

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	5 March 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Common Good Budget 2025/26
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/049
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
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 2025/26, to enable the Council to approve a final budget that will take effect on 1 April 2025. 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 2025/26 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 the funding available for 2025/26;
- 2.3 Note the inclusion of the tiered trend analysis of the Common Good Budget 2025/26; and
- 2.4 Note the review of the Common Good Investment Strategy and approve the continuation of the Multi Asset Income Fund investment and planned actions to maintain oversight of the investment performance.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Projected Out-turn 2024/25

Operationally the Common Good is forecast to be over budget by £48k as at 31 December 2024 with events proceeding as expected this year, and grants payable throughout the year to the wide range of approved organisations. The higher spend has been due to increased numbers of civic receptions within recurring expenditure. Income levels expect to be maintained and the budgeted income achieved.

Budget 2025/26

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 2024) was as follows:

	£'000
Land and Buildings	75,975
Investment in ACC Loans Fund	18,442
Long Term Investments	23,945
Total Long-Term Assets	118,362

- 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 £5 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. Cash balances must be maintained for Common Good resilience and operational reasons – ensuring it has access to cash to smooth out in-year income.
- 3.6 In preparing the 2025/26 Common Good budget the assumption is that no additional one-off funding will be withdrawn from the assets it holds.
- 3.7 Income from the multi-asset income fund has been made based on previous receipts. The Fidelity investment is discussed later in the report at 3.20.
- 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 2025/26.

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 2025/26 budget.
- 3.10 Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the various categories of expenditure that have been included in the draft budget for 2025/26. 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 shows 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 £0.247m available. Any balance has historically been used to support funding of a more one-off and discretionary nature. For 2025/26 the value of funding available is £0.247m.
- 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 (LOIP).
- 3.15 The criteria (detailed in Appendix 4) and instructions on the application process were made available on the Council website in the autumn, with a closing date of 10 November 2024. Having the information on the website raised awareness of the application process and 28 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 £0.247m that is available. The Council may choose to alter the value awarded to either recurring or non-recurring funding set out in the budget.

3.19 It should be noted that the Council Services which receive recurring funding are not subject to the completion of application forms detailed in 3.15 and this also applies to any further decisions taken as part of the budget process in 2025/26 to support Council Services from the Common Good. There has been a review to ensure that any Council Service funded from the Common Good meets criteria.

3.20 Tiered trend analysis

Detailed below is the tiered trend analysis for the recurring Budgeted expenditure in the Common Good Budget 2025/26-

Common Good Fund Budget 2025/26			
	Tiers		
	1	2	3
	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Properties/Estates	217	-	-
Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau	175	115	47
Cultural Investment Framework	1,072	119	-
External Organisations Rents	62	7	-
Promoting Aberdeen	436	48	-
Small Grant Funding	-	85	-
Maintenance in Parks & Shrubs inc Union Terr Gdns	1,133	324	162
Civic Service Funding	1,120		
Total	4,216	698	209

Summary of the tiers

- 1 – Prevention -Taking action to prevent the occurrence of harm through universal measures
- 2 - Early intervention - Interventions that ward off the initial onset of harm and create empowered resilient communities and staff (human demand) Intervening before further harm takes place in a way that avoids the later costs in both human and financial terms of handling the consequences of that harm (resource demand)
- 3 – Response - "Significant harm has occurred or is assessed as being imminent, significant resource is required to provide specialist and / or intensive support to reduce harm and demand.

As you will see above the majority of the expenditure sits within tier 1, with a smaller proportion aligned to both tiers 2 and 3 in the analysis.

Review of Investment Strategy

- 3.21 The paper for the Common Good Budget 2021/22 to Council on 10 March 2021 detailed the potential investment options to be considered along with the risk rating of each –
- **Buy & Maintain Credit Fund** – A fund which would invest in good quality Corporate Bonds and yield around 2% currently. Large scale fund (£bns) is actively managed and aims to deliver an attractive return through a long-term, low turnover investment approach. This type of fund aims to add value principally through attractive credits and will be managed to reflect the Fund Managers credit views. The fund would aim to avoid the flaws of a market-weight based benchmark approach. The fund's would have a rigorous, and disciplined investment process, drawing on a large team of credit analysts.
Risk rating: Between 2 and 3
 - **Multi-Asset Income Fund** – A fund which invests in a range of assets, which makes it more diversified than a buy and maintain credit fund. The fund dynamically allocates/changes over time, and would feature much higher yielding 4-5% if it hits its target. This is reflected in a higher, ongoing fund fee. A Buy & Maintain Credit fund (as previous option) would feature as a component part of this fund, which is a “blended” product. In summary, good yield, good asset mix.
Risk rating: Between 4 and 5.
 - **Secure Income Fund** – This type of fund is more specialised than the previous funds and would involve a higher-level of specialist operational administration, but returns could potentially be in the range of say 6-10%. Further due diligence would need to be done around the stability of the income, as funds of this type tend to have no prior track record.
Risk rating: Between 4 and 5.
 - **Fiduciary Arrangement** – Under this type of arrangement, the Council would appoint a Fund Manager to build a tailored solution which would target a specific level of income yield (say 3% for example). Where a fixed yield is desired, the level of risk would shift up and down in line with market conditions and the subsequent actions required to achieve the desired yield over time.
Risk Rating: Between 2 and 5. The risk level would be dependent on the target yield selected.
- 3.22 It was recommended that the Common Good cash balance, up to £30m, is invested in a Multi-Asset Income Fund and that investment with the selected Fund Manager is done in tranches to reduce the timing risk exposure.
- 3.23 The remaining cash balances of the Common Good will continue to be invested in the Aberdeen City Council Loans Fund and provide working capital cashflow protection. These will achieve an interest rate-based return.

- 3.24 The multi-asset income fund, approved by Council on 10 March 2021 was implemented during financial year 2021/22. The value of the investment over the four years has risen as well as fallen, this has been reported quarterly. As at 31 December 2024 the value of the investments was £23.351m. The investment with Fidelity remains a long-term investment and should be measured over a 3-to-5-year period.
- 3.25 Fidelity state that the Multi Asset Income Fund ('MAI') aims to deliver attractive income with some capital growth over a market cycle from a diversified blend of assets while managing risk to mitigate downside. It has exposure to a range of securities globally (equities, fixed income, real estate, and non-standard asset classes including infrastructure and loans) through investment in Fidelity funds as well as third-party managers and passive instruments where appropriate. MAI is very well diversified with a wide opportunity set and a high level of flexibility to allocate across asset classes and regions. By responding to changing economic and market conditions and adapting the mix of asset classes, the investment team aims to achieve the best income opportunities and balancing yield opportunities, total return, risk and liquidity.
- 3.26 Over the four years the MAI valuations as at 31 March have fallen but are beginning to stabilise as can be seen in the following table. The initial reductions reflect world events and the economic climate. The interest rates are delivering each year which is the aim of the MAI, and the primary driver for investment in this type of fund.

	Valuation	Cumulative Change Each Year	Income Each Year	% Interest earned based on initial investment
Opening value	30,000,000			
Closing value 31st March 2022	27,780,324	(2,219,676)	(748,383)	(2.49)
Closing value 31st March 2023	24,144,737	(3,635,587)	(1,169,263)	(3.90)
Closing value 31st March 2024	23,944,919	(199,819)	(1,404,058)	(4.68)
Closing value 31st December 2024	23,351,014	(593,905)	(1,173,934)	(3.91)
Total		(6,648,986)	(4,495,638)	

- 3.27 Based on information to date the recommendation would be to continue with the MAI based on the interest rates being achieved but that this should be reviewed each year.
- 3.28 During 2025/26 meetings will be undertaken with Fidelity to understand what they are doing to achieve capital growth improvements and over what time should the Council expect to see those improvements. This will be in the context of maintaining a healthy level of income. Also the length of time this investment should be maintained, as generally investor hold similar investments for 5 years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report outlines proposals for the Common Good budget for the financial year 2025/26. 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 2025/26 the value of the Common Good's cash balances are projected at year-end are £18m 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 Good not achieving intended strategic objectives.	When funding is requested from the Common Good legal review to ensure it is compliant with the criteria, and new applications for one-off funding are further	L	Yes

	<p>Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2024 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>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	<p>Non-compliance with Common Good criteria</p>	<p>Legal review process.</p>	L	Yes
Operational	<p>Grants paid to third party organisations may be lost and benefits not achieved if organisations fail to remain operational.</p>	<p>Review process for preparing the budget and ongoing contact with the organisations.</p>	L	Yes
Financial	<p>The Common Good funds provide support to a range of services and projects both internal and external to the Council. If</p>	<p>A financial assessment process is included in the application process.</p> <p>Council is processes are robust and equitable.</p>	M	Yes

	<p>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>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 2024	
	Impact of Report
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</p>	<p>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</p>

	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.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	No Impact
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	No Impact
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	No Impact
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	Completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not required.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Fidelity – Quarterly Investment Review – 31 December 2024

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Common Good Fund Budget 2025/26

Appendix 2 Notes to accompany the Common Good Budget 2025/26

Appendix 3 Items for consideration for 2025/26 – one off items

Appendix 4 Criteria for the Common Good

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1

Common Good Fund Budget		2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
		Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Note								
	<u>General Properties/Estates</u>							
1	Insurance Costs	18	18	18	19	19	20	20
2	Repairs and Maintenance	185	185	199	203	207	211	215
		203	203	217	222	226	231	235
	<u>Grants & Contributions to External Organisations</u>							
3	Aberdeen Citizen's Advice Bureau	337	337	337	337	337	337	337
4	Cultural Investment Framework	1,191	1,191	1,191	1,191	1,191	1,191	1,191
		1,528	1,528	1,528	1,528	1,528	1,528	1,528
5	<u>External Organisations Rents</u>							
	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
	Aberdeen Science Centre	42	42	0	0	0	0	0
		111	111	69	69	69	69	69
	<u>Promoting Aberdeen</u>							
6	Events							
	- Armed Forces Day	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
	- Celebrate Aberdeen	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
	- Fireworks	49	60	49	49	49	49	49
	Highland Games	110	106	110	110	110	110	110
	Site & Equipment Hire	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Christmas & Hogmanay Celebrations							
	- Christmas Village	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
	- Sculpture Trail Storage	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	- Stravanger Christmas Tree	3	1	3	3	3	3	3
	- Nativity	3	1	3	3	3	3	3
	Christmas Illuminations and Festivals	96	96	96	96	96	96	96
	Provision for Parades & Marches	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
		485	487	485	485	485	485	485
7	<u>Grants/Services Provided by Aberdeen City Council</u>							
	Youth Activities Small Grant Funding	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Community Galas	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Festive Community Grants	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	Maintenance in Parks & Shrubs inc Union Terr Gdns	1,562	1,562	1,562	1,562	1,562	1,562	1,562
		1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647	1,647
8	<u>Civic Service Funding</u>							
	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	224	224	231	235	240	245	250
	Civic Support to Burgesses	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Civic Receptions	75	125	75	75	75	75	75
	Civic Hospitality - visitors	5	1	5	5	5	5	5
	Civic Hospitality - promoting	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Archivist Unit	296	296	305	311	317	324	330
	Central Support Services	443	443	456	465	475	484	494
	Civic Gift Fund	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Lord Provost & Lord Lieutenant Travel	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Lord Lieutenancy and other duties	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Lord Provost Portrait	10	10	0	0	10	0	0
		1,102	1,148	1,120	1,140	1,171	1,181	1,202

		2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
		Budget	Outturn	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Duthie Park HLF							
9	Duthie Park Capital Charges	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
	Recurring Expenditure	5,132	5,180	5,123	5,147	5,182	5,197	5,222
10	Specific Projects							
	Aberdeen Street Pastors	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
	Aberdeen Multicultural Centre - Mela	22	22	0	0	0	0	0
	Belmont	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
	Winter Clothing	100	100	0	0	0	0	0
	Denis Law Trail	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
	Aberdeen City Heritage	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Specific Projects	238	238	0	0	0	0	0
	Non Recurring Expenditure	238	238	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	5,370	5,418	5,123	5,147	5,182	5,197	5,222
11	Income from Properties and Estates	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,250)
12	Interest on Invested Funds	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)	(1,550)
13	Interest on Reserve Funds	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
14	Lands of Skene/Torry (Share of Surplus)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)	(70)
15	Growth/Impairment on Invested Funds	0	594	0	0	0	0	0
	ORDINARY INCOME	(5,370)	(4,776)	(5,370)	(5,370)	(5,370)	(5,370)	(5,370)
	Net (Surplus)/Deficit	0	642	(247)	(223)	(188)	(173)	(147)

Notes to accompany the Common Good Budget 2025/26

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 represents funding for the Cultural Investment Framework this is separately detailed in the Council agenda within the General Fund Budget 2025/26 report.

Note 5

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

Note 6

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 7

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

Note 8

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 9

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

Note 10

These items are one-off items approved by Council for expenditure in 2024/25.

Note 11

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 Pitfodels, Kincorth, Kepplehills, Tullos and Mastrick, all of which generate income for the Common Good and which is reflected in this budget.

Note 12

This is a budget for income received on invested funds based on the income received to date in 2024/25 from the Multi Asset Income Fund.

Note 13

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

Note 14

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 15

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

Items for consideration for 2025/26- One off items

Common Good Fund Budget				
Items for Consideration for 2025/26 - One off Items				
Organisation	Amount Requested	2024/25 Funding	Officer Evaluation Out of 16	
1 Aberdeen Foyer	£242,349		14	
2 ABSAFE - School Safe	£38,726		14	
3 Befriend a Child	£15,000		14	
4 Home Start Aberdeen	£43,000	£50,000	14	
5 Camphill School	£150,000	£150,000	14	
6 Gairn Community Garden	£23,808		14	
7 Visit Aberdeen	£19,778		14	
8 Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	£10,000		13	
9 Aberdeen Science Centre	£42,000	£42,000	13	
10 Aberdeen Street Pastors	£20,000	£20,000	13	
11 ABSAFE - Youth Empowerment & Leadership Programme	£40,263		13	
12 Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association - Mini Bus	£10,000		13	
13 The Archie Foundation	£95,000		13	
14 Aberdeen Art Gallery (Monsters of the Deep Exhibition)	£100,000		12	
15 Aberdeen Art Gallery (Afternoon Tea Lord Mayor of London)	£11,000		12	
16 TECHFEST	£36,500		12	
17 Lynne's Loom - Spinning a Sail	£17,204		11	
18 Robert Gordon University	£324,074		11	
19 Aberdeen Multicultural Centre (Aberdeen MELA)	£22,000	£22,000	11	
20 Cults Library	£170,000		11	
21 Beach Ballroom - Young at Heart	£30,000		10	
22 NESCAN Hub Ltd	£54,071		10	
23 We Too - Tall Ships	£38,170		10	
24 Tall Ships	£110,000		9	
Total	£1,662,943			
<u>Applications which do not meet criteria</u>				
Aberdeen Cyrenians	£48,600		10	
Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group CIC	£92,000		7	
Afristyle Dance Club	£25,000.00		6	
Your Love Rara	24,000		6	

Applications which meet criteria**Note 1 Aberdeen Foyer Amount requested £242,349**

This represents funding to be used to set up The Aberdeen Foyer Youth Hub which will offer a central space that provides access to critical support services and address challenges faced by young people including mental health, employability, social connections and financial hardship.

Note 2 ABSAFE – School Safe Amount requested £37,726

This represents funding to be used towards the cost of project which focuses on equipping school children with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate various risks they may encounter in daily life and instil a culture of safety and resilience.

Note 3 Befriend a Child Amount requested £15,000

This represents funding to be used to go towards the costs of a Senior Befriending Co-ordinator's salary, staff training, staff travel expenses, volunteer training, small overheads and outing expenses for a new Community Befriending Project

Note 4 Homestart Aberdeen Amount requested £43,000

This represents funding cover the projected shortfall in income to allow continuation of current level of service, supporting over 200 families a year.

Note 5 Camphill School Amount Requested £150,000

This represents funding to be used to create Aberdeen's first free fully inclusive outdoor sensory adventure playground. The playground will remain open all year round, offering an accessible space specifically designed for children and young people with sensory disorders such as autism and learning disabilities.

Note 6 Gairn Community Garden Requested £23,807.80

This represents funding to enhance the community space by constructing a secure fence, installing a polytunnel for year-round gardening and providing training sessions to upskill community members.

Note 7 Visit Aberdeen Amount Requested £19,778

This represents funding for the Welcome to Aberdeen Volunteer Scheme, which was create to meet and help to orientate visitors with the main focus being to welcome cruise passengers. Funding will be used to increase the volunteer pool to 35 volunteers and provide training for a group of engaged volunteers who will welcome cruise visitors arriving in Aberdeen.

Note 8 Aberdeen School's Rowing Association Amount Requested £10,000

This represents funding towards the salary cost of a member of staff (previously funded via a one-off donation). This will allow the continuation of the Outreach program in a number of the City's secondary schools.

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 Aberdeen Street Pastors Amount Requested £20,000

This represents funding to be used to cover ongoing operational costs of the service: rent; training/uniforms; Street Pastor consumable equipment to give out; Safe Space vehicle.

Note 11 ABSAFE – Youth Empowerment Amount Requested £40,263

This represents funding for a project which aims to teach civic and leadership skills to S4 pupils at all the City's academies.

Note 12 Aberdeen School's Rowing Association – Mini Bus Amount Requested £10,000

This represents funding to be used towards the purchase of a mini bus to support the Outreach Programme – transporting pupils to/from school/boathouse, regattas, training camps and selection trials.

Note 13 The Archie Foundation Amount Requested £95,000

This represents funding required to purchase of specialist equipment which is better/goes above what the NHS provide. The specialist equipment is Multitrac Birthing System £10,000; 5 Wireless CTG Foetal Monitoring Systems £73,738; 2 Bilicocoon Phototherapy Blankets £10,530.

Note 14 Aberdeen Art Gallery (Monsters of the Deep Exhibition) Amount Requested £100,000

This funding will allow the Art Gallery to offer concession rates for all Aberdeen City library card holders and free entry to all primary aged children to the Monsters of the Deep exhibition.

Note 15 Aberdeen Art Gallery (Afternoon Tea for Lord Mayor of London & Livery Weekend) Amount Requested £11,000

This represents funding which will help support the venue in opening in the evening for a special one off event which will showcase the “Winds of Change” which the City commissioned as part of Spectra 2024 to the Livery Event. This will contribute to the cost of installation, technical, marketing, staff out of hours, children’s entertainment and extra security and offer some reduced price or free tickets to the exhibition for the local community.

Note 16 Techfest Amount Requested £35,500

This funding will support: TechFest’s annual Primary School and Early Years Science Festival; Primary and Secondary School Outreach Programmes.

Note 17 Lynne’s Loom Amount Requested £17,204

This represents funding to host and record “Spinning a Sail” – a panel discussion at Trinity Hall during the Tall Ships festival 19-22 July 2025; focused research on weaving/sailing; hands-on workshops; development of website and podcast.

Note 18 Robert Gordon’s University Amount Requested £324,074

This represents funding to carry out a five stage improvement and community engagement plan including: Invasive Species Eradication; Wholesale Ecosystem Restoration; Meadow Restoration; Improvement of Access and Usability of the riverside Path; Establishment of Community Engagement role.

Note 19 Aberdeen Multicultural Centre Amount Requested £22,000

This is funding for Aberdeen Mela 2025 (Stage, Generators, Security, License, First Aid, Artists, Marketing, Production, Marquee, Gazebo, Tables and Chairs, Toilets). Applicant has also applied directly to Cultural Investment Programme and funding is recommended through this source and not the Common Good.

Note 20 Cults Library Amount Requested £170,000

This is funding which will refurbish Cults Library if agreed as a community asset transfer.

Note 21 Beach Ballroom (Young at Heart) Amount requested £30,000

Funding will be used to keep ticket cost reasonable and affordable for Tea Dances, Sing-a-longs, variety shows and Christmas lunches.

Note 22 NESCAN Hub Amount requested £54,071

This represents funding for the Envirolution Festival 2025 free, inclusive and accessible activities around climate change and the environment. They have also applied for funding from the Culture Investment Framework, however the application does not meet the Culture Investment requirements on the basis the event is not deliverable within the budget presented in the application therefore the recommendation is that this project should be considered under the Common Good request only.

Note 23 Wee Too – Tall Ships Amount requested £38,170

Funding will be used to allow a more accessible and inclusive experience to visitors coming along to experience Tall Ships 2025. Project costings include BSL videos, audio transcripts, visual guides, sensory kit bags, ChilleVille spaces, uniforms, volunteer expenses/staffing.

Note 24 Tall Ships Amount Requested £110,000

This represents funding to support two key elements to the events programme for the Tall Ships 2025 (grand finale element and city centre trail) as well as contributing to the transport programme which ensures public safety and promotes active travel.

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

Aberdeen Cyrenians Amount Requested £48,600

Funding will be used to cover rent and 50% of energy costs for 25/26 to allow continuation of core charitable services.

Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women’s Group Amount Requested £92,000

Funding will be used to establish provision of Domestic Abuse Awareness sessions: training of 20 volunteers; Project Officer; equipment; app development; events; pamphlets/magazine.

Afristyle Dance Club Amount Requested £25,000

Running costs of weekly African dance classes, drumming workshops, Schools projects.

Your Love Rara Amount Requested £24,000

Request is for 50% of rent and overheads costs for premises in Castlegate. Premises is shared with The Workers Educational Association in Aberdeen and Street Friends.

CRITERIA FOR THE COMMON GOOD

THE COMMON GOOD OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN

What are Common Good Funds?

Common Good Funds originated in Scotland in the 15th century. They represent a substantial portfolio of land, property and investments and by law continue to exist for the common good of the inhabitants of the former Burghs to which they relate. The Aberdeen City Council Common Good Funds are used to uphold the dignity of the City. They are used to provide support to a range of services and projects both internally and externally. Internally, funding will be awarded for projects such as the prudent management, upkeep and improvement of Council property which forms part of the Common Good assets. Externally, projects that are carried out by public institutions, individuals or charities may also receive funding if it can be established that the provision of the service or event is in the interest of the inhabitants of the City.

What has been funded in the past?

The reserve generated from the Funds can in part be used to maintain Common Good land and buildings held as assets i.e. maintenance of public parks which are part of Common Good assets.

Below are some of the projects and organisations that have received funding:

- Donations to local charitable organisations i.e., Befriend a Child Limited and the Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Erection of memorial or ornamental statues within the City and meeting the cost of maintenance.
- Contributing to the rental fees for the Lemon Tree, Aberdeen Science Centre and Castlegate Arts.
- Applications from individuals or groups where the granting of the application would provide a good to the community at large. Examples of some of the events and projects that have received funding include:
 - the NUART project,
 - a replacement lift at Her Majesty's Theatre,
 - new inshore lifeboats for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution,
 - a cricket Pitch at Stewart Park,
 - Celebrate Aberdeen,
 - Aberdeen Street Pastors and
 - Freedom of the City.

Aberdeen City Council may on occasion use the funds towards Christmas & Hogmanay Celebrations or civic hospitality and receptions.

What can't be funded?

- Applications for projects that do not benefit the wider community.
- Applications from individuals or organisations that do not live or operate within Aberdeen City Council.
- Activities promoting political beliefs.
- Organisations seeking to make a profit using Common Good Funds.

- Applications will not normally be accepted in respect of projects on which work has already started, or in aid of expenditure towards which applicants have already made a commitment or paid.

What is the criteria for funding?

Each application will be considered on its own merits. The Council must consider whether it is a “reasonable judgement” for them to consider making a disbursement from the relevant Common Good Fund.

The following criteria applies to all applications seeking funding from the Common Good Fund:

1. The Common Good Fund requires to be administered having regard to the interests of the people of the city of Aberdeen. Accordingly, applications must clearly demonstrate that the purpose of the grant is to provide a service or facility that will meet a local need or directly benefit the residents of Aberdeen City Council.
2. The Common Good Fund is not an alternative to mainstream Council Grants Schemes and normally applications to the Fund will only be considered once other sources of funding (where applicable) have been applied for and determined.
3. Applications for funding towards ‘one-off’ projects will be considered from individuals or properly constituted organisations. These could be internal application from Aberdeen City Council itself or external applications from members of the public or other organisations.
4. Applications for routine operational costs / core funding will not normally be considered. Regular applications from organisations will only be considered where such applications form part of a defined development plan or growing project.
5. Applications from voluntary or properly constituted organisations should be aware that they may have to produce a copy of the most recent audited or approved accounts of their organisation. We can only accept accounts that are approved by someone independent of the applicant organisation. This person’s name and address must be supplied.
6. Applicants must enclose, along with the completed application form, the following information (where applicable):
 - A copy of the most recent audited or approved accounts.
 - Contractor’s/project estimates.
 - A copy of the organisation’s constitution.
 - Any planning or other consents (which must have been already obtained).
 - A statement of how the project will support delivery of the vision and aims of the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan

All successful applicants will be required to complete an End of Project Monitoring Form to ensure that any monies awarded are used appropriately, in accordance with the Fund criteria and giving a level of information which enables Trustees to be satisfied that this has happened. The submitted information must outline the amount of funding, any match funding, project details and outcomes, including the number and breakdown of people who benefitted from the award.