service to make sporting equipment available to borrow to enable children, young people and families to try new activities.

Note 18 Aberdeen Street Pastors (Additional) Amount Requested £25,000

This represents funding which would be used to replace their "Safe Space" vehicle, which is used for hosting vulnerable individuals e.g. handing out hot food/drinks, recharging phones, directing people, space for emergency services to drop less-seriously hurt or needy individuals. Remainder of funding required from various other sources. Would be an electric vehicle as operating within LEZ environment.

Note 19 Absafe (Glover House) Amount Requested £88,582

This represents funding for the vision to transform Glover House into a vibrant educational centre for the community. Facility will serve as a hub for learning, focusing on a wide range of health, safety, risk and wellbeing topics.

Note 20 Belmont Cinema Amount requested £175,000

This represents funding to be used to pay for the professional services required to design, plan and manage essential internal repairs and a refit to enhance the interior of the building and the external appearance to enable reopening.

Note 21 Bridge of Don District Men's Shed Amount requested £10,795

This represents funding for the establishment of garden at Forehill Primary School with the support and expertise of the Men's Shed volunteers, the main cost will be the purchase of a poly tunnel.

Note 22 Cairncry Community Centre Amount requested £20,000

This represents funding for the kitchen refurbishment. The Triple C Café currently provides up to 15 free breakfasts and 30+ free meals every week in the community, many attending the café would not have the means to have a hot meal or meet socially without this service. Through the kitchen refurbishment they are looking to increase the number of users to 150 per week.

Note 23 Westburn Development Trust Amount Requested £5,000

This represents funding which will be used to produce a Project Viability Report to assess the viability of redeveloping Westburn House as a community asset; and to fund the development of a website and social media platform to facilitate communication with the Community and wider project stakeholders.

Note 24 53rd Aberdeen Scout Group Amount Requested £10,000

This represents funding Grant will be contribution towards the cost of replacing the existing roof of the Scout Hall which is currently in a state of disrepair. Proposed replacement roof is energy efficient being single skin aluminium cladding, so the replacement would reduce the carbon footprint of the building and energy costs for the charity.

Note 25 Aberdeen Mela (One World Day) Amount Requested £22,000

This represents funding towards Aberdeen Multicultural Centre hosting the One World Day, a cultural festival bringing together all diverse communities of Aberdeen. Festival will include music, food, activities and crafts for the people of Aberdeen.

Note 26 Instant Neighbour Amount Requested £50,000

This represents funding which will be used to support the development of the Mattress Reuse Project and will allow employment of 2 people as Warehouse Assistants (from within client group).

Note 27 The Living Well Project Amount Requested £56,530

This represents funding which will be used for paying the salaries of their 3 part time employees over a year (£46,530) and towards reopening of the Fourth Café at Hillside and the associated cost implication e.g. insurance, rent, utilities (total £10,000).

Note 28 Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust Amount Requested £28,500

This represents the funding is for footpath and vehicle crossing point works (tar/kerbs).

The following projects were rejected as they did not meet legal or financial criteria:

Early Intervention Amount Requested £730

Christmas parties at Ferryhill Community Centre for 40 children with disabilities and ASN – includes room hire, Love Rara entertainment, Joyful Ponies Animal Assisted Therapy, food. This was for a retrospective reimbursement of a party to be held in 2023 therefore not applicable for funding from the Common Good in 2024/25..