

The background of the slide features the Falkirk Council Coat of Arms. It is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower. The top-right quarter shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quarter shows a sailing ship on water. The bottom-right quarter shows a bird with spread wings. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 4

**Application for Financial Assistance,
Falkirk Council**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance, Falkirk Council

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 21 September 2018

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Falkirk Council for on-going funding to meet the re-opening operating costs of the Steeple.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

(1) The application for £6,410 per annum from Falkirk Common Good Fund towards the Steeple operating costs.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Steeple has been fully restored as a Priority Project under the Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). Falkirk Common Good awarded £98,700 in December 2016 towards the restoration. It is currently leased to Falkirk Community Trust.
- 3.2 A full update report on the progress of Falkirk THI was reported to Executive in June 2017 where three end use options for the Steeple were considered. The Executive approved option two whereby Falkirk Community Trust retained its lease and puts in place arrangements with Falkirk Local History Society to operate the Steeple as a local heritage space and attraction.
- 3.3 A Steeple History Centre will host displays and exhibits and provide a resource centre for history and heritage, incorporating an information point for local tourism and heritage attractions.
- 3.4 The business case included a revenue cost of £6,410 towards the reopening of the Steeple as a town centre heritage space. This will cover the daily operating costs of Falkirk Local History Society. This is sought from the Common Good Fund because Falkirk Community Trust withdrew its budget for operating the Steeple.
- 3.5 Falkirk Local History Society will operate and take responsibility for the premises under a sub-lease from Falkirk Community Trust.

- 3.6 Falkirk Community Trust will provide advice and guidance on fundraising stages and ensuring the terms of the sublease are fulfilled.
- 3.7 The re-opening of the Steeple will support a key objective of the THI to raise awareness of Falkirk town centre's extensive heritage through community and schools engagement using for example exhibitions.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 are anticipated to be around £27,000, thus giving a projected balance of £796,421.
- 4.2 The last grant funded by the Committee was in January 2017. There were no grants awarded in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is support for the project from Falkirk Council.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The Falkirk Community Trust business case has identified a budget of £6,410 is required to support the re-opening operating costs of the Steeple. Although the application suggests that the cost will recur annually the requirement for funding will be received regularly and it is anticipated that the project will become self financing in time. The committee may wish, given this, to award a grant for a period, for example three years, and that further applications are made following management review.
 - 6.1.1 If funding is not agreed there is a significant risk that the project will not progress. Falkirk Local History Society will be committing £5,900 per annum.
 - 6.1.2 There are a total of 5 applications for funding from Falkirk Common Good to be considered today and these total £90,386.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications.

Risk

- 6.4 There is a risk that the project will not proceed if funding is not provided.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 This is an unusual application because applications to the Common Good Fund are normally for one off projects. The application seeks funding annually in perpetuity. It is recommended that the committee consider an initial award and that subsequent applications are made if necessary following management reviews. The project is of community benefit and forms part of Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).
- 7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance and no grants were approved in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from Mr Peter Reid, Manager, Growth & Investment Unit, Development Services, Falkirk Council on 23 March 2018.