

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, Satrosphere 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.