

Report

Report to:	Finance and Corporate Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Common Good - Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise members of the audited Common Good Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021
- ◆ seek approval for a request from Lanark Community Development Trust for a contribution of £3,000 from the Lanark Common Good Fund

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the audited accounts for Common Good for the year ended 31 March 2021 (section 4), be noted; and
- (2) that the request from Lanark Community Development Trust for a contribution of £3,000 from the Lanark Common Good Fund be approved (Section 5).

3. Background

- 3.1. The Common Good is a fund of money/assets and is administered by a Scottish local authority in respect of former burghs within the area of the local authority.
- 3.2. Common Good property is administered separately from other local authority assets for accounting purposes. What the authority can do with the assets 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 funds held within South Lanarkshire Council are Lanark, Biggar, Hamilton and Rutherglen. Accounts are prepared on an annual basis, as part of the Council's year end process. The position for the year ended 31 March 2021 is detailed in Section 4.
- 3.4. In addition to the accounts position covered in Section 4, this report will provide details of a request from Lanark Community Development Trust for a contribution of £3,000 from the Lanark Common Good Fund in Section 5.

4. Common Good Annual Accounts 2020/2021

- 4.1. The unaudited accounts for 2020/2021 were presented to a meeting of this Committee on 1 September 2021. The audit has now been completed with no changes to the annual accounts. Appendix 1 to this report shows the audited accounts for 2020/2021.

- 4.2. The Appendix shows that as at the end of 2020/2021, the Balance Invested in South Lanarkshire Council's Loans Fund is £0.841 million. This is the cash that is held by the Council on behalf of the Common Good funds, and which is readily available to meet expenditure. Table 1 provides the details across the Funds:-

Table 1 - Advances to South Lanarkshire Council Loans Fund

Fund	Lanark	Biggar	Hamilton	Rutherglen	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance	0.333	0.032	0.348	0.128	0.841

5. Request for Contribution from Lanark Common Good Fund

- 5.1. As previously reported to this Committee on 1 September 2021, The Lanark Community Development Trust (LCDT) had requested a contribution of up to £10,000 from the Lanark Common Good Fund funding for a commemorative sculpture of a Clydesdale Horse to be sited beside Lanark Auction market.
- 5.2. Having secured funding of £48,000 against a target of £55,000, and with fundraising ongoing, LCDT agreed to delay their request until they reached the conclusion of their fundraising. If a shortfall remained in the funding for the project, then they would reinstate their request for a contribution from the Lanark Common Good Fund which could be brought to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.
- 5.3. LCDT has now raised £52,000 from various sources including grant funding, public and business donations, and a crowdfunding appeal, and has submitted a request for the remaining £3,000 to be met by a contribution from the Lanark Common Good Fund.
- 5.4. LCDT believe that it is important to incorporate public art in Lanark as a way of celebrating its heritage and traditions with residents and visitors alike. The project is intended to advance education by providing a catalyst for the local community, local schools and visitors to learn more about their heritage and the history of Lanark.
- 5.5. A programme of presentations in all the local primary schools is ready to be delivered as soon as Covid restrictions allow. Each child will be given a copy of a booklet about the history of the Clydesdale Horse.
- 5.6. The Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council (RBLCC) were consulted for their views on this project and the original request to consider funding. RBLCC supported the project and fed back that they believed that fundraising by the LCDT should continue, and an approach made to Common Good if a shortfall remains.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. All costs identified will be met from the Lanark Common Good Fund.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The ongoing repairs and maintenance support the viability of Common Good assets and reduces the Council's risk to increased liabilities in the future.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. While there no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report, a copy of this report has been sent to The Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council for information.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

12 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee, 1 September 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

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

2020/2021 Annual Accounts	Lanark	Biggar	Hamilton	Rutherglen	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income and Expenditure Accounts					
Income for the Year	14	-	133	-	147
Expenditure for the Year	(22)	-	(75)	-	(97)
Surplus / (Deficit) to the Balance Sheet	(8)	-	58	-	50
Balance Sheet					
Fixed Assets					
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,500	-	1,464	-	2,964
Investments					
Advances to South Lanarkshire Council Loans Fund	333	32	348	128	841
Debtors	-	-	53	-	53
Total Assets	1,833	32	1,865	128	3,858
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	(3)	-	(13)	-	(16)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,830	32	1,852	128	3,842
Represented By:					
Common Good Account	1,364	32	1,257	128	2,781
Surplus / (Deficit)	(8)	-	58	-	50
Amortisation of Revaluation Reserve	4	-	1	-	5
Gain / Loss on Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
	1,360	32	1,316	128	2,836
Revaluation Reserve					
Opening Balance	469	-	532	-	1,001
Gain / Loss on Revaluation	5	-	5	-	10
Amortisation of Revaluation Reserve	(4)	-	(1)	-	(5)
Closing Balance	470	-	536	-	1,006
Total	1,830	32	1,852	128	3,842