

Report

Report to:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	5 October 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Rutherglen Common Good - Update Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ♦ provide background information and an update on the Rutherglen Common Good Account.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the background information and update on Rutherglen Common Good Account be noted

3. Background

3.1. The Common Good Account is a fund of money or assets, or both, and is administered by a Scottish local authority in respect of each former Burgh within the area of the local authority.

3.2. Common Good property is owned by the local authority although it is administered separately from other local authority assets for accounting purposes. Ownership is absolute in the strict sense that the authority holds legal title to it. However, what the authority can do with the asset is subject to a system of statutory control. This control has the potential to limit the extent to which the authority can dispose of or deal with the asset and on what terms.

3.3. The Common Good Accounts held within South Lanarkshire Council are Lanark, Biggar, Hamilton and Rutherglen. The subject of this report is the Rutherglen Common Good Account.

3.4. The Rutherglen Common Good Account holds cash balances only. It does not hold any physical assets.

3.5. This report will provide details of the management of the Rutherglen Common Good Account (Sections 4 and 5). The Annual Accounts position for 2021/2022 is covered in section 6 with section 7 detailing the position on consultations in relation to the Account.

4. Administration of Common Good

4.1. Finance Services administer the Common Good Account. This includes revenue monitoring, preparation of annual accounts and seeking Committee approval for expenditure to be incurred on various projects as and when they are required. It also includes information on consultations on Common Good assets, where appropriate.

4.2. If any proposals for Common Good spend are considered to benefit the local community in Rutherglen, and the level of funding required is feasible, then Finance Services will seek approval from the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee.

4.3. A Common Good Update report is presented to the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee at least twice a year. A report on the annual accounts of all Common Good Accounts was presented to the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee on 7 September 2022.

5. Role of South Lanarkshire Council's Elected Members

5.1. Decisions on the Common Good Accounts are considered by the Council's Finance and Corporate Resources Committee. Elected Members are kept up to date with any issues affecting the Common Good and are involved in the consideration of approving spend from the Account. A report on the management of the Rutherglen Common Good Account is provided annually to this Area Committee.

6. Rutherglen Common Good Annual Accounts 2021/2022

6.1. Appendix 1 to the report shows the unaudited Accounts for the Rutherglen Common Good for 2021/2022. These form part of the Council's unaudited Accounts that were approved at the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 22 June 2022.

6.2. The Appendix shows that, as at the end of 2021/2022, the Balance Invested in South Lanarkshire Council's Loans Fund for Rutherglen is £0.127 million. This is the cash that is held by the Council on behalf of the Rutherglen Common Good Account, and which is readily available to meet expenditure.

6.3. Since there are no assets to maintain, there is little expenditure incurred by the Rutherglen Common Good Account. The net expenditure during 2021/2022, was a charge for the administration of the Account (£1,037) offset by income received from the Account's balance being invested in South Lanarkshire Council's Loans Fund (£58).

7. Consultation on Rutherglen Common Good

7.1. The Finance and Corporate Resources Committee is advised of consultation in relation to New Lease Arrangements and Change of Use in relation to Common Good Assets. In the case of Rutherglen Common Good, there are no consultations ongoing.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. None

9. Financial Implications

9.1. The Rutherglen Common Good Account has cash balances of £0.127 million, as noted in section 6.2.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy, and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 12.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

14 September 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee, 7 September 2022

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Appendix 1

2021/2022 Annual Accounts	Rutherglen
	£000
Income and Expenditure Accounts	
Income for the Year	0
Expenditure for the Year	1
Surplus / (Deficit) to the Balance Sheet	(1)
Balance Sheet	
Fixed Assets	
Property, Plant and Equipment	0
Investments	
Advances to South Lanarkshire Council Loans Fund	127
Total Assets	127
Current Liabilities	
Creditors	0
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	127
Represented By:	
Common Good Account	128
Surplus / (Deficit)	(1)
Total	127